

Chicago Department of PUBLIC HEALTH



BUREAU OF HEALTH PROTECTION *Air Quality Monitoring & Enforcement*

OUR MISSION

Every Chicagoan deserves to breathe clean air. The Chicago Department of Public Health is committed to improving air quality, particularly for people living in communities with higher pollution burden.

Air quality has been improving in Chicago over the past decades. Today the City is taking action for cleaner air by:

- Planting trees in communities that need them most
- Adopting new rules to prevent emissions and dust from industrial facilities
- Making recommendations on the development/expansion of industrial facilities based on potential air pollution
- Electrifying our City fleet of cars and buses with improvements to public transportation
- Requiring sustainable development practices

AIR QUALITY ENFORCEMENT

Air pollution laws are enforced at the federal, state, and local levels. CDPH permits and inspects thousands of sites each year, from industrial and commercial facilities such as chrome platers, dry cleaners and autobody shops to rock crushing facilities, demolition sites, and other dust-producing activities. Inspectors also respond to citizen complaints and cite violators who fail to comply with the City's environmental ordinances and regulations.

AIR QUALITY MONITORING: TODAY

Facility Monitors — Companies are required to maintain air monitors at the fence-line of certain permitted industrial facilities, and information is reported to CDPH.

Regulatory Monitors — The State of Illinois has 13 air monitors across 8 air monitoring sites that collect data on carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, ozone, lead, and particulate matter.

Community Monitors — Monitors operated by communities and researchers help identify hot spots, as well as understand air quality levels and trends across Chicago neighborhoods.

These various air monitors are maintained by different entities, and do not currently work together as an integrated network.



COMMUNITY AIR SENSOR NETWORK

In 2024, CDPH and community partners began developing a vision and strategic approach for a community air monitoring network and procured more than 150 low-cost sensors for the network.

Moving forward, CDPH plans to work with an Advisory Board to deploy this network in 2025 and create a public dashboard where data from the sensors will be accessible to the public for the duration of the project.



RESOURCES

Visit bit.ly/EPAAirNowSystem to see current and forecasted air quality maps and data

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THE BUREAU OF HEALTH PROTECTION includes the Offices of Administration & Grants Management; Public Health Preparedness & Emergency Response; Immunization Services; Food Protection; Vector Control; and Environmental Permitting & Inspections.