

Clearing the Air: The Year in Review

Air Quality Division
May 6, 2026

★ ★ ★ DEPARTMENT
OF ENERGY &
ENVIRONMENT

WE ARE
WASHINGTON
DC GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

Air Quality Division's Mission

Our mission is to protect the health and welfare of District residents, visitors, and the natural environment by reducing the concentration of pollutants in the outdoor air.

The Division issues permits, performs permit inspection and enforcement of laws, and monitors air quality while developing plans for its improvement.

How Does the Air Quality Program Work?



Agenda

Branch Updates

- Compliance and Enforcement
- Permitting
- Air Monitoring
- Air Quality Planning

Upcoming Activities

Questions

Compliance by the Numbers

Complaints Received FY25:

- Idling 187
- Odor 139
- Dust 40
- Visible Emissions 22

Complaints Received FY26 YTD:

- Idling 86
- Odor 124
- Dust 17
- Visible Emissions 26

Inspection Numbers

**FY25
(244
Total):**

- 15 Chapter 2
- 32 Dust
- 86 Idling
- 59 Odor
- 10 Paint shops
- 10 Visible emission
- 22 Title V
- 12 Gas stations

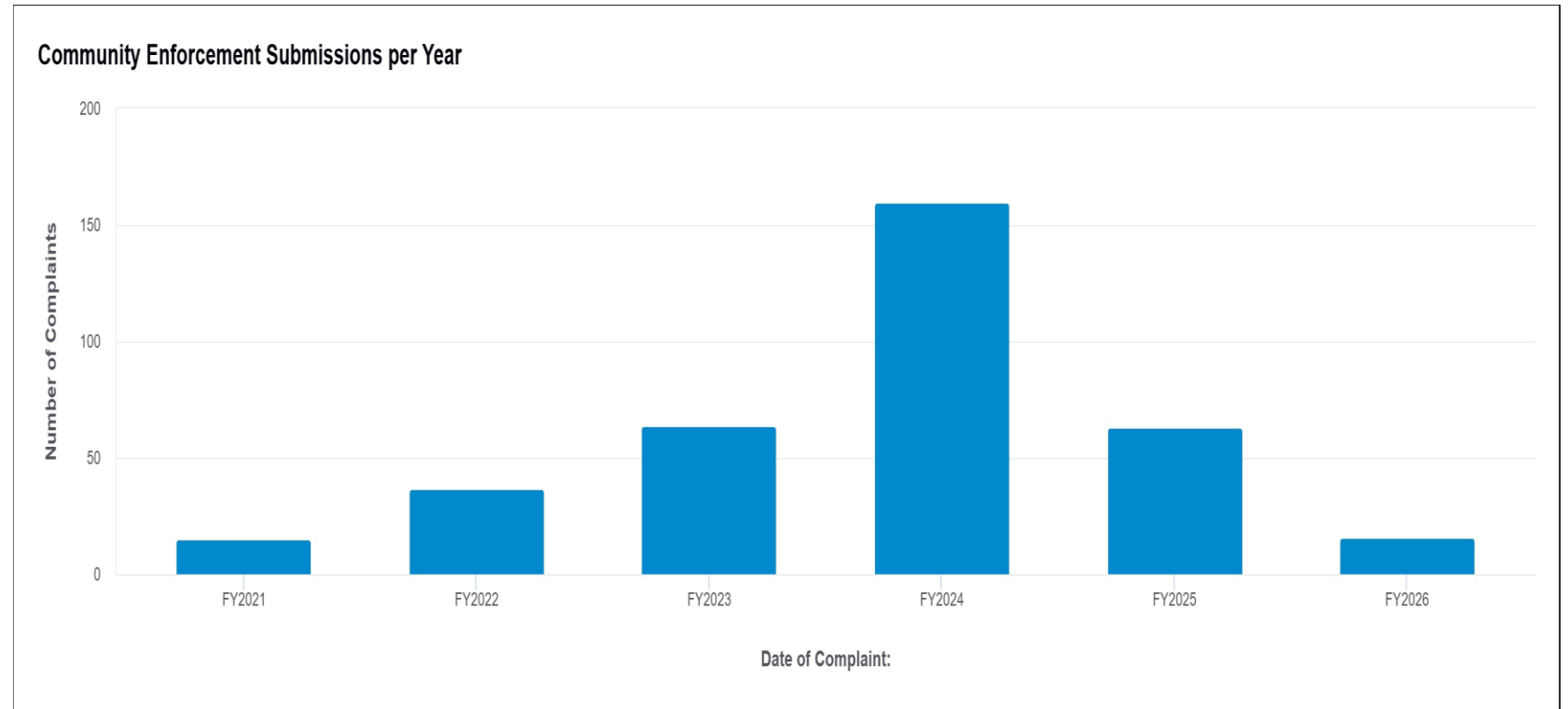
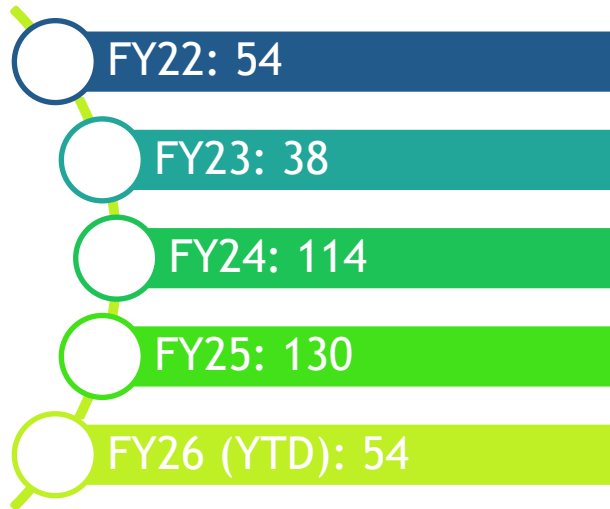
**FY26
YTD
(155
Total):**

