



# 2025

CALENDAR



*working with you for clean air*



# A Message From Our New Executive Director



As someone born and raised in Spokane, I feel truly fortunate to live in one of the most scenic areas in the PNW. Our abundant parks and lakes, beautiful Mt. Spokane, and the Spokane River, beckon exploration and adventure. And thanks to our favorable climate, we can enjoy the great outdoors and the numerous community events year-round. But, like most things, there are exceptions.

Wildfire smoke is our exception. We can typically count on a handful of days each summer when unhealthy levels of smoke drive us indoors.

This has happened every summer since 2012, except for 2016 and 2024. This past summer we broke a seven-year string of summers with one or more unhealthy air quality days. I hope you enjoyed the summer of clean air as much as I did!

While we should celebrate the good air quality of 2024, we at Spokane Clean Air know there is always work to do. As the region grows, so do the emissions released into our air. Therefore, efforts to keep air quality within current and future clean air standards must continue, and we each must do our part.

One of our top priorities is providing an effective and reliable air quality monitoring network. We recently added 11 new sites to our network with funding from the Washington State Department of Ecology. These sites measure fine particle pollution using SensWA sensors. Compared to our regulatory-grade monitors, these sensors are lower-cost, smaller, and easier to maintain. These features give us more options for locating the sensors to continue expanding our monitoring network. A map of our monitoring locations and data from each site are available at [SpokaneCleanAir.org](http://SpokaneCleanAir.org).

Clean air is a precious resource. Spokane Clean Air will continue collaborating with residents, businesses, and partner agencies to ensure clean, healthy air for all Spokane County residents. Striving for good air quality now and into the future is well worth the effort.

On behalf of our staff, Board of Directors, and Advisory Council members, I am pleased to present our 2025 Clean Air Calendar to you, our partner in clean air.

Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year,

April Westby, PE



# Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency

## Our History

The 1967 Clean Air Act of Washington (RCW Chapter 70A.15, Section 1510) authorized the legislative authority of any county to activate an air pollution control authority. There are currently seven such authorities in Washington. Counties without an activated authority are served by the Washington State Department of Ecology.

On January 1, 1969, our agency was fully activated as Spokane County Air Pollution Control Authority. In 2005, we changed our name to Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency (Spokane Clean Air).

## Our Work

Spokane Clean Air administers local, state, and federal air quality laws and regulations and provides programs and services to achieve our mission to preserve, protect, and enhance Spokane County's air resources for current and future generations.

Spokane Clean Air employs a professional staff of 18 to provide technical, engineering, compliance, outreach, and administrative services.

## Our Board of Directors

We are governed by a five-member Board of Directors, including one County Commissioner, one representative from each of the two largest cities (Spokane, Spokane Valley), a representative of the County's small cities and towns, and a member-at-large. Members serve a minimum term of four years. The Board conducts agency business during open, public meetings held on the first Thursday of each month, beginning at 9:30 a.m., unless otherwise publicized. Agendas are posted on our website a week prior to each meeting. Current directors:

Al French, Chair | Spokane County Commissioner

Jim Simon | Vice Chair | City of Spokane Representative

Chris Grover | Small Cities and Towns Representative

Tom Brattebo | Member-at-Large

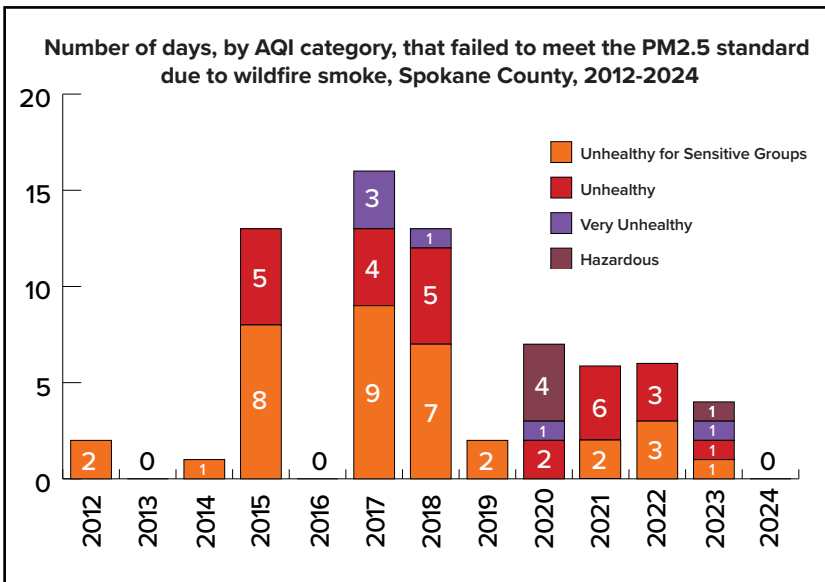
Rod Higgins | City of Spokane Valley Representative

