

ON THE AIR

Spring
2017

A Newsletter about
Clean Air. Provided
by Spokane Regional
Clean Air Agency.

Working with You for Clean Air

Our job at Spokane Clean Air is to ensure that people in Spokane County have clean air to breathe. We do this through a variety of programs, some of which are described below.

Air Monitoring – We operate and maintain a 24-hour air quality monitoring network to gather ambient air quality data representative of the Spokane County airshed. Data is used to report current Air Quality Index levels, to determine the 2-day air quality forecast, and to issue temporary restrictions on wood heating and outdoor burning when necessary.

Monitoring data is also used to evaluate compliance with the national, health-based pollution standards and to evaluate the effectiveness of pollution control strategies.



Air monitoring technician Mike McKay keeps air sampling equipment operational.

Business Registration and Permitting – Regulating air pollution from over 600 commercial and industrial operations to ensure they are in compliance with air quality rules and regulations.

Complaint Response & Enforcement – Responding to hundreds of air quality complaints from citizens each year. Most complaints are about illegal outdoor fires, odors, smoke and other air quality nuisances.

Wood burning – Reducing winter-time wood smoke pollution. We are helping people replace old, inefficient heating devices with improved and less-polluting systems for warm homes and clean heat.

Agency Organization

Spokane Clean Air employs 19 full time employees who provide technical, engineering, compliance, and administrative work.

Agency Oversight

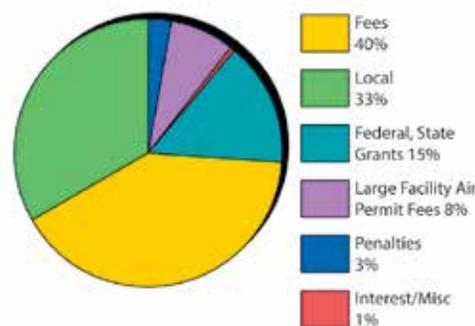
We are governed by a Board of Directors, which consists of one County Commissioner, one representative from each of the two largest cities, a representative of the County's small cities and towns, and

a member-at-large. Current board members are listed on the back of this newsletter.

In addition to our board, we have a volunteer Advisory Council that provides advice to our board and Executive Director on our agency's policies, regulations, and programs. Council members bring diverse perspectives to issues based on their areas of expertise, which includes agriculture, chemistry, environment, fire protection, industry, public health, and the business community.

Agency Funding

Spokane Clean Air's annual operating budget is about \$2.2 million.



Funding comes from a variety of sources, including state and federal grants, and fees for certain services. Local funding comes from an annual assessment that Spokane County and its cities and towns pay on behalf of their citizens.

Learn more at SpokaneCleanAir.org. ■

Clean Air Poster Contest

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Washington State Clean Air Act, Spokane Clean Air held a poster contest for local students in kindergarten through grade six. Students were encouraged to create a poster using the theme, "We care about our air."

The results were stunning, colorful and encouraging.

In total, Spokane Clean Air received **82 works of art**. Each poster detailed why that student cares about the air. No two posters were alike and the creativity was overflowing.

After much deliberation, the staff at Spokane Clean Air selected a finalist in each age group category. The finalists are:

- ★ Noelle Hughes, home school
- ★ Dylan Sletager, Linwood
- ★ Faith Hughes, home school
- ★ Elizabeth Garrett, Ridgeview
- ★ Sunny Paw, Grant
- ★ Sydney Hart, Libby Center

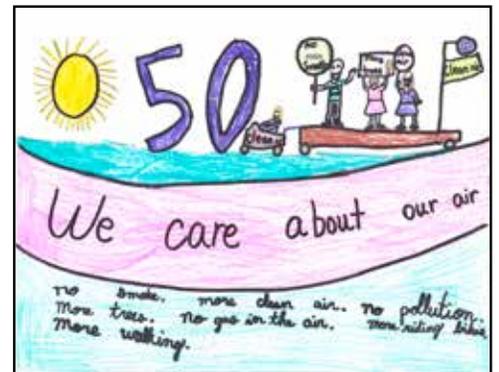


- ★ Secret Hutchinson, Stevens
- ★ Madison Caslow, Balboa

Posters were displayed at Spokane County Libraries and River Park Square throughout May.

Age group finalists also received prizes that were donated by these generous local businesses: Laser Quest, The Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture, Polka Dot Pottery, Mobius Science Center and Children's Museum, Spokane Indians Baseball, Spokane Empire Football and Mt. Spokane Ski and Snowboard Park.

Thank you to all of the students that participated and to the local businesses that donated prizes. We are excited to expand the poster contest and can't wait to see your creativity in action next year. ■



Congratulations to these finalists!

Spokane International Airport Earns Clean Air Award

Thanks to new equipment that uses electricity instead of jet fuel to heat and cool aircraft cabins, Spokane International Airport (SIA) is reducing emissions and improving air quality. This is great news for both travelers and those working at the airport.

