City of Falcon Heights
Environment Commission

City Hall
2077 Larpenteur Avenue West

AGENDA

Monday, October 9, 2023
6:30 p.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL:

Beth Mercer-Taylor (Chair) ____	Jared Mehlhaff ____
John Pellegrini (Vice-Chair) ____	Amy Christiansen ____
Emma Kostecki ____	Stephanie Skarolid ____
Pedro De Filippo Vannucci ____	

Council Liaison Meyer ____
Staff Liaison Lynch ____

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
1. September 11, 2023
2. September 18, 2023

E. NEW BUSINESS
1. Purple Air – Air Quality Monitors
2. Partners in Energy – Partner Discussion

F. INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
1. Staff Liaison Report
2. Council Liaison Report

G. ADJOURN

If you have a disability and need accommodation in order to attend this meeting, please notify City Hall 48 hours in advance between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at 651-792-7600. We will be happy to help.

Next regular meeting date: November 13, 2023

City of Falcon Heights
Environment Commission

City Hall
2077 Larpenteur Avenue West

Minutes

Monday, September 11, 2023
6:30 p.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL:

Beth Mercer-Taylor (Chair) _A_	
John Pellegrini (Vice-Chair) _X_	Jared Mehlhaff _X_
Emma Kostecki _A_	Amy Christiansen _X_
Pedro De Filippo Vannucci _X_	Stephanie Skarolid _X_
Council Liaison Meyer _X_	
Staff Liaison Lynch _X_	

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
1. July 7, 2023
2. August 14, 2023

Commissioner Christiansen made a motion to approve the minutes from July 7, 2023 and August 14, 2023. Minutes were approved by consent.

E. AGENDA
1. Presentation – Ramsey County Climate Change Action, County Commissioner Trista Martinson

County Commissioner Martinson went through a presentation about climate change action and the impacts of climate change in the area. She went through information on how Ramsey County is working on a Climate Action Framework and Plan to outline priorities and set policies to work toward those goals. She also spoke on different recycling and energy programs provided by Ramsey County and the next steps to working on decarbonizing and building equitable climate resistance.

2. Presentation – City of Roseville Climate Action Planning, Noelle Bakken, City of Roseville Sustainability Specialist

Ms. Bakken went through a presentation outlining facts about Roseville, MN and providing an update on the sustainability work being done there. She went through a timeline of their

work as well as the long term goals for sustainability for the future. She also outlined several projects planned for 2023-24 and how Falcon Heights could potentially partner with them on some of these. Finally she spoke on the Partners in Energy program and Climate Action Planning in Roseville.

3. Purple Air – Air Quality Monitors
Tabled to October 9, 2023 meeting.

4. Homegrown National Parks
Staff Liaison Lynch briefly went over the Homegrown National Parks movement. This is an initiative to regenerate biodiversity and ecosystem function by planting native plants and creating new ecological networks. She explained a resident of Falcon Heights has written an article for the September 18, 2023 Nature Newsflash area of the city newsletter.

F. Information and Announcements
1. Staff Liaison Report – *Staff Liaison Lynch went over the results from the Ice Cream Social voting from residents on the issues that matter to them. In first place was water and air pollution, followed by food and waste management, home energy efficiency, and finally green transportation.*
2. Council Liaison Report – *None.*

G. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Next regular meeting date: October 9, 2023

City of Falcon Heights
Environment Commission

City Hall
2077 Larpenteur Avenue West

Special Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 18, 2023
6:30 p.m.

A. CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL:

Beth Mercer-Taylor (Chair) _X_	
John Pellegrini (Vice-Chair) _X_	Jared Mehlhaff _X_
Emma Kostecki _X_	Amy Christiansen _A_
Pedro De Filippo Vannucci _X_	Stephanie Skarolid _X_

Council Liaison Meyer _A_
Staff Liaison Lynch _X_

C. NEW BUSIINESS

1. Partners in Energy Kickoff – Deidre Coleman

Deidre Coleman and Paolo Speirn from MNCEE and Sofia Troutman from Xcel Energy were in attendance to hold a kickoff meeting for the Partners in Energy program. They talked about the timeline for the plan, including 4-6 months for development which will consist of workshop and community engagement, followed by 18-20 months of implementation. City Council will be required to approve the plan prior to implementation, and many resources will be provided, included an online portal. There are expected to be five workshops with the community and the development of an Energy Action Team comprised of community members and stakeholders in the City.

D. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

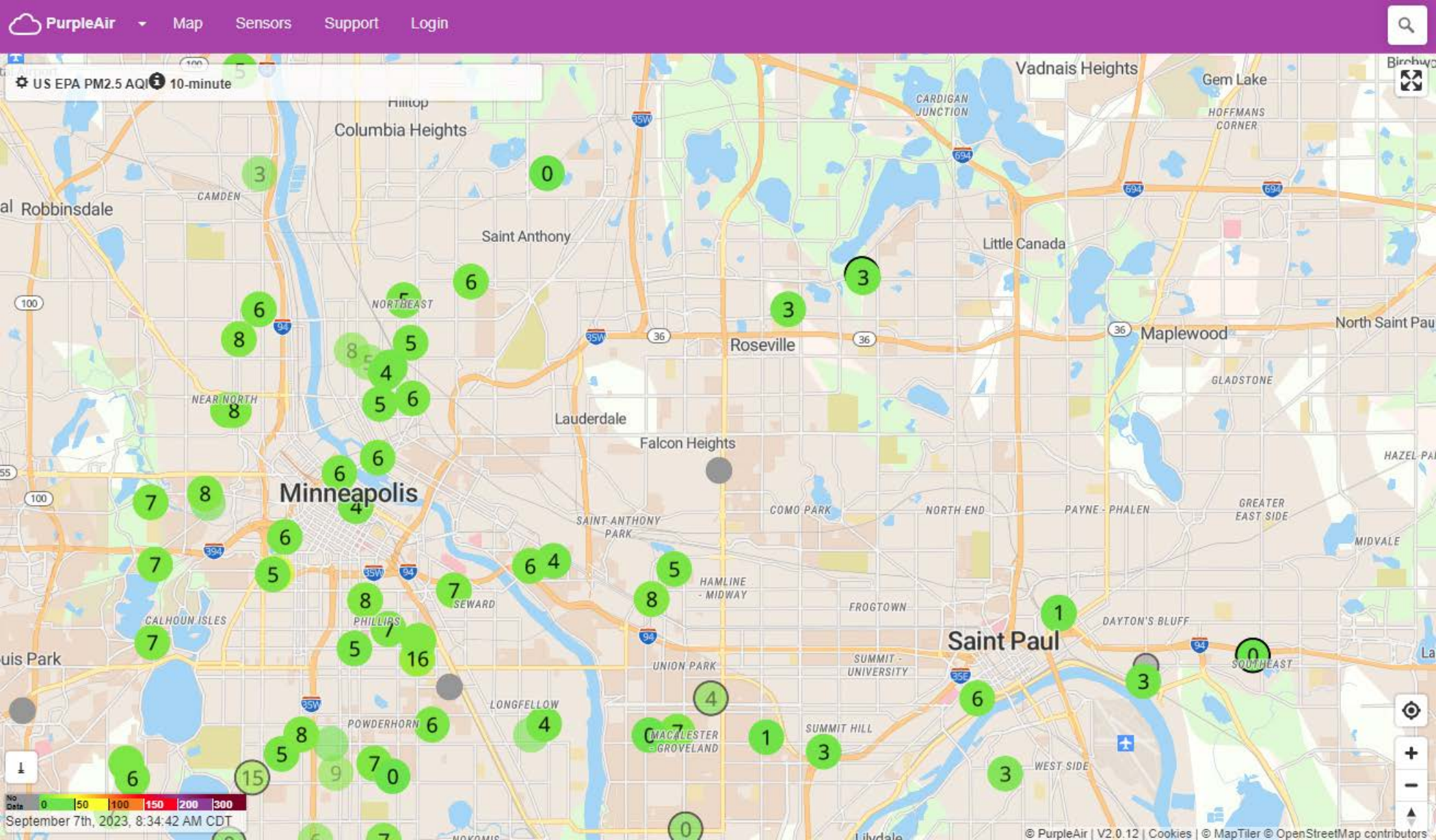
Next regular meeting date: October 9, 2023

ITEM FOR DISCUSSION

Meeting Date	October 9, 2023
Agenda Item	E-1 New Business
Attachment	See below.
Submitted By	Hannah Lynch, Community Development Coordinator