*Preserving, protecting and enhancing Spokane County's  
air quality for current and future generations*

# A Summer to Remember

Spokane-area residents had healthier air to breathe during the summer of 2024 than during the previous seven summers. This is mainly credited to a mild wildfire year for Washington and favorable wind patterns.

Spokane experienced no days during the summer of 2024 that failed health-based standards. The daily maximum level of fine smoke particles (PM2.5) occurred on August 3, with an Air Quality Index (AQI) of 82/Moderate. A daily AQI over 100 fails the



National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

Statewide, there were seven days of unhealthy air quality last summer. While Washington's wildfire activity was mild, it wasn't the case for our neighbors in Oregon and Idaho. Both states experienced above-average wildfire seasons.

Even with a mild wildfire year in Washington, we know from experience that smoke can reach Spokane from nearby states and Canada.

The two largest regional wildfires that posed a threat to local air quality were the Pioneer Fire near Lake Chelan, and the Swawilla Fire near Keller. Smoke from both of these fires was largely steered away from Spokane thanks to wind patterns. The minimal smoke that was able to drift into our area remained aloft for the most part, contributing to several days of hazy skies.

In addition to wildfire smoke, Spokane's summer air quality is threatened by ground-level ozone pollution. Ozone is formed photochemically in the atmosphere and peaks in the late afternoon on hot, calm summer days. Of our two key pollutants, ozone came the closest to failing its health-based standard, reaching an AQI of 100/Moderate, on July 14.

For now, we can relish in the good fortune of a nice summer without significant air quality impacts because we know all too well that next summer may be a different story.

## Our Advisory Council

Volunteers are appointed by our Board of Directors to serve four-year terms on our Advisory Council. Members provide advice on air pollution policies, regulations, and programs. Our volunteers bring diverse perspectives to issues based on their areas of expertise, including agriculture, chemistry, environment, fire protection, industry, public health, and the business community. Current members:

*Agriculture:* Jacqueline C. Etter

*Air Quality:* Jana McDonald

*Business Community:*

Hal Ophus

*Chemistry/Science:*

Ronald Edgar

*Environment:* John Dietzman

*Fire Protection:* Doug Bleeker

*Industry:* Brent Downey

*Member-at-Large:*

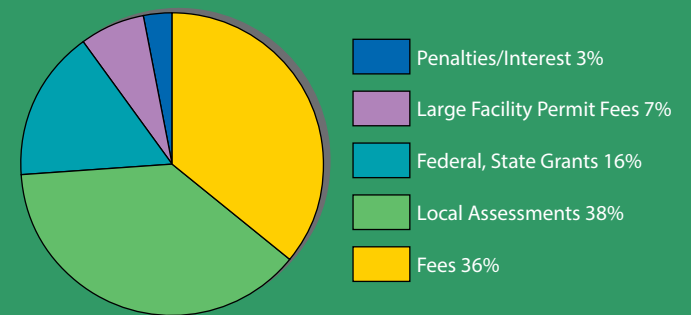
Dr. Tony Masiello

*Public Health:* Ray Byrne, R.S.

## Our Funding Sources

Our work is carried out with the financial support of our member entities, including Spokane County and its incorporated cities and towns: Spokane, Spokane Valley, Airway Heights, Cheney, Deer Park, Latah, Liberty Lake, Medical Lake, Millwood, Rockford, Spangle, and Waverly. Each contributes to the work we do on behalf of their citizens through an annual assessment. Our projected revenue for Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025) is approximately \$3.1 million.

