



# Duwamish Valley State of the Air Report



Dear Community,

The communities in the Duwamish Valley are resilient, vibrant and continue to be the voice of powerful change making for a healthy and just environment.

The Duwamish Valley community is constantly exposed to sources of pollution from industries (existing and past), automobiles, trucks, and other sources.

Over the past year, DRCC and partners developed stronger equity & justice commitments and prioritized community-advised actions to reduce harmful air pollution in the Duwamish Valley, an environmental justice community, through the Duwamish Valley Clean Air Program. Our Clean Air Program's goal is for low-income, Black and Brown, Indigenous, high risk residents, refugees, and immigrants in South Park and Georgetown to breathe clean air.



## DRCCs Duwamish Valley Clean Air Program

Improving air quality and reducing rates of asthma and additional health disparities among Duwamish Valley residents is a top priority as far back as the 2009 Duwamish Valley Vision Plan.

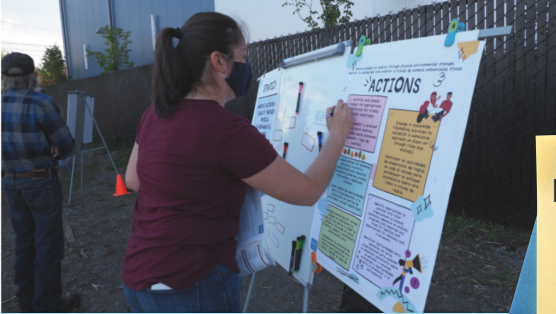
DRCC launched the Duwamish Valley Clean Air Program in 2014 per community input. DRCC's Duwamish Valley Clean Air Program is a bottom up community engagement program for improving air quality and advancing health equity in the Duwamish Valley.



Together with partners, we are currently working to improve air quality in the Duwamish Valley focusing on education and involvement, transportation, green infrastructure, indoor air quality, policy and air regulations to address high asthma rates in the Duwamish Valley.

The New World Health Organization 2021 Global Air Quality Guidelines calls "Air pollution is one of the biggest environmental threats to human health, alongside climate change. Improving air quality can enhance climate change mitigation efforts, while reducing emissions will in turn improve air quality.





## Why does someone you know have asthma?

Diesel exhaust from large trucks and activities

Jet planes and barriers to fair access to health care

Pollution from big companies, dust, cars and housing conditions

*\*activity from a community clean air meeting*

# HOW HEALTHY IS DUWAMISH VALLEY AIR?

A Duwamish Valley Cumulative Health Impacts Analysis (CHIA) showed that South Park and Georgetown residents are exposed to the highest average diesel particulate matter (PM), annual average benzene, and the highest number of facilities releasing toxic chemicals in the City.

EPA EJ Screen reported that the Georgetown and South Park communities had some of the worst diesel PM levels at the 94th percentile for the National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) in the region (Alaska, Oregon, Idaho, Washington), the 92nd percentile in the state, and the 83rd percentile in the nation.

Residents of Duwamish Valley living in the South Park and Georgetown neighborhoods face higher levels of pollution than other neighborhoods in Seattle because of their close proximity to major trucking routes among additional factors (WA Health Disparities map). Environmental benefits like access to parks and tree canopy, which can filter air pollution, are some of the lowest in Seattle.

Air pollution comes from both stationary and mobile sources. The WA State Department of Ecology and the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) monitor and track outdoor air emissions to ensure that the air quality meets state and federal standards.

*"Hold elected officials and big industry accountable for their actions and promises"*

EPA has set National Ambient Air Quality Standards for six common "criteria air pollutants" which are carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, particulate matter, and sulfur dioxide. WA State also regulates 100's of other "hazardous air pollutants" to protect our health.

There are three air monitoring stations near or in the Duwamish Valley: Beacon Hill, which monitors all of the criteria pollutants, and two smaller stations located at East Marginal Way in Georgetown, and the South Park Neighborhood Center that monitor for particulate matter (PM).

