

A look back on 50 years

Fifty years ago this year, our agency was fully activated as the Spokane County Air Pollution Control Authority. On this 50th anniversary, we're taking a look back at our work in the early years and the progress that has been made in cleaning up the air in Spokane County.

"When we began our work, there was a brown haze hovering over the city at times. The air contained pollutants from many sources, which caused breathing problems and poor visibility," described Ron Edgar, who worked at the agency for 35 years. "And local residents were very vocal about how the smoke, soot and odors were affecting them," added Edgar.

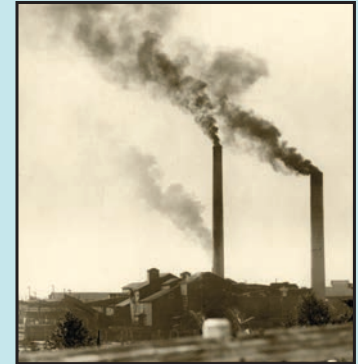
To find out what was in the air and where it was coming from, we relied on "low-tech" methods, such as chemistry and visual observations.

In the early years, sticky tape jars were used to capture pollution. Empty peanut butter jars covered with sticky tape were placed on property downwind from industrial polluters to see if emissions were impacting neighboring properties. Today, sophisticated air quality monitoring stations are located throughout Spokane County, providing real-time data of pollution levels.

Burning trash in burn barrels was commonplace up until 1969-1970, when the practice was banned and garbage collection services were expanded. When commercial businesses were no longer allowed to burn, dumpsters were purchased and businesses began recycling cardboard.

The chart below illustrates Spokane County's air quality success story.

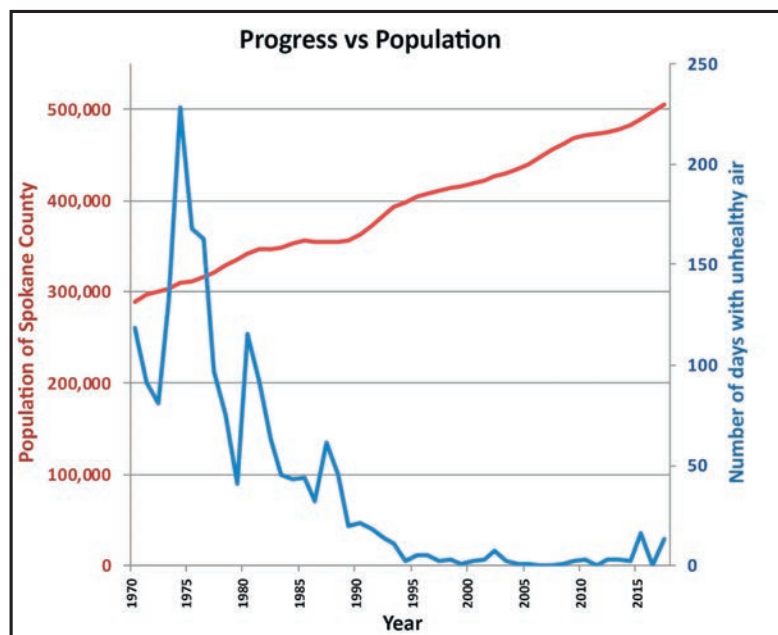
...continued on back page



Gone are the days of industrial smokestacks spewing black clouds of pollution - a sight common in the early years of air pollution control.

In the early years of air pollution control, the focus was on cleaning up industrial and commercial sources of air pollution. This was a large undertaking for most industries, as air pollution control equipment had to be designed for each process, ordered, shipped, and installed.

Today there are over 700 commercial operations registered with Spokane Clean Air. We no longer see soot covered buildings or billowing industrial smoke stacks. Over the years, new equipment and improved operations have dramatically reduced air pollution from the commercial sector, which now accounts for less than 20% of air pollution.



County, Cities and businesses work to control dust pollution

Dust, a major component of particulate pollution, is an air quality concern throughout Spokane County. Dust is generated from a variety of activities such as driving on unpaved roads. Driving on paved roads can also be significant source of dust when they are dirty. The dirt on paved roads is often from other vehicles tracking mud from dirt roads and lots. Traction sand and gravel applied to roads can also contribute to dust pollution. Other activities contributing to dust include construction related work, off-road recreation, grain processing, rock crushing, agricultural activities, and many more.

Controlling dust is important to maintaining healthful air quality in Spokane. When left uncontrolled, dust emissions can be more than just a nuisance – it can be harmful to your health. When the microscopic particles are inhaled, they can travel deep into lungs, increasing breathing problems, damaging lung tissue and aggravating existing health problems.