### FY 2025 projected revenue







DECEMBER

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29	30	31				

FEBRUARY

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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	



## JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<i>New Year's Day</i>			
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	<i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

**“One of the first conditions of happiness is that the link between man and nature shall not be broken.”**

*Leo Tolstoy*

### We are your clean air agency

Since 1969, we've been working to improve air quality across Spokane County. We provide various programs and services for residents and businesses in Spokane County, including:

- Air quality monitoring, forecasting, and reporting
- Asbestos control during renovation and demolition activities
- Business registration and permitting, and facility inspections
- Business assistance and recognition
- Community outreach and education
- Complaint response and enforcement
- Wood heating and outdoor burning
- Special Studies - We are currently conducting mobile air monitoring to identify black carbon “hotspots” to better understand the relative contributions of traffic and wood burning to fine particle pollution.

To learn more, visit us at:

[SpokaneCleanAir.org](http://SpokaneCleanAir.org)

or call 509-477-4727.







JANUARY

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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



## FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	<i>Valentine's Day</i>	15
16	<i>Presidents' Day</i>	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

### Air is a precious resource

We breathe in and out about 22,000 times a day. With every breath we take, our lungs are exposed to the world around us, filtering over 2,000 gallons of air each day!

Did you know that kids breathe in 50% more air, per pound of body weight, than adults do? This and the fact that their lungs are still developing make them more at risk from breathing polluted air. Exposure to polluted air can negatively affect people's health in several ways:

- Short-term health effects: Irritation to eyes, nose, and throat; coughing, sneezing, and shortness of breath.
- Long-term health effects: Diseases including stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer, and heart disease.
- Reproductive health: Low birth weight, premature birth, and infant mortality.
- Damage to the immune, neurological, and respiratory systems.

**“The strongest governments on earth cannot clean up pollution by themselves. They must rely on each ordinary person, like you and me, on our choices, and on our will.”**

*Chai Jing*

To learn more, visit us at:  
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**FEBRUARY**

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**APRIL**

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			



## MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	<i>St. Patrick's Day</i>				<i>First Day of Spring</i>	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

**“The proper use of science is not to conquer nature but to live in it.”**

*Barry Commoner*

### Reducing emissions from commercial operations

Collectively, businesses contribute to an estimated 15-20 percent of the air pollution in Spokane County.

To minimize emissions from this sector, we issue permits with operational requirements, conduct periodic facility inspections, require annual registration, and provide compliance assistance and recognition.

The types of commercial and industrial operations that we work with include:

- ✓ Asphalt, concrete plants
- ✓ Boilers
- ✓ Foundries, mills
- ✓ Coffee roasting
- ✓ Crematories
- ✓ Crushing operations
- ✓ Dry cleaners
- ✓ Emergency generators
- ✓ Fiberglass fabrication
- ✓ Gasoline stations
- ✓ Metal plating, painting, coating
- ✓ Printing
- ✓ Solvent cleaning

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or call 509-477-4727.







MARCH

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30	31					

MAY

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25	26	27	28	29	30	31



## APRIL

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<i>Easter</i> 20	21	<i>Earth Day</i> 22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

**“Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better.”**

*Albert Einstein*

### Air monitoring is expanding

In 2024 we added eleven new air monitoring sites in Spokane County. The sites measure fine particle pollution with SensWA sensors, developed by the Washington Department of Ecology.

The sensors have proven to be a cost-effective way to expand our monitoring network to provide more community specific data and fill gaps between regulatory monitoring locations.

Compared to our regulatory-grade monitors, SensWA sensors are lower cost, smaller, easier to maintain, and have built-in cellular modems. These attributes make them more versatile.

The air quality monitoring map on our website was updated to reflect the additional sites. The map defaults to the dominant air pollutant being measured (PM2.5, PM10, or ozone). Users can view pollutant-specific data, and trends.

Air quality data and our two-day air quality forecast are tools to help residents decide what actions to take to protect their health and the health of those in their care.

To learn more, visit us at: [SpokaneCleanAir.org](https://SpokaneCleanAir.org) or call 509-477-4727.