- 2 Chapter 2
- 18 Dust
- 54 Idling
- 40 Odor
- 3 Paint shops
- 8 Visible emission
- 9 Title V
- 21 Gas stations

Enforcement Notices Issued

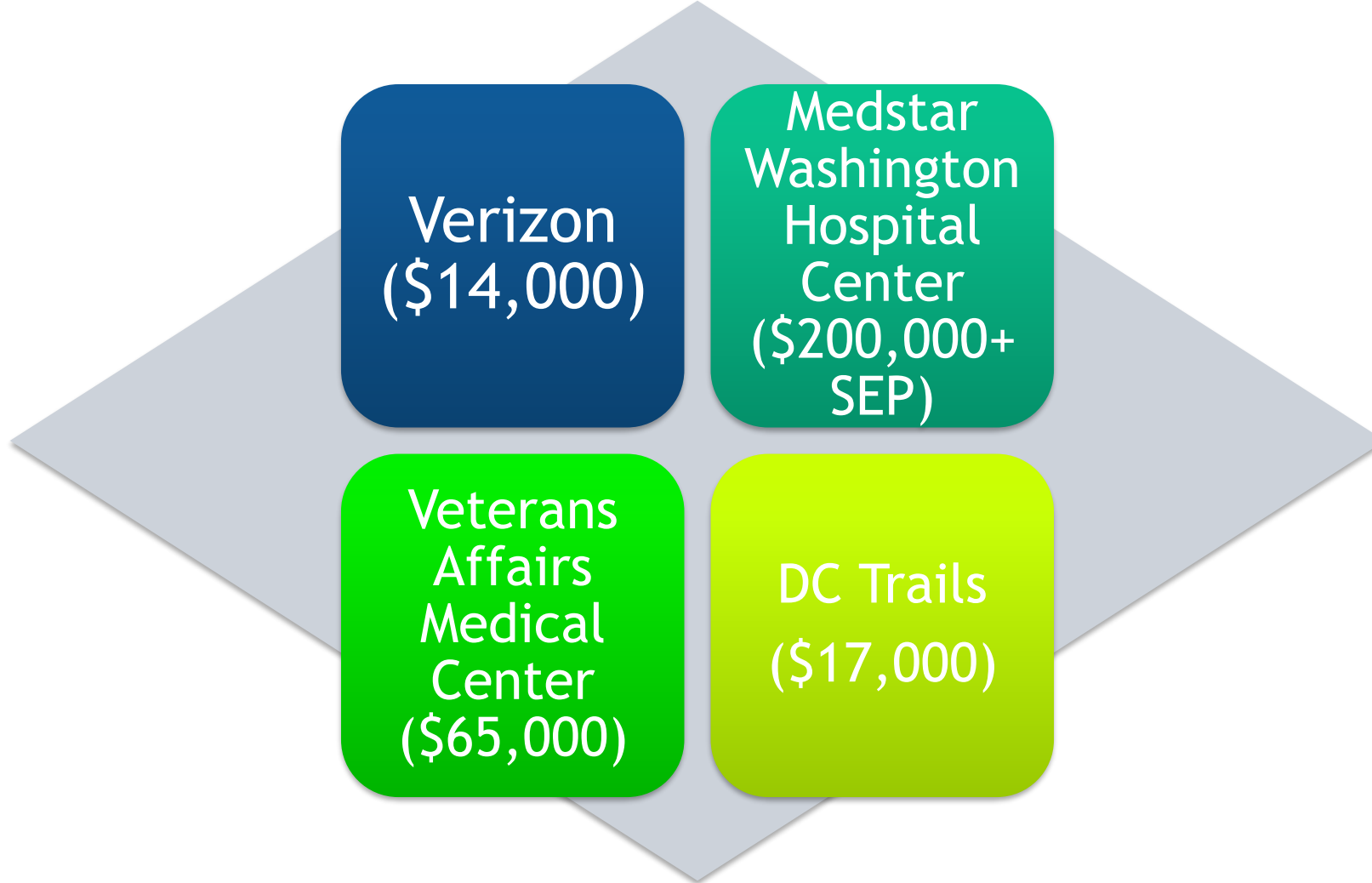
Overall decline in community idling enforcement participation