Item	PurpleAir Quality Monitors
Description	Research submitted by Katherine Allen, Falcon Heights Resident – PurpleAir allows citizens to monitor the air quality nearby and share that data with others. This data can be used in many ways, but is particularly useful for ensuring that people have almost real-time understandings of their local air quality. Given the recent uptick in wildfire smoke in the MSP area, it has become increasingly important for local residents to be aware of the air quality as they make choices about their activities for the day. Children, elders, and people with certain medical conditions are often particularly affected by air quality, however poor air quality can have health effects on everyone. There are a number of AQI monitors sharing their data in the local area, however, none are currently directly within Falcon Heights. Sometimes the data from the monitors within the city versus in the external suburbs can differ significantly due to wind directions, building density, weather, and other factors. That can make it difficult to poor air quality days to make informed choices about activities for the day. Google provides an easy view of current AQI monitors. PurpleAir publicly available data is being used by Google and others to offer easy ways for people to check their local air quality. This includes automatically showing air quality on phones when someone is near an air sensor, showing on maps, and also Android and IOS applications for phones and watches (independent developers have been finding many ways to integrate the data for public consumption). This data is typically combined with data from the EPA who keeps their own network of air quality monitors, but provides a much more specific map of air quality than what the EPA can come up with. There are about 50 EPA sensors from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency across Minnesota. PurpleAir sensors provide much more specific community-driven Air Quality data helping keep everyone more aware of their local conditions.

	A purple air monitor (basic) costs about $230 with the power supply costing an additional $40. Including shipping, the total cost of a PurpleAir monitor should be approximately $300. Monitor setup requires an outdoor location, preferably not close to a busy road, power, and wifi. The monitor can be attached to a building, tree, utility post, or something similar. The monitor is then hooked up to local power and connected to local wifi via either a computer or phone. Finally, the device is registered with PurpleAir and consent is given for data sharing with the public.
Budget Impact	Approx. $300 per unit.
Attachment(s)	- Maps from Google showing PurpleAir Quality Monitors in area - Purple Air Case Study – City of Minneapolis - Air Quality – City of Minneapolis
Action(s) Requested	Staff requests Environment Commission discuss the possibility of purchasing PurpleAir Quality Monitors and locations to place them for hyper-local air quality index monitoring.


PurpleAir
Map
Sensors
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US EPA PM2.5 AQI
10-minute
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Gem Lake
CARDIGAN JUNCTION
HOFFMANS CORNER
Columbia Heights
CAMDEN
Robbinsdale
Saint Anthony
Little Canada
NORTHEAST
Roseville
Maplewood
North Saint Paul
GLADSTONE
NEAR NORTH
Lauderdale
Falcon Heights
Minneapolis
SAINT ANTHONY PARK
COMO PARK
NORTH END
PAYNE - PHALEN
GREATER EAST SIDE
MIDVALE
HAMLINE - MIDWAY
SEWARD
FROGTOWN
CALHOUN ISLES
PHILLIPS
DAYTON'S BLUFF
Saint Paul
UNION PARK
SUMMIT - UNIVERSITY
SOUTHEAST
LONGFELLOW
POWDERHORN
MACALESTER - GROVELAND
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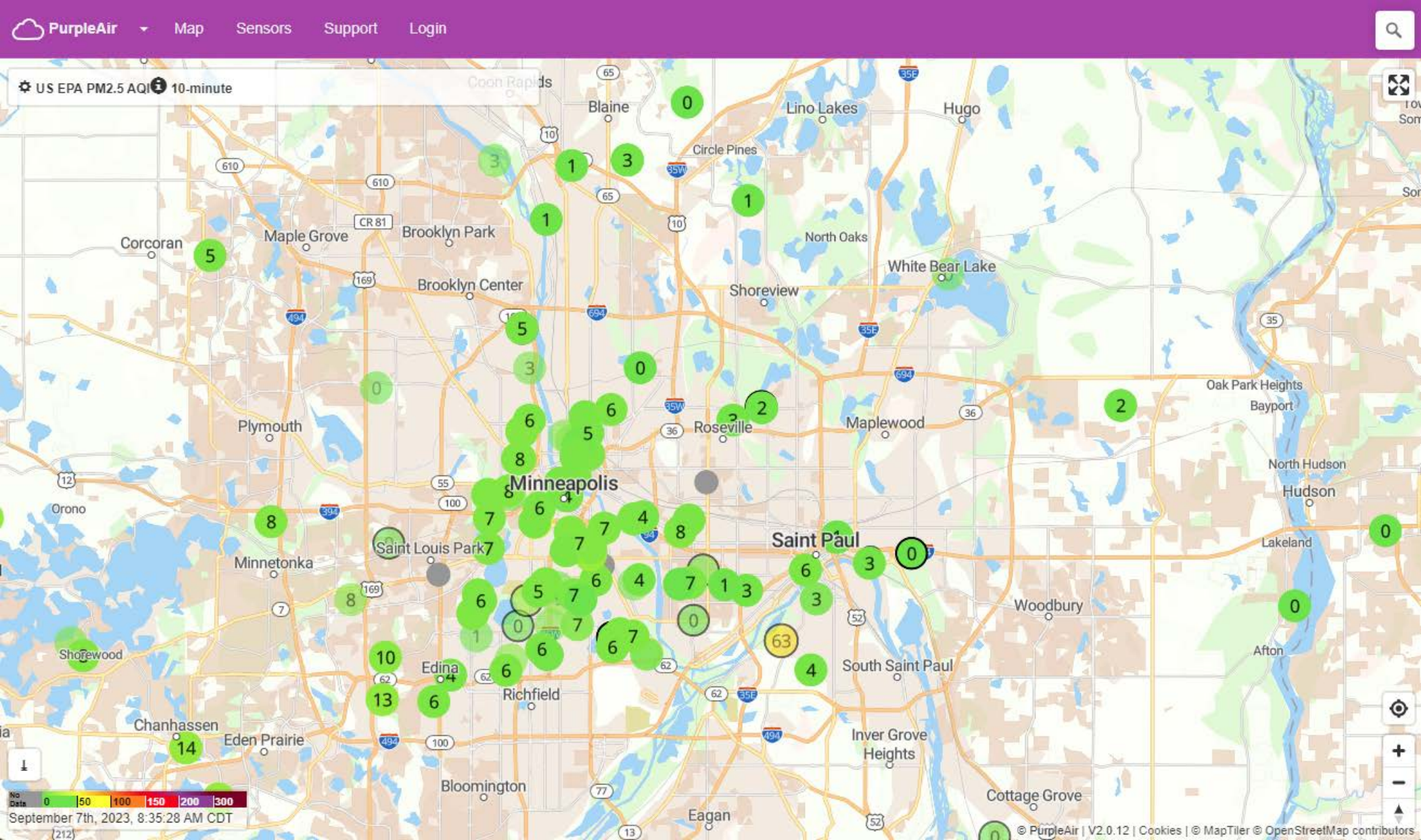
© PurpleAir | V2.0.12 | Cookies | © MapTiler © OpenStreetMap contributors