APRIL

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27	28	29	30			

JUNE

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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					



## MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	<i>Cinco de Mayo</i>	6	7	8	9	10
<i>Mother's Day</i>	12	13	14	15	16	<i>Armed Forces Day</i>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	<i>Memorial Day</i>	27	28	29	30	31

**“Nature provides a free lunch, but only if we control our appetites.”**

*William Ruckelshaus*

### Car care for clean air

What can you do to improve our air? Since most Americans own at least one car, this is an area where you can make a big difference—not only for the air, but also for your pocketbook! Here’s how:

- **Care for your car.** Keep your vehicle engine tuned-up and tires properly inflated for greater fuel efficiency.
- **Turn off your car when parked.** Idling for more than 30 seconds wastes fuel and emits harmful pollutants to the air.
- **Park your car.** Leave your car home at least once a week. For short trips, consider walking or biking. For longer trips, rideshare or take a bus.
- **Take care when driving your car.** Avoid jackrabbit starts and maintain steady speeds to conserve fuel.
- **Know when to refuel your car.** During summer ozone season, refuel your car in the evenings and avoid overfilling the gas tank. This reduces gasoline vapors released during the heat of the day when ozone is forming photochemically.

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or call 509-477-4727.







MAY

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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JULY

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



## JUNE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 <i>Flag Day</i>
15 <i>Father's Day</i>	16	17	18	19 <i>Juneteenth</i>	20 <i>First Day of Summer</i>	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

**“But man is a part of nature, and his war against nature is inevitably a war against himself.”**

*Rachel Carson*

### June is smoke-ready month!

Any amount of exposure to smoke should be taken seriously. Studies link fine particle exposure to increases in hospital and doctor visits, premature death, and nonfatal heart attacks.

Wildfire smoke is likely to affect everyone living in the western U.S. and beyond. So why not reduce your risk by preparing for smoke now? Here are a few ways to prepare:

- If you or members of your family have health issues, discuss options with your healthcare provider.
- Know how to access air quality forecasts and near real-time air quality reports at SpokaneCleanAir.org. A good statewide resource is the Washington Smoke Blog: [wasmoke.blogspot.com](http://wasmoke.blogspot.com).
- Use the best filters your HVAC system is equipped to handle.
- Invest in a portable HEPA air cleaner or make a low-cost box fan filter.

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[SpokaneCleanAir.org](http://SpokaneCleanAir.org)

or call 509-477-4727.





JUNE

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AUGUST

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



## JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<i>Independence Day</i>	
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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### Fire safety or air quality burn restrictions

In Spokane County, local fire and county officials place restrictions on outdoor burning due to elevated fire risk. These fire danger restrictions are typically in place summer into fall and are lifted by fire officials when they deem it safe.

Some factors that contribute to elevated fire danger include high temperatures and a lack of significant precipitation.

Although Spokane Clean Air does not issue fire danger restrictions, we help enforce the restrictions. We also help communicate the restrictions through our website, telephone hotline, and emails to our subscribers.

Spokane Clean Air issues and enforces restrictions on outdoor burning and wood heating based on air quality. These restrictions are most often issued during winter, but can be issued at other times of the year. When air quality is affected due to wildfire smoke, restrictions on outdoor burning are typically already in place due to fire danger.

To learn more, visit us at: [SpokaneCleanAir.org](http://SpokaneCleanAir.org) or call 509-477-4727.

“It looks big, Earth. But there are lots of us on here (8,186,531,395 and counting) so be kind.”

*Oliver Jeffers*







**JULY**

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27	28	29	30	31		

**SEPTEMBER**

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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				



## AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	<p><b>“The earth has its music for those who will listen.”</b>  <i>Reginald Holmes</i></p>					

### Ground-level ozone pollution

During the hottest months of summer - typically July and August, Spokane area residents are most likely to be exposed to ozone pollution.

Unlike the “good” ozone found in the Earth’s upper atmosphere, ground-level ozone is a harmful air pollutant formed photochemically. When inhaled, ozone harms the lungs and contributes to chronic asthma and bronchitis.

