



To Protect and Promote the Health and the Environment of the People of Kittitas County

Air Quality Advisory Committee

Working with Federal, State and local partners to reduce PM2.5 in Kittitas County

PROJECT CHARTER

11/18/16

PURPOSE

This project is part of a community wide effort, in coordination with the Kittitas County Public Health Department (KCPHD) and Washington State Department of Ecology (ECY), to maximize local partnerships to reduce PM2.5 air pollution in Kittitas County.

The goals of this committee:

- Join the EPA's PM Advance program and complete the required tasks
- Create and implement a 5-year action plan that
 - provides education for best practices for wood stove burning for maximum fuel efficiency and minimum pollution
 - outlines an education and outreach campaign to reduce PM2.5 levels measured in Ellensburg by Ecology's monitoring equipment atop Hal Holmes Center
 - includes future AQ projects and goals

OVERVIEW

Kittitas County lies along the East slopes of the Cascade Mountain Range. The geography of the county results in long periods of high pressure and air inversions where any smoke emitted into the atmosphere stays in the lower atmosphere until changing conditions clean out the valley. Air quality data from Ecology indicate Ellensburg has one of the highest levels of PM 2.5 in Washington State during winter home-heating season. Ellensburg has been identified by Ecology and the State legislature as a vulnerable community for PM 2.5. Over the past few years, fine particle air pollution in the Ellensburg area has reached unhealthy levels several times. This is a concern not only for health reasons, but also because higher levels of fine particles could cause the Ellensburg area to violate the federal health-based air quality standard.

KCPHD has evaluated air monitoring data from ECOLOGY's air monitoring station in Ellensburg, Washington since at least 1999 as an environmental health indicator. In the 2012 Kittitas County Community Health Assessment, poor air quality was identified as an area of concern by a group of key community partners that were gathered to identify and bring focus to concerns affecting the health of the local community. In this assessment, it was also noted that Kittitas County has a significantly higher mortality rate for influenza and pneumonia compared to Washington State as a whole. This may be one of many factors related to poor air quality.



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www.co.kittitas.wa.us/health/

Ecology approached KCPHD in late 2013 asking if they were interested in acting as the lead for a community effort using State funding to reduce PM_{2.5} in Ellensburg. Efforts to reduce air pollution now could avoid violating federal health-based air quality standards in the future.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT:

1. Join the EPA's PM Advance Program
 - a. Convene at least five community partners to continue the Air Quality Advisory Committee (AQAC).
 - b. By August 30th, 2016 submit a sign-up letter to the EPA requesting to join the PM Advance program
 - c. By March 31, 2017 submit a 5-year action plan to the EPA outlining education and outreach projects intended to reduce PM_{2.5} emissions
 - d. By June 30th, 2017 implement the 5-year action plan and the measures within
 - e. Continue to evaluate and update the action plan on an annual basis
2. Continue to search for additional grant funding opportunities to support the 5-year action plan and air quality improvement efforts in Kittitas County

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Kittitas County Public Health Department – Robin Read – Administrator, Holly Myers – Environmental Health Supervisor, Kimberly Sarver – Air Quality Project Specialist
 - Convene and facilitate the AQAC
 - Incorporate input and feedback of AQAC and Ecology in all aspects of the project
 - Assists with revisions of the charter, and project goals
 - Oversee implementation of goals and objectives for all aspects of this project
 - Responsible for implementation of contract with ECY and submission of deliverables
- AQAC Members (as individuals and/or representatives of agencies)
 - Attend regular meetings and participate in AQAC projects
 - Provide assistance, feedback and expertise on a 5-year action plan and future education and outreach projects.
 - Assist with implementation of the 5-year plan and provide feedback on successes and failures





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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Andrew Lyons	Hope Source
Anne M Johansen, PhD	Department of Chemistry, Central Washington University
Bill Hansen	Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce
Camille Bennett	Washington State Department of Ecology
Greg Armstrong	Armstrong Stoves and Spas
Holly Myers	Kittitas County Public Health Department
Joe Seemiller	Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue
Jordan Lowe	Hope Source
Kelsey Gibbs	Student, Central Washington University
Kirstin Taggart	Washington RC and D
Mark Larson, MD	Family Physician, KVH, KCPHD Health Officer
Pamela McMullen-Messier, PhD	Department of Sociology, Central Washington University



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