PurpleAir
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US EPA PM2.5 AQI
10-minute
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Circle Pines
Corcoran
Maple Grove
Brooklyn Park
Brooklyn Center
North Oaks
White Bear Lake
Shoreview
Plymouth
Roseville
Maplewood
Oak Park Heights
Bayport
North Hudson
Hudson
Lakeland
Orono
Minnetonka
Saint Louis Park
Woodbury
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Shorewood
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Richfield
South Saint Paul
Chanhassen
Eden Prairie
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Bloomington
Cottage Grove
Eagan
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September 7th, 2023, 8:35:28 AM CDT
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Case Study: How Minneapolis is Ensuring Healthy Clean Air for Each Resident

by Adrian Dybwad May 17, 2023

MINNESOTA BUILDS LOCALIZED AIR QUALITY NETWORK THROUGH GRANT FUNDS & PURPLEAIR AIR QUALITY MONITORS

- Topic: How Grants Are Helping Cities Expand their AQ Network
- Industry: Air Quality Technology, Government
- Author: Adrian Dybwad
- Website: PurpleAir.com

OVERVIEW

Everyone has the right to breathe clean air. But ensuring that everyone has equal access to clean air isn't as simple as one might think. That's because air quality is so complex

that it can vary even within neighborhoods.

Currently, this is the problem that the State of Minnesota is tackling as they're working to improve their air quality.

Although Minnesota has passed the air quality standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a deeper look into its air quality data shows that this isn't true for all its neighborhoods. There are at least 20 locations that experience toxic levels of air pollution above EPA's standards. This includes the City of Minneapolis, which is home to over 60% of the state's population.

To better understand local air quality, the City of Minneapolis applied for the EPA grant "Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities" in 2021. Thanks to this air quality grant, Minnesota is developing a more robust air quality network as it distributes low-cost air quality monitors to homes and businesses. This way, the local government can gain more insight into neighborhood-level air quality data. At the same time, they're involving communities as they push for better air quality.

In this air quality case study, we'll tackle why local air quality data is vital in providing air quality for all communities and what Minnesota is doing about it.