You can help combat ozone by adjusting some of your daily habits, such as:

- Cutting out the extra car trips! Start by combining errands into fewer trips.
- Curb the car! Bike, walk, or share rides.
- Don’t top-off! Avoid overfilling your gas tank.
- Hold-off! Wait until evening or a cooler day to use gas-powered lawn equipment.
- Switch it up! Use manual or electric-powered yard equipment when feasible.

To learn more, visit us at:

[SpokaneCleanAir.org](http://SpokaneCleanAir.org)

or call 509-477-4727.







AUGUST

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OCTOBER

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## SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<i>Labor Day</i> 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	<i>Patriot Day</i> 11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	<i>First Day of Autumn</i> 22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

“What’s the use of a fine house if you haven’t got a tolerable planet to put it on.”

*Henry David Thoreau*

### Air quality resources for schools and youth

Students, parents, and educators are settling into the new school year, which makes it a great time to highlight the educational programs we offer to schools:

- **Classroom Visits** - We enjoy visiting schools across our county to present air quality basics and lead hands-on activities with students.
- **No-Idle Zone** - Elementary and middle schools can participate in our voluntary No-Idle Zone program, designed to raise awareness about vehicle exhaust around schools. We provide materials and signs that encourage drivers to turn off their vehicle engines when idle.
- **Kids Making Sense** - Middle and high school teachers can participate in this program. Handheld air quality sensors help to engage students in collecting particle pollution data, interpreting data, and connecting their findings to real-life air quality experiences.

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or call 509-477-4727.





SEPTMBER

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NOVEMBER

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## OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	<i>Indigenous Peoples' Day</i>	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	<i>Halloween</i>	31

“The Earth is what we all have in common.”

*Wendell Berry*

### Recreational “backyard” fires

Smoke from burning natural vegetation contains harmful chemicals and tiny particles, which is why this practice isn't an option in most areas of Spokane County where reasonable disposal alternatives exist.

Recreational or “backyard” wood-fueled fires on personal property are allowed in most areas. Requirements must be met, including:

- **Size:** No larger than three feet around and two feet tall
- **Fuel:** Only dry, untreated firewood may be burned
- **Set-back:** Must be at least 25' away from combustibles (fence, deck, shed, house, etc.)
- **Purpose:** May not be used to dispose of anything (paper, leaves, twigs, etc.)
- **Nuisance:** Your fire cannot cause a nuisance to your neighbors.
- **Restrictions:** Check for current restrictions before burning.

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or call 509-477-4727.







**OCTOBER**

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**DECEMBER**

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28	29	30	31			



## NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<i>Daylight Saving Time Ends</i> 2	3	<i>Election Day</i> 4	5	6	7	8
9	10	<i>Veterans Day</i> 11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	<i>Thanksgiving Day</i> 27	28	29
30	<p><b>“Land really is the best art.”</b> <i>Andy Warhol</i></p>					

### Put a damper on wood smoke

Smoke from wood heating is the largest source of air pollution during winter. Whether you burn daily or occasionally, you can reduce chimney smoke by following these simple steps:

- Burn only clean, dry firewood or manufactured logs and pellets.
- Keep your fire hot and small. Avoid overloading the firebox which restricts airflow.
- Provide plenty of air to the fire by opening the damper. An ample supply of air is critical for good combustion.
- Check your chimney. After a 20-minute start-up period, heat waves or just a wisp of smoke should be all that is visible.
- If your wood heating device (stove or fireplace insert) is 20 years old or older, consider replacing it with a new, more efficient device. Grant funds may be available to help. Contact us for information.

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NOVEMBER

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JANUARY

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18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



## DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<i>First Day of Winter</i>				<i>Christmas Day</i>		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
			<i>New Year's Eve</i>			
28	29	30	31			

“The Earth is a fine place and worth fighting for.”

*Ernest Hemingway*

### Winter weather and air quality

Certain weather patterns can be a threat to our air by affecting how air pollutants disperse in the atmosphere.

**Air Stagnation:** During winter, our region can experience persistent periods of air stagnation. This traps air in a region with minimal movement, allowing pollutants to accumulate due to the lack of airflow.