“In the last five years, our agency logged 586 dust-related air quality complaints,” according to Lori Rodriguez, Compliance Section Manager for Spokane Clean Air. “Of these complaints, only a small portion were related to dust from roads.”

But this hasn't always been the case. Spokane experienced a particularly dusty spring week in 1993, following a harsh winter with near-record snowfall. Traction sand was applied in record quantities throughout the winter. After winter's thaw, the material turned into fine powder that was kicked up into the air by passing motorists and resulted in several days of air quality in violation of the federal health standards.

What followed was a cooperative program with Spokane, Spokane County, and state road departments to combat the problem. The solution: a combination of clean gravel and liquid de-icing material, and more



frequent and timely street sweeping and cleaning is performed.

Marlene Feist with the City of Spokane, explained the sand that is used for traction control in the winter months is also a cleaner product than 20 years ago. This higher washed product correspondingly contributes to overall less dust becoming airborne.

Businesses in Spokane County are also part of the solution to controlling dust emissions. Spokane Clean Air regulations require the use of control techniques to prevent and minimize the release of dust. The article below lists some of the control strategies that businesses are using to keep dust at bay. ■

How can I control dust?

Depending on the situation, one or more of the following strategies are recommended to minimize dust emissions:

- ◆ Use water or chemical dust suppressants
- ◆ Minimize activities during periods of high winds
- ◆ Use covered chutes, covered containers, or collection and control equipment when handling, transferring, and/or storing dusty material

- ◆ Minimize free fall distances for dusty materials
- ◆ Vegetate or mulch dusty areas
- ◆ Maintain adequate freeboard and cover loads when transporting dusty materials
- ◆ Keep paved surfaces clean
- ◆ Restrict access or limit vehicle speeds on unpaved areas to 15 miles per hour
- ◆ Limit the amount graded at any one time

Tracking dirt onto paved roadways can also generate dust emissions. The following strategies are recommended to minimize tracking:

- ◆ Pave or gravel unpaved, traveled surfaces
- ◆ Pave or install gravel buffer areas at exits
- ◆ Clean vehicle tires and undercarriages before traveling on paved roads (wash stations)
- ◆ Promptly clean up material that has been tracked onto paved roadways (wet flush/spray off, street sweep/vacuum). ■

Businesses strike silver and gold

Congratulations to the 89 businesses listed below who achieved silver and gold level recognition! Silver level is reserved for businesses that meet air quality requirements over the last two years. Gold-level is reserved for businesses that not only meet clean air requirements, but go above and beyond compliance by initiating other measures that improve air quality. Examples include transportation measures (no-idle zone policies, commute trip reduction, etc.) energy efficiency measures; alternative processes and/or products, etc. The recognition program is offered every two years and all businesses registered with Spokane Clean Air are encouraged to apply. Look for the form in the January 2021 annual registration mailing or at spokanecleanair.org/business/recognition. ■



GOLD

ADM Milling Plant, Trent Ave
Also Inc
American Way Collision Center
BMT Metal Fabrication
City of Cheney
City of Spokane, Fleet Services
Comcast Cable Corporation
Community Colleges of Spokane
Dark Capital

Ed's Premier Auto Body
Expeditors International of WA
Glamour
Hydrostraw LLC
Indian Trail Service Center
K & M Unibody Works
Liberty Mutual Insurance
North East Washington ESD 101
Northtown Mall

Pro Recycle LLA
Ross Print & Packaging
Speedi Shoppe, Airway Heights
Spokane Regional Health District
Spokane Transit Authority
Travis Iron Works
Unity Food Mart
Wagstaff Inc
Washington Auto Collision

SILVER

Alliance Machine System
Auto Masters
Ball and Dodd Funeral Home
Barker Express
Bill Johnson's Auto Service
BJ DeliMart #1 DBA: Pronto Plus
Blue Dragon Foodmart
Bong's Grocery & Deli
Can-Am Body Shop
City Food Mart
City Fuel
Cockle Custom Welding
Coyote Creek Cabinets
Custom Body Co.
Cylinder Head Service
Davenport Hotel
Driscoll One Stop
Dave's Auto Body & Glass, Inc
Eastside Electric
United Pacific

Food Services of America
Gemelli Coffee
Haakon Industries
Harry's Food Mart
Hennessey Funeral Homes
Hayford Foodmart
Inland Fixture
J&A Body and Fender
Jensen Auto Service
LB Foster CXT
Mann-Grandstaff Veterans
Affairs Medical Center
Medical Lake Quick CT
Minor Body & Fender
Norlift Inc
NW Sandblast and Paint
Number 1 Monroe
Par Pacific Holdings (Zip Trip)
Pearson Packaging Systems
Pressworks

RAJA Market
Restoration Plating LLC
Riplinger Funeral Home
Riverview Retirement Community
Rocket Market
RWC Group
Sam Stop Shopa
S & S Petroleum, Inc
Snow Peak Forest Products
Solid Waste Systems
Spokane House of Hope
Spokane Humane Society
Spokane Metals LLC
Sprint
Super C Store
Tanvi LLC
The Gas Company
US Bank Building
Valley Equipment Co, Inc
Western Systems & Fabrication
White Block Co Inc

Obtaining a Notice of Construction (NOC)

What is a NOC Application for Approval?

Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency (SRCAA) Regulation I, Article V, requires the owner/operator of an air contaminant source to file an application for a Notice of Construction (NOC) approval prior to constructing, installing, establishing, replacing and/or modifying air contaminant sources, emissions units or air pollution control equipment in Spokane County. If approved, SRCAA issues an Order of Approval that is valid for the life of the equipment at a specific location, and can be issued for single piece of equipment or for an entire facility.

The NOC program is required under federal, state and local regulations as a control strategy to meet the health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards and to control toxic air pollutants.

How much will the NOC cost?

The NOC fees and fee structure were revised, effective January 1, 2019. The fee has two parts: 1) a base fee that must be submitted with the NOC application, which covers specific review hours (see table below); and 2) additional fees, if applicable, that are invoiced when the review is complete (e.g. hours exceeding those covered in the base fee, SEPA review fee).

What information must be submitted?

If your project requires a NOC you'll need to submit an application and other required documentation. Information and application forms are online at spokanecleanair.org/business/permitting. The NOC process can take 90 days or more, though most can be processed in 40-60 days after receipt of the complete application, depending on complexity. ■

NOC Permit Process Overview*

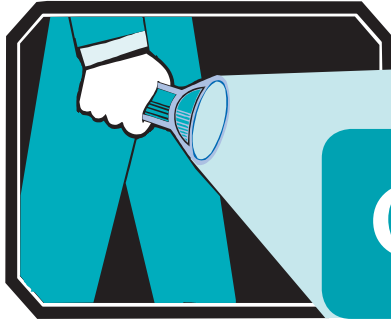
1. A NOC must be approved prior to constructing, installing, replacing or modifying an air contaminant source and/or air pollution control equipment.
2. Call SRCAA, 509-477-4727 to speak with an engineer about your project.
3. Complete a NOC application form and SEPA checklist (if required, details on back). Forms for various types of sources are at spokanecleanair.org/business/permitting. Submit completed forms and NOC base fee to SRCAA for review.
4. An engineer will review the NOC application and send draft approval to applicant for review.
5. When the NOC application is approved, the applicant will be mailed the NOC permit/Conditions of Approval, and if applicable a final invoice for additional review hours not covered in the base fee, and a SEPA review fee.
6. Call SRCAA at (509) 477-4727 when installation is completed and ready for inspection.

*This is a simplified overview of the process. Refer to SRCAA's website or call:

SpokaneCleanAir.org
(509) 477-4727

Common Equipment Examples (full list is online or call SRCAA)	Class	Base fee/number of review hours covered*
Boilers <100MMbtu/hr	III	\$4,100 / 42 hrs
Boilers >100MMbtu/hr	IV	\$9,000 / 92 hrs
Emergency Generators	III	\$4,100 / 42 hrs
Gasoline dispensing ≤ 1.5 million gallons/year throughput	II	\$2,500 / 25 hrs
Gasoline dispensing > 1.5 million gallons/year throughput	III	\$4,100 / 42 hrs
Material handling (baghouses, dust collectors, etc) >1,000 and ≤ 10,000 acfm to the ambient air	II	\$2,500 / 25 hrs
Material handling (e.g. baghouses, dust collectors, etc) >10,000 acfm to the ambient air	III	\$4,100 / 42 hrs
Spray booth / surface coating operation that exhausts ≤ 10,000 acfm to the ambient air	II	\$2,500 / 25 hrs
Stationary Combustion Engine ≥100 bhp	III	\$4,100 / 42 hrs
Spray booth, surface coating operations >10,000 acfm to the ambient air	III	\$4,100 / 42 hrs

*Applicants will be notified if the number of review hours covered in the base fee will not be sufficient and why. Additional review hours will be billed at \$98/hour.



2019 Clean Air Award

Gonzaga University

Gonzaga University is the 2019 Clean Air Award recipient! Spokane Clean Air honored GU for their exemplary work across their campus to improve energy efficiency and reduce emissions through voluntary measures and innovative practices. In the last ten years, GU's Plant Services has seen a 23% increase in gross square footage of the buildings they manage. This is 2.9 million square feet requiring lighting, heating, cooling, and ventilation. Even with this growth, the University has seen an overall decrease in emissions by focusing on strategies to increase campus energy efficiency.