THE AIR QUALITY SITUATION IN MINNESOTA

The poor air quality in Minnesota has been a cause of concern for decades. So much so that it contributes to up to 6,400 deaths and 1,300 hospital visits a year.

This can be attributed to Minnesota's history as a hotspot for agricultural, manufacturing, and mining industries, which emit high levels of air pollution. This includes fine particle matter (PM2.5), which is so dangerous to our health that it can cause cancers, respiratory diseases, cardiovascular disorders, and brain dysfunction. It's even linked to premature death.

However, after the Clean Air Act was established, the State of Minnesota put air quality regulations and policies, programs, and initiatives in place to reduce air pollution in the area. Today, air pollution has decreased by 50% compared to levels in 1997.

Plus, Minnesota's source of air pollution no longer comes from heavy industry and manufacturing. Rather, 80% of its air pollution comes from the following smaller sources:

- Small businesses
- Gas stations
- Construction
- Agriculture

- Homes
- Transportation

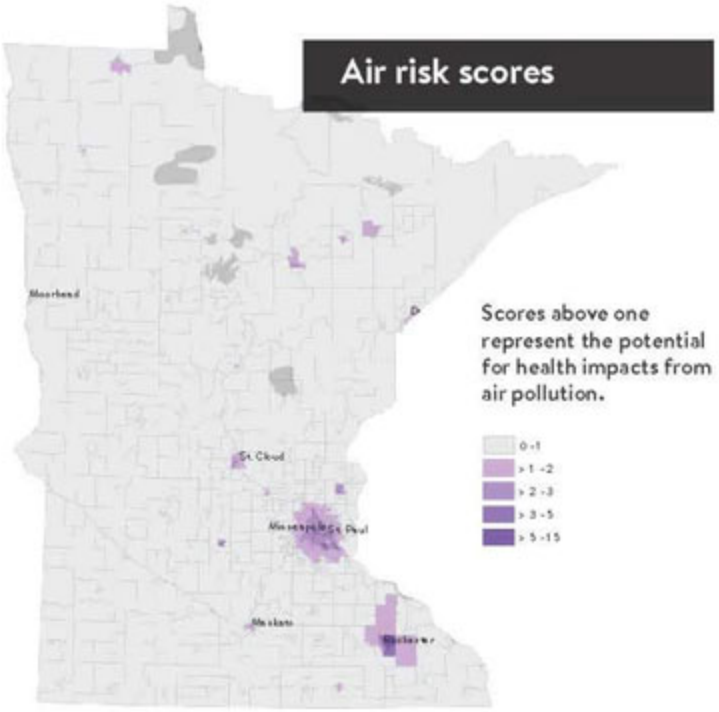
Other factors that impact Minnesota's air quality are the wildfire smoke from nearby areas and temperature inversions. In fact, Minnesota's 2023 Air We Breath Report observed that the increase in PM2.5 levels was mainly due to wildfires. While Minnesota has come a long way, more work needs to be done. This especially holds true in light of recent findings.

WHY MINNESOTA'S AIR QUALITY IS STILL A PROBLEM

According to the latest Minnesota Air Quality Monitoring report, there are a total of 56 air quality monitoring stations across the state. However, it also points out that the majority are located in Twin Towers. This is because the placement of air monitors is determined by population density rather than need. As such, there are significant data gaps in places without air quality monitors.

Another concern is that EPA Minnesota air quality data only reports the average air quality levels to determine if it meets national air quality standards. Because of this, the air quality of Minnesota might look good at a distance. But a closer look at their air quality data reveals that multiple locations are actually suffering from poor air quality.

This has been the case when Minnesota investigated residents' concerns about emissions coming from nearby factories.



Air risk scores for cancer and non-cancer impacts from air toxics. A score over 1 means air pollution may contribute to health risks in the area.

Source: The Air We Breathe: The State of Minnesota's Air Quality

In 2021, the State of Minnesota discovered 20 locations are experiencing hazardous levels of air pollution, Worse, they're also exposed to toxic chemicals like chromium, cobalt, and nickel. That's because many of these locations are nearby or home to the industrial activities of 8,250 companies.

To better understand the state of air quality on a more localized level, the State of Minnesota applied for and received one of EPA's grants for air quality.

HOW MINNESOTA IS SCALING THEIR AIR QUALITY NETWORK

"Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring for Communities" is an EPA grant that seeks to aid at-risk and underserved communities by helping them enhance their air quality monitoring capabilities.

