

District and City Launch Portable Air Monitor Project

In October 2021, the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District and the City of Sacramento partnered together on a new air quality project to provide real-time local air quality information in underserved communities in the city. The project is supported by a one-time investment of the Sacramento City Council to advance the City's near-term climate action priorities, as outlined in the 2021 Climate Implementation Work Plan.



100 Portable Sensors

The Sac Metro Air District will distribute 100 portable air quality sensors to eligible residents and businesses in low-income communities disproportionately affected by air pollution as well as schools within the city. Once sensors have been deployed and activated, data will be available to the public through an online portal. Community members will be able to use this information to inform their daily activities.



Innovative Street-Level Monitoring

The project will include a new point-in-time community-wide air quality comparison using innovative street-level technologies. This may be performed by an on-road or airborne vehicle equipped with scientific pollution measurement tools or similar techniques. Information collected can be used by the City and its partners to inform land use decisions and air quality improvements, such as truck re-routing and other mitigation efforts.



Community Outreach

Through partnerships and collaborations with organizations based in our target communities, the Sac Metro Air District will develop education and training efforts focusing on how to use sensors, access data, and how to best use the information. The Sac Metro Air District will also create new outreach tools and materials in multiple languages.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



WHY ARE THE DISTRICT AND THE CITY ADVANCING THIS PROJECT?

In February 2021, the Sacramento City Council allocated one-time funding to expand neighborhood air monitoring in partnership with the Sac Metro Air District. The City's investment reflects priorities raised by the community to increase air monitoring and access to air quality data. This project will provide broader city-wide monitoring in underserved communities by expanding the availability of air quality data which can inform future community emission reduction strategies.

WHY ARE YOU DISTRIBUTING PORTABLE AIR QUALITY SENSORS?

The Sac Metro Air District has several permanent monitoring stations across the region that provide regional air quality data. Distributing portable air quality sensors will provide communities even more local data in real time that can be used to help community members make informed decisions about their daily activities impacted by poor air quality.

WHY IS AIR QUALITY DATA FROM THE PORTABLE SENSORS IMPORTANT?

Air quality data from portable sensors will help residents, schools, and businesses protect themselves, their families, students, employees and customers more effectively from the negative impacts of air pollution, including wildfire smoke.

WHAT TYPE OF PORTABLE SENSORS ARE BEING USED FOR THIS PROGRAM?

The Sac Metro Air District plans to distribute portable PM2.5 air quality sensors that are similar to PurpleAir and/or Clarity sensors. The anticipated life cycle of these portable sensors is one to two years.

HOW DO I APPLY TO RECEIVE A PORTABLE SENSOR?

Currently, the Sac Metro Air District is working to establish program guidelines and an application process. More information will likely be available in Summer 2022 and will be posted to AirQuality.org and shared with community partners.

WHAT WILL THE STREET-LEVEL MONITORING VEHICLE LOOK LIKE?

Depending on the provider used, this mobile monitoring may be conducted with an on-road vehicle, such as a car, or an airborne vehicle, such as a plane or drone.

WHEN WILL THE AIR QUALITY IN THESE COMMUNITIES IMPROVE BECAUSE OF THIS PROJECT?

Air quality in Sacramento has significantly improved over the past two decades. This project will increase public access to air quality information by expanding monitoring. This additional information will be reported to the City and it can be used to inform local strategies and land use decisions affecting air quality in the most impacted communities. Increasing access to information is one of many efforts to improve air quality, alongside other implementation and partnership projects.

HOW CAN I LEARN MORE ABOUT THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO'S CLIMATE EFFORTS?

Please visit CityofSacramento.org/ClimateAction where you can learn more and sign up for email updates.

