

All of the Chicago Department of Public Health's (CDPH) work is rooted in *Healthy Chicago 2025*, a citywide plan to close Chicago's racial life expectancy gap by addressing the root causes of health. We recognize that health is not just the absence of disease – it is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being. And that requires a healthy environment.

AT CDPH, WE TAKE ACTION TO IMPROVE THE CITY'S ENVIRONMENT THROUGH:

PERMITTING	INSPECTIONS & ENFORCEMENT
HAZARD RESPONSE & REMEDIATION	POLICY & INNOVATION

Protecting the environment requires a whole-of-government approach to issues like industrial development, zoning and transportation, so we do this work in close partnership with other City departments and the Illinois and U.S. Environmental Protection Agencies.

While we want to promote responsible and healthy business development, as a public health agency we focus on considering environmental impacts - particularly in areas where low-income, people of color who also have chronic health issues live. We believe community voice is essential, which is why we often partner with community members and welcome their input on important decisions facing their neighborhoods.

PERMITTING

CDPH issues permits for certain types of equipment and industrial operations to ensure that they are meeting Chicago's strong environmental and public health requirements. This includes limiting pollution from dust or other debris that can affect the health of residents and addressing quality of life factors, like noise and traffic, that can negatively impact community mental and social well-being.

Permitted facilities include solid waste, recycling and industrial facilities, as well as those with underground storage tanks (like gas stations).

To view environmental and public health rules for permitted facilities, visit Chicago.gov/environmentalrules.

INSPECTIONS & ENFORCEMENT

Our team of environmental inspectors visit permitted facilities across the city every day, routinely monitoring to make sure they comply with City, state and federal regulations to address air, water and land threats. We partner with businesses to help them understand and meet our rules, and we hold them accountable by issuing citations when necessary.

We also respond to complaints from the community submitted through the City's 3-1-1 system. To learn more about how to submit an environmental complaint, visit Chicago.gov/envcommunityinfo.

OUR WORK BY THE NUMBERS

50+

STAFF MEMBERS

\$30 MILLION

INVESTED IN CDPH'S ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES THROUGH THE CHICAGO RECOVERY PLAN

1,000+

PERMITS REVIEWED BY CDPH EACH YEAR

7-8,000

INSPECTIONS CONDUCTED BY CDPH EACH YEAR



HAZARD RESPONSE & REMEDIATION

Our environmental team protects residents from exposure to hazardous materials and toxic pollutants by:

- Working with the appropriate state and federal agencies to identify contaminated sites and create plans for cleanup.
- Determining what clean up may be necessary if there is a hazardous waste incident in the city, such as an accidental spill.
- Monitoring major events, such as Lollapalooza or the Chicago Marathon, to detect and respond to any environmental threats.
- Collecting hazardous materials at the **Household Chemical and Computer Recycling Facility (HCCRF) located at 1150 N. North Branch Street**. To learn more about how Chicago residents can drop off household cleaning products, electronics or other items that may contain toxic materials, visit [Chicago.gov/hccrf](https://chicago.gov/hccrf).

500,000+

POUNDS OF E-WASTE & HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTED ANNUALLY

18,000+

TREES PLANTED BY THE CITY IN 2022



POLICY & INNOVATION

CDPH is at the forefront of using data and innovative research to **model air pollution, map heat vulnerability** and understand how **health and social factors can make communities more vulnerable** to pollution exposure. On the policy side, CDPH develops proactive and progressive policies to address health and racial inequities in Chicago. Notable initiatives include:

- **Strengthening regulations on existing businesses.** We adopted new rules for Bulk Storage Facilities (2014, 2019), Large Recycling Facilities (2020), Rock Crushing Facilities (under final review, expected early 2023).
- **Increased environment/public health review of new and expanding businesses.** The City passed the Air Quality Zoning Ordinance (2021) to regulate the construction and expansion of certain facilities that create air pollution, allowing air quality impacts to be considered before a development is allowed to move forward.

We are backing up our commitment to environmental justice with a more than **\$30 million investment** made possible through the Chicago Recovery Plan, including funding to:

- Expand the local air monitoring network in collaboration with community-based organizations.
- Award environmental justice community partnership grants.
- Remediate polluted sites in overburdened community areas.
- Conduct a city-wide Cumulative Impact Assessment to understand community-level vulnerability to pollution and inform changes to land use/zoning, permitting, enforcement and more.

Plus, CDPH has been a driving force behind Our Roots, Chicago's plan to equitably expand the City's tree canopy in partnership with community organizations.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

As part of our commitment to environmental justice, CDPH recognizes that the people most affected by pollution and industrial development must have a voice in our decision-making. That is why in 2022 we **strengthened our public engagement guidelines** for our permitting process, with more opportunities for community engagement. Community members can get involved by:

- Reviewing pending permit applications and providing comments on proposed policies during open comment periods.
- Submitting an environmental complaint to CDPH through the City's 3-1-1 system.
- Registering for CDPH updates about environmental news happening in their neighborhood and across Chicago.

Learn more about opportunities for public engagement at [Chicago.gov/envcommunityinfo](https://chicago.gov/envcommunityinfo).

