



About Our Agency

A MESSAGE FROM THE SPOKANE REGIONAL CLEAN AIR AGENCY

BACKGROUND

Founded in 1969, the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency (Spokane Clean Air) works to achieve and maintain clean air in Spokane County, Washington by administering local state and federal air quality laws and regulations.

We carry out our functions of air monitoring, permitting, enforcement and education and outreach with the support of our member entities, which includes Spokane County and its incorporated cities and towns of Spokane, Spokane Valley, Airway Heights, Cheney, Deer Park, Latah, Libertake, Medical Lake, Millwood, Rockford, Spangle and Waverly.

History

The 1967 Clean Air Act of Washington (Chapter 70.94 RCW) authorized counties to activate local air agencies. There are seven local air agencies in the state. Counties that do not have a local air agency fall under the jurisdiction of the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Board of Directors

Spokane Clean Air's Board of Directors 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 members include:

Al French, Spokane County representative, Chair

Tom Brattebo, Member-at-Large

Jim Simon, City of Spokane representative

Kevin Freeman, Small Cities & Towns representative

Rod Higgins, City of Spokane Valley representative

Unless otherwise publicized, the Board meets on the first Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m., at Spokane Clean Air's office.

The meeting calendar for each year is set at the December board meeting. Meeting agendas and a proved minutes are available on our website or call (509) 477-4727.

Advisory Council

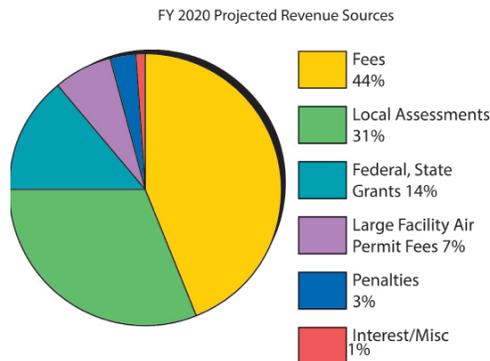
A 9-member volunteer Advisory Council is appointed by the Board to provide advice on air pollution policies, regulations, and programs. Council members bring diverse perspectives to issues based on their areas of expertise, including agriculture, chemistry, environment, fire protection, industry, public health, and the business community.

Key Agency Programs

- Operating a 24-hour air quality monitoring network to gather ambient air quality data representative of Spokane County's airshed. Data is used to report current Air Quality, determine a 2-day air quality forecast, issue temporary restrictions on wood burning, and to evaluate compliance with national, health-based pollution standards and to evaluate the effectiveness of pollution control strategies.
- Registering and inspecting over 700 commercial and industrial operations to ensure their operations are in compliance with air quality regulations.
- Reducing wintertime wood smoke pollution. Grants funds enable us to help residents replace old, inefficient wood heating devices with improved, less polluting systems for warm homes and clean heat.
- Responding to air quality complaints from citizens. Most complaints are about illegal outdoor fires, odors, smoke and other air quality nuisances.
- Implementing these and other programs to meet and maintain federal air quality standards.

Agency Funding

Spokane Clean Air's budget for Fiscal Year 2020 is approximately \$2.4 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. The assessment is based on a formula outlined in the state's Clean Air Act.



Spokane Clean Air's Board of Directors believes that a fully-funded, technically-capable, and locally-controlled air quality agency is necessary to the environmental and economic health of Spokane County.

Agency Organization

Spokane Clean Air employs a professional staff of 20 FTEs to provide technical, engineering, compliance, administrative and clerical support. Below are key duties in these areas:

Compliance: Conducts inspections, responds to citizen complaints, performs routine surveillance, enforces air pollution regulations and participates in public outreach.

Engineering: Reviews facility permit applications and assists businesses in their understanding of the regulations and in their selection of control technologies.

Technical Services: Operates and maintains the air monitoring network, conducts data analysis and quality assurance, develops rules, and provides internal computer services.

Communication & Outreach: Develops programs to inform and educate local residents and businesses

about air quality, and agency programs and services.

Administrative: Provides human resources, accounting and budgeting, grants and records management and a variety of specialized clerical assistance.

State & Federal Air Quality Agencies

These agencies also have major roles in protecting air quality.

Ecology is the principal environmental management agency for the state. Ecology is headquartered in Lacey, with regional offices in Spokane, Yakima and Bellevue. For more information at ecology.wa.gov or call (509) 329-3400.

EPA develops national programs, technical policies, and regulations for controlling air pollution. EPA sets limits on acceptable concentrations of air pollutants for the entire United States. EPA delegates to states and tribes, responsibility for issuing permits, monitoring ambient air, and compliance assurance. For more information, visit www.epa.gov.

Impacts of Not Meeting Air Quality Standards

Spokane County is currently in attainment with the health-based, National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for all pollutants. EPA is mandated under the Federal Clean Air Act to review NAAQS every 5 years to consider emerging information regarding health effects. Continuing to meet the health-based standards is critical and requires ongoing work. When NAAQS are not met, it can impact the region in the following ways:

- **Public Health** - pollution exposure, property values, relocation
- **Economic Impact on Business** - more stringent regulation, expensive pollution controls, affects expansion, new businesses
- **Local Government** - costs to implement plans, community stigma, growth limiter