**Temperature Inversion:** A layer in the atmosphere where the usual temperature pattern flips. A warmer layer becomes trapped between two cooler layers. The warmer layer of air acts as a lid, trapping cooler, heavier air near the Earth's surface. This allows smoke and other pollutants to build-up because they can't disperse as normal.

Winter temperature inversions are often due to radiational cooling on clear and calm nights. These inversions are common and can persist, particularly during the night and early morning.

During these adverse weather patterns, you can help by reducing wood heating, outdoor burning, and unnecessary vehicle trips. It all adds up to cleaner air!

To learn more, visit us at:

[SpokaneCleanAir.org](http://SpokaneCleanAir.org)

or call 509-477-4727.



## International Aerospace Coatings: 2024 Clean Air Award

Spokane Clean Air presented its 2024 Clean Air Award to International Aerospace Coatings (IAC) for their exemplary work to reduce emissions at their Spokane facility, located near Spokane International Airport.

IAC paints about 150 aircraft each year in an enormous hangar. To reduce emissions from their paints and coatings, they operate a three-filter bank system designed to reduce paint over-spray while allowing for the required airflow. Each filter is the size of an entire aircraft hangar wall!

IAC's Environmental & Facilities Manager, Buck Spurger, said this about the Spokane facility,

*"We nurture a culture of paying attention to detail and we are vigilant in maintaining our equipment. Our record keeping, control equipment maintenance, and collaborative compliance efforts are the epitome of a responsible surface coating operation."*

IAC avoids using paint strippers that contain chlorinated solvents where alternative paint strippers are acceptable to their customers. They implement environmental management resources as a priority by controlling hazardous materials on site with approved waste contractors. This ensures that all waste paint and solvents are recycled. Other IAC efforts:



**Congratulations to  
International  
Aerospace  
Coatings!**



Presented by:  
**Spokane  
Regional  
Clean Air  
Agency**  
SpokaneCleanAir.org

*Pictured above, accepting the award:*

*Left: Chris Richardson,  
IAC General Manager*

*Right: IAC Support Technician,  
Matthew Hinton*

- ✓ Frequent and robust testing of electrostatic grounding systems to ensure spray adhesion efficiency.
- ✓ Ongoing testing of cleaner painter strippers to reduce the release of Volatile Organic Compounds.
- ✓ Increasing use of non-chromated primers.
- ✓ Updates to the control systems for air handling and exhaust systems to increase efficiency, reduce heating needs, improve pressure readouts, provide remote viewing, and automated alarms when maintenance is upcoming.

*Check out all of our annual Clean Air Award recipients at [SpokaneCleanAir.org/recognition](https://SpokaneCleanAir.org/recognition)*

## Photography

With gratitude we recognize these local photographers who generously donated the use of their beautiful photos for this calendar.

James Richman:  
January, May, September, October,  
November, December

David Sams:  
Cover photo, February, April, June, July, August

Dennis Smith: March

## Connect with Us

We are your clean air agency and we welcome opportunities to participate in community events and present to local service clubs, business associations, community groups, and schools.

Consider following us on our social media channels and sign-up for one or more of our topical email lists. Find the "Subscribe" button at [SpokaneCleanAir.org](https://SpokaneCleanAir.org). Our current email lists include:

- ✓ Asbestos Updates – Quarterly topics related to asbestos requirements for homeowners, business owners, and abatement contractors.
- ✓ Outdoor Burning – Get notified when local restrictions are issued and lifted on outdoor burning in Spokane County.
- ✓ Wood Heating – Get notified when local restrictions are issued and lifted on wood heating in Spokane County.
- ✓ Business Compliance Assistance – Newsletters and periodic announcements for businesses in our registration program.
- ✓ EnviroFlash – An EPA tool that provide air quality alerts and forecasts that you can personalize.
- ✓ News Releases – Local air quality news.
- ✓ *On The Air* Newsletter – Stay up to date with our quarterly e-newsletter.
- ✓ Regulation Updates – Hearing notices, proposed rule changes and final rule-making actions.



***Our mission: "To preserve, protect, and enhance Spokane County's air quality for current and future generations."***

Printed on recycled paper using soy-based inks