For these and other efforts, the 2017 Clean Air Award was presented to SIA at a ceremony held earlier this year.

The award is presented annually by Spokane Clean Air to recognize efforts by local companies that demonstrate

innovation, commitment and leadership to reduce environmental impacts, particularly in air quality.

SIA is jointly owned by the City and County of Spokane. It is

a 6,100-acre commercial service airport served by five airlines and two air cargo carriers. Last year, the airport processed over 3.2 million passengers and over 67,000 tons of cargo. They employ over 3,000 people and have an annual economic impact of \$750 million dollars on the Spokane Region.

Passengers and ground crew at the airport are breathing cleaner air since they cut the use of conventional jet fuel to power aircraft idling at the gates between flights. Idling is necessary to maintain comfortable cabin air. Aircraft waiting at the gates were previously powered with Auxiliary Power Units, which operate on jet fuel. A

typical onboard aircraft Auxiliary Power Unit consumes 54 gallons of jet fuel per hour.

With the help of a \$2.5 million dollar federal grant, the Auxiliary Power Units were replaced with Pre-Conditioned Air Units. These units provide cleaner heating and cooling because they are powered by electricity instead of jet fuel.

Pre-Conditioned Air Units (depicted in picture below) provide interior climate control between take-offs and landings

so that the jet doesn't have to idle and emit excessive emissions. The Airport already had three of these units and the grant helped purchase 11 more so that

all passenger boarding bridges are equipped.

Grant funds also provided for the purchase and installation of 4 Ground Power Units at FedEx and UPS cargo terminals. The cargo planes now hook up to electric power instead of jet-fueled Auxiliary Power Units.

The air quality benefits are significant. Most of the pollutants reduced are those that contribute to ground-level ozone pollution. In fact, over the life of the equipment, air pollutants will be reduced by an estimated 390 tons—equivalent to removing 2,500 vehicles from the roads.

Congratulations to everyone at SIA! ■



Connecting with our Youth

Engaging with our community is a top priority. What many don't know, however, is that we offer programs specially designed to connect with and educate our youth about air quality and how they can help improve it.

"Helping students understand that their individual actions can effect Spokane's air quality is important and rewarding," said Stephanie May, Public Information Specialist. "It shows them that they matter and that they can have a positive impact on our environment."

Spokane Clean Air youth outreach takes many forms, including:

- ★ Classroom visits for grades K-12
- ★ School science night participation
- ★ Community event participation
- ★ Boy & Girl Scouting presentations
- ★ No-Idle Zone program for elementary and middle schools

Activities and presentations are developed to engage kids in hands-on learning. For example, children can see first-hand the effects of breathing polluted air by investigating a set of pig's lungs that depict a healthy lung and a diseased lung.

"By creating impactful activities that encourage students to take an active role, like examining the pig's lungs, the idea of the harmful health effects from air pollution becomes personal," May said. "That personal connection can last a lifetime."

To discuss or schedule a clean air program for your youth event, please contact Stephanie at SMay@spokanecleanair.org or 477-4727 x 125.

Asbestos & Home Remodeling



When asbestos-containing products are damaged or disturbed, microscopic asbestos fibers are released into the air, creating a potentially hazardous situation. Exposure to asbestos has been linked to cancer and other respiratory diseases.

As the weather warms up, you may be ready to tackle those remodeling projects you've had in mind all winter. One item that often gets overlooked is the need to perform an asbestos survey to ensure that asbestos-containing materials are not damaged or disturbed during the project. Spokane Clean Air staff are available to help you understand asbestos requirements which apply to both residential and commercial remodeling, renovation and demolition projects.

What is asbestos, and why is it harmful?

Asbestos is a naturally-occurring mineral used in over 3,000 building materials for its durability and intrinsic fireproofing characteristics. Asbestos is still used today in some products.

What materials contain asbestos?

Some of the more common building materials that may contain asbestos are cement board siding, furnace insulation, vinyl sheet flooring (linoleum), vinyl floor tile, joint compound, blown-in insulation, "popcorn" ceiling texture, and roofing materials, just to name a few.

What Should I Do?

Call Spokane Clean Air at 477-4727 prior to starting any renovation or demolition project at your residence or business. Agency staff will provide you with information to help you avoid disturbing asbestos and potentially creating a hazardous situation. ■

On the Air is a publication of the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency. Its purpose is to inform local residents on all aspects of outdoor air pollution. Contact Lisa Woodard, *Editor*, with comments or story ideas:
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- ✓ Asbestos Updates
- ✓ Burn Bans
- ✓ *On the Air* Newsletter
- ✓ Regulation Updates
- ✓ News Releases
- ✓ Business Compliance Assistance

Sign up at SpokaneCleanAir.org