

HealthWatch

Now Seeking Applicants in Northern Appalachia

The Environmental HealthWatch Model (“HealthWatch”) helps communities better understand the local health impacts of shale gas development. Through analysis of air quality data and local health risk factors, HealthWatch can equip communities with information they need to better protect their health. Over one year of air quality monitoring, participating communities learn how to reduce their exposure to harmful pollution and more effectively advocate for health protections by engaging elected officials, regulators, and site operators. Successful projects with community interest and available funding may be eligible for ongoing support in subsequent years.

Components of HealthWatch Provided by Environmental Health Project

The Environmental Health Project (EHP) provides:

- An air quality monitor network recording real-time levels of:
 - Fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5})
 - Total volatile organic compounds (tVOCs)
- Access to EHP’s *AirView* app for real-time analysis of monitor network data (initial training sessions and ongoing tech support included)
- Comprehensive air quality reports for the community at large and each individual monitoring site
- Recommendations for policy changes that protect public health, based on local conditions and concerns
- Strategies for residents to reduce their risk from exposure to harmful pollutants
- A community-wide meeting to share project findings and recommendations

Requirements for Participating Communities

Communities participating in HealthWatch must meet the following requirements:

- Have an existing or proposed oil or gas-related infrastructure in or near the community, with priority given to shale gas infrastructure
- Secure willing air quality monitor hosts (all hosts are required to sign a waiver)
 - At least four locations within 2 miles of the site of concern (preferably in different directions) willing to host monitors on their property
 - Equipment must be mounted to a structure with access to a power supply and Wi-Fi Internet



Requirements for Participating Communities (continued)

- Willing volunteers to fill project support roles (all volunteers are required to sign a waiver)
 - *Community liaison (approx. 40 hours)*: communicate about project within the community, coordinate with monitor site hosts
 - *Technical liaison (approx. 40 hours)*: conduct air quality monitor setup and maintenance (training included), share findings from *AirView* with community
- Established channels for community engagement
 - Community-based organization (501(c)3 preferred) as a program contact to sign the participation agreement, coordinate volunteers, and promote the program
 - Community members interested in this issue and able to volunteer time throughout the project, which spans approximately 18 months with preparation, monitoring, and wrap-up

General Area of Project Interest/Eligibility



Applications for eligible communities in eastern Ohio, northern West Virginia, and western Pennsylvania to participate in the new cohort starting this summer are being accepted until March 31, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Interested in applying? Take this quick, [5-question eligibility form](#) (or scan the QR code below) to see if HealthWatch would be a good fit for your community.



For more information on HealthWatch or if you're unsure about whether your community is eligible, contact Talor Musil, EHP Field Manager, at 412-866-4525 or tmusil@environmentalhealthproject.org