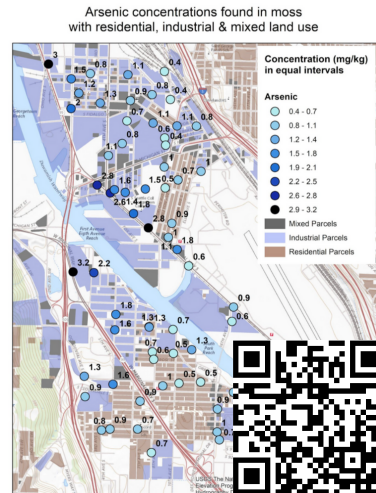
For the most part, air pollution from transportation (diesel PM) and from wood burning smoke, contributes the most to cancer and heart disease problems in the Duwamish Valley.





# Moss Community Science Study

The Duwamish Valley community has expressed concern that the three stationary air quality monitoring stations described above are either not close enough to residents or do not measure the right air pollutants to accurately assess air pollution impacts on health. Using a community science approach, DRCC's Duwamish Valley Youth Corps (DVYC) collected moss from trees in South Park and Georgetown to help find heavy metal pollution "hot spots" in 2020 and 2021.



The youth discovered that heavy metal concentrations were particularly high near the First Avenue South Bridge on both the Georgetown and South Park sides of the Duwamish River. Since moss is only an indicator of air pollution, the next step is for PSCAA to conduct air monitoring to assess whether the high moss concentrations translate to health impacts.

## Reporting Pollution

Report an air issue:  
<https://pscleanair.gov/262/File-a-Complaint>

Report an environmental Issue :  
<https://ecology.wa.gov/Footer/Report-an-environmental-issue>

Email: [nwroerts@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:nwroerts@ecy.wa.gov)  
Phone: 206-594-0000

visit for more info: [www.drcc.org/report](http://www.drcc.org/report)

## 2021 Update on Industry Civil Penalties in the Duwamish Valley

Large industrial facilities are regulated, stationary sources of air pollution. They receive permits from PSCAA and are monitored to ensure that they are compliant with regulatory requirements and that their equipment performs properly so that corrective action can be taken, if necessary.

There are 85 industrial facilities registered with PSCAA in the 98108 ZIP code, and 91 in 98134 ZIP code. This includes a range of stationary facilities that emit air pollutants including but not limited to: gas stations, marijuana producers, aircraft manufacturing (i.e., Boeing), metal recycling (i.e., Seattle Iron & Metals), and glass recycling (i.e., Ardagh Glass).

We requested information on the number of civil penalties that Puget Sound Clean Air Agency issued to industrial facilities in the 98108 and 98134 ZIP codes between 2019 and September, 2021. Civil penalties were issued to 26 different industries with the largest fines being issued to Ardagh Glass (\$50,400) and Seattle Iron & Metals (SIM, \$25,000) between 2019-present.

Ardagh Glass closed down two of five of its furnaces in 2017 and 2019. In addition, Ardagh may be required to improve its emissions on its other three furnaces over the next few years if violations continue to be issued. Seattle Iron & Metals: Puget Soundkeeper filed a federal lawsuit against SIM for emitting a variety of toxic fugitive dust emissions including heavy metals and PCBs in 2012. A settlement was reached in 2019 and SIM is now responsible for air/dust monitoring and installing dust control measures. The most recent monitoring results have been posted on SIMs website (<http://www.seairon.com/environmental-documents->). DRCC is waiting for the next report to come out to interpret whether SIM is controlling its emissions.



STRATEGIES	PRIORITY ACTIONS	ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES
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## Duwamish Valley Clean Air Program Action Plan

In order to improve air quality in the Duwamish Valley, the Clean Air Program partners with the community conducted a 16 month rigorous racial equity centered Results Based Accountability process to address the root causes of air pollution. This process included meaningful opportunities for community involvement, feedback, consultation and engagement. The result of this work created our Clean Air Action Plan with “ready- to-go” actions and accountability measures.

**The Action Plan is designed to promote robust collaboration, accountability and turn the curve on asthma rates in the Duwamish Valley.**

