

Name	Organization
Goal	
<i>Every community member breathes clean and healthy air.</i>	
Description	
Clean air is a fundamental right regardless of one's location or socioeconomic status. We all have to breathe, but do not always have a choice in the quality of the air we breathe. We are fiercely committed to tackling air pollution at its source, and to safeguarding healthy air for everyone, no matter who or where they are in our community. This commitment includes reducing emissions from transportation, industry, wood burning, and other sources. Eliminating the use of fossil fuels will greatly improve air quality and in turn everyone's health. Air pollution has substantial health impacts that can lead to sickness and even early death. Multnomah County is the most urban county in the state and its residents are subject to high pollution exposure from fossil fuel combustion, industry, and even residential and commercial wood burning. These sources of pollution expose people to elevated levels of fine particulate matter (soot), nitrogen oxide, ozone, diesel particulate matter, and other air toxics. Smoke from wildfires, exacerbated by a heating climate, is also an emerging threat resulting in worsening air quality across the U.S. West after decades of improvements. Air quality is an environmental justice issue. Although air pollution affects everyone in Multnomah County, it puts communities of color at greater risk. Analysis has shown that Black and Latinx communities tend to live in areas with the highest concentrations of diesel particulate matter (a highly toxic soot from diesel engines) and residential wood smoke (which also produces soot and other pollutants). In addition, pollution from fossil fueled home appliances like gas stoves also disproportionately impacts communities of color and low-income households.	
Metrics	Notes
Air Quality Index (AQI): Think of the AQI as a yardstick that runs from 0 to 500. The higher the AQI value, the greater the level of air pollution and the greater the health concern. The desired outcome in Multnomah County is to have zero days over an AQI of 101, also known as "Orange days," which signal conditions unhealthy for sensitive groups (or worse). In addition to the AQI, measuring the impact of air quality on population health should be included to measure overall impact.	
Number of days that AQI reaches a "moderate level" in Multnomah County	
Proximity to Air Toxics Point Sources, EJ indicator	
Diesel PM exposure, EJ indicator (MultCo HD, Ethnic and Racial Disparities Report)	

Strategies	Description
Indirect source rule for major freight hubs <i>Type of action: Advocacy</i>	Many trucks, trains and other mobile diesel-powered equipment converging on a single location day after day leads to disproportionate air pollution for nearby neighborhoods. Regulations can dramatically reduce this pollution by requiring modern lower-emission trucks. The legislature would need to instruct the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to develop, implement, and enforce this policy.
Require pollution controls for wood-fired restaurants <i>Type of action: Advocacy</i>	Using wood to cook is as old as humanity, but burning wood produces harmful pollution, including soot, nitrogen oxide and formaldehyde. Since restaurants operate five to seven days a week, a restaurant that uses wood for cooking creates significant localized air pollution. Filters, however, can capture that pollution. Multnomah County and its partners should study the impact of restaurant wood smoke, determine the impact of that pollution on public health, investigate potential technologies to address that pollution, and propose regulations that can be implemented at the state or local level.
Land-use air quality compatibility process / environmental justice zoning <i>Type of action: Advocacy</i>	Oregon land use laws and development patterns often put industry and housing close together and can make environmental injustice worse. This is especially true in the case of unregulated pollution sources like warehouses. Creating a process to evaluate the environmental justice impacts of land use decisions will help address this issue by adding an analysis tool that currently does not exist. The legislature would need to pass a law that would require an environmental justice impact analysis of land use decisions, as well as funding for implementation and enforcement.
Nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions standards for gas appliances <i>Type of action: Advocacy</i>	When a fossil fuel like methane is burned, it releases pollution like soot and nitrogen oxides. And even when they're not on, gas appliances can leak and expose people to benzene and other pollutants. Stoves that vent directly into a home are also a concern, particularly for smaller homes and homes without strong ventilation. Even appliances like furnaces and water heaters that vent outdoors add to outdoor pollution. Other states have used clean air laws to set emissions standards for home appliances to minimize the risk of pollution from gas appliances. The legislature would need to instruct the Department of Environmental Quality to develop this policy.
Develop policies and support programs to increase distribution air filters to low income families and shelter spaces to mitigate smoke from forest fires <i>Type of action: Create/fund program; Advocacy</i>	While soot is a major concern due to smoke from forest fires and pollution from transportation and industry, air filters can help. Air filters in classrooms, homes, bedrooms, and shelter spaces, when used properly, can dramatically improve indoor air quality by reducing exposure to soot and other irritants like pollen and dust. However, they can be hard to acquire (especially larger ones for shelter spaces), expensive, and require upkeep. Multnomah County can secure funding to distribute filters to priority populations, especially people with pre-existing respiratory conditions, and help educate the public about the proper use and maintenance of air filters.

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