



For Immediate Release:

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Taking Green Action to Address Community Priority: Air Pollution

Engineering a Green Structure to address Industrial Pollution

Georgetown, Seattle, WA – Community, non-profits, industry, and government are partnering together to take action on community and health priorities through an innovative green solution located on the border between industry and residential areas in Georgetown, Seattle, WA.

Just Health Action (JHA) and Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition/Technical Advisory Group (DRCC/TAG) are partnering to install a 136-foot long and 12-foot high free standing vegetated trellis system called a green wall along the outside of CDL Recycle (7201 E. Marginal Way S.) to reduce the impact of fugitive dust and pollutants on the neighboring residential area of Georgetown. Over the course of the next month, work on the site will include depaving, soil preparation, irrigation installation, and erection of the wall itself, all with support of the Urban System Designs' DIRT Corps, DRCC/TAG's Duwamish Valley Youth Corps, and CDL Recycle. The construction of the green wall will culminate in a community planting day on October 22, 2016 (more information available below).

When fully grown in, this wall of green leaves will have a direct, positive impact on air quality by filtering the air passing through it and absorbing air pollution. In addition, these climbing vines will provide habitat and beautify areas while simultaneously providing water quality benefits.

"As a resident of Georgetown, I am excited at the opportunity to manage and coordinate a project that is having a positive impact on my community and its health," says Andrew Schiffer, project manager of the green wall installation.

Project Background

Zip Code 98108, home to the Duwamish Valley, has the worst air pollution in the city of Seattle and the neighborhoods of South Park and Georgetown include the highest hospitalization rates for childhood asthma, as highlighted in the Cumulative Health Impacts Analysis published by Just Health Action (JHA) and the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition/Technical Advisory Group (DRCC/TAG) in 2013.

The Duwamish Valley community continually identifies addressing air pollution as a top health priority. Based on this, DRCC/TAG, JHA, project partners, and the community worked together to gather information on the sources of air pollution and take action to reduce residents' exposure to air pollution through the Duwamish Community Action for Clean Air project, funded by the U.S. EPA Environmental Justice Cooperative Problem Solving Agreement.

With additional funding support from a King County Green Grant, JHA and DRCC/TAG moved forward on taking action. Through community workshops and discussions, the community identified green walls as the preferred action and CDL Recycle as the location in Georgetown.

The location provides both a visible example of a green solution to this ongoing issue of air pollution as well as an effective barrier between industry and residents. CDL Recycle has a history of ambient dust and air pollution challenges that have impacted community health. In addition, the green wall is sited along a major transportation route and adjacent to an industrial corridor that is also home to Georgetown's one public access point to the Duwamish River.

"This is an exciting culmination of collaboration with the community to address one of their key priorities, air pollution," says Hannah Kett of DRCC/TAG. "We are excited to partner with JHA, local youth, and the community in implementing a new method of mitigating air pollution. We look forward to continued progress on this significant health and quality of life inequity."

Community Planting Day

On October 22, the community and others are invited to participate in planting the selection of beautiful climbing vines at this newly installed green wall. The Duwamish Valley Youth Corps, the Duwamish Infrastructure Restoration Training Corps and volunteers from King 5 Make a Difference Day will be on site supporting the work.

For additional questions, please contact:

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- Linn Gould, Executive Director, JHA, 206.324.0297 or gouldjha@gmail.com
- Andrew Schiffer, Project Coordinator, Green Wall Project, Bricktree66@gmail.com

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About Duwamish Community Action for Clean Air Project DRCC/TAG launched the project in 2014 with support from an EPA Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Agreement. 11 project partners are working together to inform residents about sources of air pollution; reduce exposure to this air pollution; and reduce the severity and frequency of asthma attacks. More info: <http://duwamishcleanup.org/community-health/clean-air/>

About Green Solutions for Air Pollution In response to identifying potential actions to reduce air pollution through the Duwamish Valley Action for Clean Air project, Just Health Action launched the Green Solutions for Air Pollution with support from a King County Green Grant. This project is the primary source of funding for the green wall installation and coordination.