<p><b>REDUCE TRANSPORTATION EMISSIONS IN THE DUWAMISH VALLEY</b></p>	<p>Advocate for electrification + access of vehicle fleets and necessary local infrastructure.</p> <p>Identify opportunities to improve infrastructure for safe + active transportation.</p> <p>Advocate against King County International Airport expansion as part of the KCIACC.</p> <p>Work with drayage truck drivers to identify barriers and opportunities to ultimately reduce idling + emissions.</p>	<p>Different mobility options through Duwamish Valley neighborhoods that are lower-emission like electric and truck drivers will bring improvement in awareness and circumstances.</p>
<p><b>REDUCE INDUSTRY &amp; CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS + POLLUTION THROUGH LEGAL MEANS</b></p>	<p>With community and youth, engage in statewide rulemaking as well as educational activities to establish a cumulative approach to clean air.</p> <p>Engage in legislative advocacy to shape new clean air policies that result in immediate action on cumulative impacts in order to stop pollution.</p>	<p>Policy and regulatory changes to strengthen enforcement of industry clean air standards.</p> <p>Community members hold knowledge of the policy process and recognize/ file violations.</p>
<p><b>IMPROVE INDOOR AIR QUALITY IN MULTIFAMILY HOUSING AS WELL AS COMMUNITY SPACES AND SCHOOLS</b></p>	<p>Increase the distribution of low-cost solutions to improving indoor air quality (e.g., cheaper air filter fans in every home).</p> <p>Increase access to indoor air monitoring and data; partner with community organizers to build tenant-led, invest money into activities to conduct community healthy home assessments in order to identify and address indoor air hazards.</p>	<p>Indoor air quality (a measurement) + Multifamily properties with tenant-led projects or coalitions to engage landlords and municipalities around clean air and quality housing</p>
<p><b>IMPROVE OUTDOOR AIR QUALITY THROUGH PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES</b></p>	<p>Focus on maintaining and protecting existing tree canopy (intentional tree planting in high impact areas like high transportation areas or community center)</p> <p>Increase monitoring for various outdoor air pollutants to identify the source in order to decide on the mode of action (freeway, industry, contributors, etc).</p>	<p>PM and air toxins measurements at a neighborhood scale.</p> <p>Community members hold knowledge of the policy process and recognize/ file violations.</p>

### Progress Update: Clean Air Program Action Plan is Already Underway!

- Delivered Public comments to the Department of Ecology on the Advanced Clean Truck Rule with Earthjustice
- Testified to voice need to accelerate dirty emission reduction targets in both the Port of Seattle and Northwest Seaport Alliance Maritime Climate and Air Implementation Plans
- Advocate for diesel particulate matter and greenhouse gas emission from near port activities such as heavy duty diesel trucks which create tremendous pollution, noise and disruptions in our communities
- Continue to grow partnerships with the City and partners to center community voices in plans to incentivize electrification of heavy-duty vehicles and improve circumstances for drivers in an equitable and just way
- Participate in the King County International Airport Community Coalition (KCIACC)
- Advocate for Clean & Just transportation and health mobility in partnership with Front and Centered.
- Meetings with Metro leadership to mitigate the impacts of West Seattle Bridge the need for public transit as well as representing the Duwamish Valley in the decisions and impacts of the West Seattle Bridge closure.
- Increase community participatory air monitoring in the Duwamish Valley through the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency Air Toxics Study
- Launch the Duwamish Valley Air Story Map with support from the University of Washington, a place to learn more about efforts to improve air quality conditions in the Duwamish Valley. Visit here: [www.drcc.org/clean-air-program](http://www.drcc.org/clean-air-program)
- Testified in support of the Healthy Environmental for all (HEAL) Act
- Participated in the King County Climate Action Plan and Climate and Equity Taskforce

### CALL TO ACTION!

**We would love to hear from you! Please join us in upcoming community participatory Clean Air Program events and opportunities to inform the action plan and additional ongoing efforts to advance health equity and climate justice in the Duwamish Valley!**

Contact Adrienne at [adrienne@duwamishcleanup.org](mailto:adrienne@duwamishcleanup.org)

**Acknowledgements:** DRCC Coalition members, Duwamish Valley Community (representation from South Park and Georgetown), DRCC Technical Advisors, American Lung Association, City of Seattle, Seattle Office of Sustainability & Environment, Concord Elementary, DIRT Corps, Environmental Protection Agency, Earth Justice, Duwamish Valley Youth Corps, Department of Ecology, Front and Centered, Healthy Generations, Just Health Action, Port of Seattle/Northwest Seaport Alliance, Public Health Seattle King County, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, Puget Sound Sage, Puget SoundKeeper, The Nature Conservancy, National Parks Conservation Association, Seattle Parks Foundation, South Neighborhood Association, Western, Washington University, Urban Waters Federal Partnership, US Forest Service, SeaMar, the UW EDGE Center and community advocates!