By doing so, these communities are more empowered to solve environmental and health-related air quality problems. Additionally, EPA hopes to encourage air quality monitoring partnerships amongst community and tribal, state, and local

governments. Through the EPA's air quality grant, the City of Minneapolis received $411,000. The city has invested a part of these funds towards purchasing 100 PurpleAir air quality monitors.

PurpleAir air quality monitors are low-cost air quality monitors that provide real-time, accurate air quality data. With it, the government increases its air quality network and has a more comprehensive picture of a community's air quality. Not only that, residents and businesses are also benefiting from the air quality monitors.

Because PurpleAir air quality monitors report air quality updates every 2 minutes, residents can make more informed decisions to protect their health and environment in real time. Businesses can also use air quality data to better understand how their activities impact air quality around them.

More importantly, communities are now more involved in air quality issues than before, as they now have easy access to air quality data. As such, they have more power to change their community and improve the air quality in their neighborhood.

This is just the start of Minneapolis' work to address poor air quality on a more localized level. And already, we're seeing positive results as residents are taking more data-driven actions. This also goes to show that improving air quality isn't just the work of the government. Instead, it must also involve communities to create powerful changes.

ABOUT PURPLEAIR

Since being founded in 2018, PurpleAir has dedicated itself to providing highly precise air quality monitors that track hyper-local air quality levels in real time. In doing this, PurpleAir is empowering community scientists and helping to facilitate social change through accessible air quality data for all. By working together, everyone is more informed and able to make changes in their local communities to improve air quality.

← BACK TO PURPLEAIR COLLABORATIONS

Air quality

You can help us monitor our air through our community air monitoring project.

Outdoor air quality affects our health

We test our city's air quality and report results to the community.

In 2021, we launched a community air monitoring project. We asked Green Zone members and residents to help us identify:

- Areas of concern with air pollution
- Residents, schools and businesses that should host air sensors

In 2022, we started installing PurpleAir sensors throughout the city, with a focus on our city's environmental justice communities. Environmental justice communities include neighborhoods with a high percentage of:

- People of color
- People living below the poverty line
- Environmental hazards, like low air quality

Related links

City support

Green Cost Share funding (/government/programs-initiatives/environmental-programs/green-cost-share/pollution-reduction/)

City reports and plans

Air Quality Study Executive Summary (https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/media/content-assets/www2-documents/government/Air-Quality-Study-Executive-Summary.pdf)

Green Zones initiative
(https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/departments/health/sus homes-environment/sustainability/green-zones/map/)

Climate Action Plan
(https://www2.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/climate-equity/minneapolis-climate-action-plan/)

Minneapolis 2040 Plan
(https://minneapolis2040.com/policies/environmental-justice-and-green-zones/)

Stay informed

Sign up to receive Minneapolis Air Quality updates.

Sign up for updates **(https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MPLS/subscriber/new?topic_id=MPLS_701)**

Contact us

Minneapolis Health Department

Email Health Department **(mailto:health@minneapolismn.gov)**

Phone

612-673-2301 **(tel:+16126732301)**

Address

Public Service Building
505 Fourth Ave. S., Room 520
Minneapolis, MN 55415

Last updated on January 9, 2023

Host a PurpleAir sensor

You can sign up to host an air sensor.

What to know

Anyone can sign up to host an air sensor.

No guarantees

Signing up does not guarantee that you'll receive an air sensor.

How it works

We'll let you know in about a week where you are on the list.

We give priority to people who live in:

- Environmental justice areas
- Areas where there is not another air sensor nearby

We distribute air sensors until we run out. More air sensors become available if:

- A host leaves the program
- We get funding to buy more

You will remain on the list until you:

- Receive an air sensor, or
- Request to be removed from the list

Read the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) definition of environmental justice communities (https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/ej-2020-glossary)

See the PurpleAir map (https://map.purpleair.com/1/mAQI/a10/p604800/cC0#11/44.8328/-93.4396)

Request accessible format

If you need help with this information, please **email 311 (mailto:minneapolis311@minneapolismn.gov)**, or call 311 or **612-673-3000 (tel:+16126733000)**.

Please tell us what format you need. It will help us if you say what assistive technology you use.

Application

View full screen (https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/7f6cabab75274a13a4c7e323226c6b18)

PurpleAir Sensor Host Interest

Name (first and last) *

Street address (ex. 1234 Main St E) *

Zip Code (ex. 55415) *

Email *

Phone Number *

Date *

Send me a copy of my responses

Submit