According to Tomson Spink, Gonzaga's Grounds and Facility Maintenance Manager, over the last 10 years, the university's overall consumption of natural gas dropped by 27 percent and electric consumption grew by 4 percent -- all during a period of significant growth. Here are some of their efforts that are making a difference:

- ◆ Large, less-efficient natural-gas fired boilers used for campus heating were replaced with smaller and more efficient units. This has reduced emissions of five air pollutants by 24% annually.
- ◆ All new building construction must be certified to LEED Silver level.

◆ Lighting is replaced with high efficiency LED fixtures, bulbs and tubes and lighting controls that include dimming, daylighting, and vacancy sensing.

◆ In addition to their robust Commute Trip Reduction program, they employ two shared mobility programs to encourage the use of alternative commute options: Zipcar and more recently, Lime bikes.



SRCAA Executive Director Julie Oliver presenting the Clean Air Award to Jim Angelosante, GU Vice President of Administration. Also from GU (from left): Jim Simon, Director of Sustainability, Tomson Spink, Grounds & Facilities Maintenance Manager, and Chris Ultican, Employee Transportation Coordinator.

GU launched the Zipcar program in 2012. Zipcar vehicles allow commuters to run errands and make trips without requiring the purchase and maintenance of individual, personal vehicles.

According to James Simon, Director of Sustainability, during the last academic year, Zipcars were used over 1,000 times, covering more than 20,000 miles and cutting an

estimated 478,000 pounds of carbon dioxide.

The campus piloted the Lime bikes program with a fleet of 50 bikes. During the 2-month pilot program, Gonzaga users took over 23,000 rides and logged more than 13,000 miles, according to Simon.

GU provides the Universal Transit Access Pass. Last year, students and faculty rode STA buses more than 43,000 times. Each trip on a bus rather than in a car helps lessen road congestion and reduces emissions.

To further support those making decisions in their personal lives to combat greenhouse gas production, the University installed a set of ChargePoint stations on campus in 2016. According to Simon, electric vehicle charging stations alleviate the "range-anxiety" often associated with e-vehicles, making them a more feasible alternative to traditional modes of transportation that rely on fossil fuels.

Many other exciting things are happening on the GU campus to address environmental sustainability. Congratulations, Gonzaga University! ■

The Clean Air Award is presented annually to recognize innovation and commitment by a facility to reduce air emissions. Additional information and a list of past Clean Air Award recipients is at SpokaneCleanAir.org/business-recognition.

UPDATE

Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency
3104 E. Augusta Avenue
Spokane, WA 99207

Pre-sort STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Spokane, WA
Permit No. 28

Air • Quality • Calendar

Spokane Clean Air's Board of Directors meet at 9:30 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month, unless otherwise publicized. Meetings are held at the agency's office, 3104 E. Augusta Ave. Meeting agendas and approved minutes are posted online www.SpokaneCleanAir.org.

Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency Board of Directors:

Al French, Chair, Spokane County Commissioner
Tom Brattebo, Vice Chair, Member-at-Large
Kevin Freeman, Small Cities & Towns Representative
Kate Burke, City of Spokane Representative
Rod Higgins, City of Spokane Valley Representative

UPDATE is published by the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency. Send article ideas and comments to LWoodard@SpokaneCleanAir.org.



3104 E. Augusta, Spokane, WA 99207
Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Phone: (509) 477-4727
Fax: (509) 477-6828
www.SpokaneCleanAir.org

UPDATE is available online and via email subscription: just visit our website at SpokaneCleanAir.org

50 years of clean air progress...continued from cover

Our work isn't done. As the region grows, so do the emissions in our air shed. Efforts to improve air quality and to stay in compliance with health-based standards must continue.

We have new challenges as well. Recent summers have been shrouded in smoke from wildfires burning near and far. The chart on the left shows that there were 16 days last August when air quality rose above the health-based standard due to wildfire smoke.

Smoke affects us all, especially our most vulnerable residents. In addition to the health concerns from breathing smoke-filled air, there are economic impacts in our communities as well. Outdoor events and recreational opportunities that local residents enjoy and that attract visitors to our area are at risk of low attendance and cancellations.

We do know this. Clean air is a precious resource and we'll continue our

work with residents, businesses and partner agencies. Striving for good air quality now and into the future is well worth the effort.

Learn more about our history at SpokaneCleanAir.org/50-years-of-clean-air-progress. ■

