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Agenda

- Background about the Air Quality Monitoring Workgroup of Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states & DC

- Air Monitoring Framework for Community Groups

- Actions Toolkit Concept

Participating Jurisdictions
Connecticut
Delaware
District of Columbia
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
New Jersey
New York
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
Vermont

Workgroup Resources

Organization	Staff
TD Enviro	Tim Dye, Story Schwantes, Helena Pliszka
Metropolitan Group	Vernice Miller-Travis, Philip Wilson, Sarah Malpass
Georgetown Climate Center	James Bradbury, Sherif Halaweish

Goals / Objectives

- Build a new "community of practice" for state agencies on the topic of community-based air quality monitoring and policy decisions/ actions that can be taken to support and act upon local air quality data.
  - Support participating states and community partners in establishing hyperlocal air quality monitoring projects, including by leveraging federal funding.
  - Use data from air monitoring projects in ways that inform state & local policy actions to reduce emissions.
- Establish, build and strengthen relationships with groups in communities overburdened by air pollution.

Training 1: EJ & Equity 101

Two 3-hour over two days, conducted over Zoom, led by Metropolitan Group

Training Goals:

- Demonstrate the value of agency commitment to advancing EJ and prepare participants to incorporate EJ into their work.
- Develop a shared understanding of the history of EJ in the US, current priorities of EJ advocates, and the role of EJ in accomplishing the mission of their agency.
- Explore what power participants have to incorporate EJ into their work and what cultural changes need to be made to create space for EJ

Link to resources: Link

Training 2: Air Quality Foundations

One, 3 hour training, over Zoom, led by TD Enviro

Training Overview:
- Covers the basics of air quality for state agency staff to present to communities
- Covers general concepts and includes inserts to help agencies localize the presentation for certain community members.

Topics discussed:
- Meaning of air pollutants, defining and identifying emission sources
- Identifying pollutants and their health impacts
- How to measure pollutants, interpreting pollutant measurements

Link to resources: LINK

Training 3: Conducting successful purpose-driven CBAQM projects

Overall objective:

Build capacity of agencies and stakeholders to:

1) Conduct more effective community engagement,

2) Develop knowledge and tools and applying to air monitoring situations,

3) Provide an air monitoring framework to cover topics from developing a purpose for monitoring (objective), to selecting air monitoring sensors/instruments, to ensuring high data quality, to visualization.

Activities –
Conducting Successful AQM Projects – Three-Session Training

- Session 1: Conducting Equitable Community Engagement, Two 3-hour over two days, led by Metropolitan Group

- **Session 2: Air Quality Monitoring Framework, One 3 hour training, led by TD Enviro**

- Session 3: Conducting successful purpose-driven CBAQM projects, One 3 hour session, led by TD Enviro and Metropolitan Group

Activities –
Air Quality Monitoring Framework

TABLE OF CONTENTS OF FRAMEWORK

0. Internal Organizational Roles and Responsibilities

1. Planning your Air Monitoring Project

1.1 Purpose of Monitoring (Objective)

1.2 Identify Stakeholders

1.3 Data Management

1.4 Equipment Needed

1.5 Data Use Agreement/Data Justice

1.6 Selecting Areas to Monitor

1.7 Planning for Installation and Operation

1.8 Quality Assurance Approach and Activities

1.9 Data Analysis and Visualization

1.10 Actions

2. Staffing your Project

3. Budgeting your Project

Activities –
Air Quality Monitoring Framework

Framework - Details (Format)

Framework Item
Purpose: Why this is important

Resources:
•Resource #1 (Name, description, source, type, length)
•Resource #2 (Name, description, source, type, length)
    Types include:
        •Factsheets
        •Worksheets
        •Checklists
        •Spreadsheets
        •Guidance info
        •Video

Potentially Difficult Conversations: •Questions that community groups may ask •Challenges faced by community groups

Activities –
Air Quality Monitoring Framework

1.1 Purpose of monitoring (objective)
Purpose: Establish the purpose of monitoring up front, the intended outcome, and whether monitoring is needed.
Resources: •Defining Your Air Monitoring Objective by Asking the Right Questions. Includes specific, step-by-step questions to help define targeted air monitoring objectives and develop approaches to meet those objectives. Focused on answerable objectives, responsive to community concerns, and connected to desired outcomes. (Bay Air Center, worksheet, 3 pages) •Why Does My Community Want to Take Air Quality Measurements? Provides support in framing an AQ problem and on how to engage with communities. It explores possible objectives, offers valuable case studies, and emphasizes SMART principles. (SCAQMD, guidance section, 5 pages)
Potentially Difficult Conversations: •We just want one monitor to understand all the air pollution that affects our community. •How can I make my monitoring usable by regulators/decision-makers? •Why are you [Agency] recommending not monitoring….are you afraid of what our monitoring will discover? Are you hiding something? Or are there other proven ways to achieve our objective? •If a regulator partners with us on this project, we expect them to use/act on our data. •We want to show the community's detrimental health outcomes due to pollution in our neighborhood. Our objective is to confirm that this source is causing community health impacts.

Activities –
Air Quality Monitoring Framework

1.5 Data use agreement/data justice
Purpose: Establish who will have access to data, how data will be owned, shared, and distributed, and how data justice will be achieved.
Resources: •Data Sharing Worksheet. Guides users through the different options for data access and distribution, as well as data use guidelines and data use agreements or memorandums of understanding for sharing with external partners. (TD Enviro, worksheet, 3 pages) •Data Justice. Discusses the promotion of truth and storytelling that rests on consent from community members seeking services and the organizations who provide services to support them (MET, factsheet, 2 pages)
Potentially Difficult Conversations: •Does my data have to be publicly available for regulators to use it? •We want to ensure our data is protected and not used against us. How do we do that? •If you are making decisions about our community based on data taken in/around our community we want a seat at the table. •If we use a specific company's instrument/sensor - do they own the data?

Activities –
Actions Toolkit

Toolkit functions: An easy-to-use interactive resource (website) to help the audience identify potential actions related to air quality. The toolkit would then provide users with descriptions of actions identified.

Audience: Support for state agencies engaging with community organizations and individuals interested in taking action related to air quality.

Activities – Actions Toolkit

Ways to identify potential actions:

- Who's involved? (Individual vs. Collective)

- What is the goal of the Action(s)?

- What resources are available?

- What are the source(s) of concern?

Discussion