For all areas of enforcement:



Check out DOEE's Instagram on Friday to see our new engine idling video!

Recently Settled/Paid Cases



Odor Control Plans

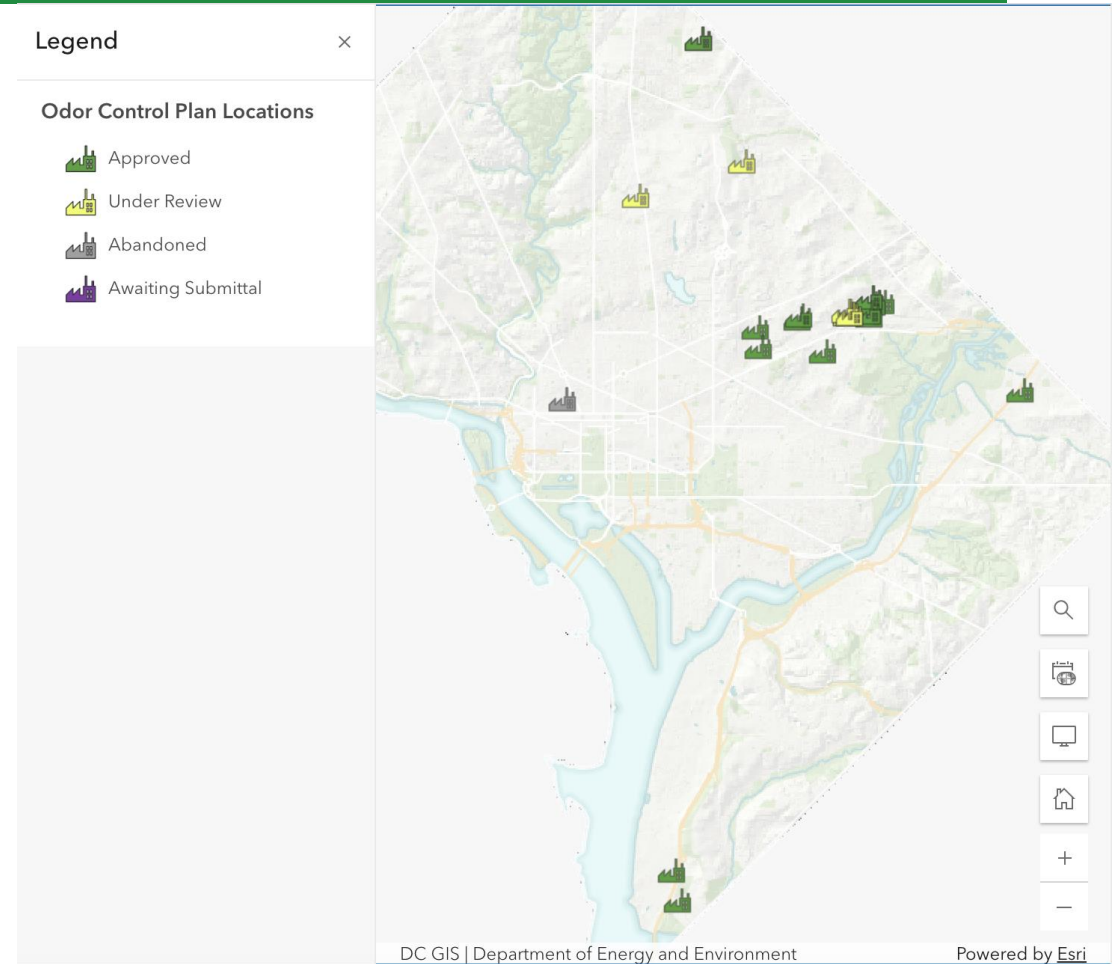
Approved 9 OCPs in the last 12 months including:

- WB Waste Solutions
- Waste Management
- DC Water/Blue Plains

DOEE has approved 14 OCPs, in total

By end of FY26, DOEE is planning to have OCPs for all automotive paint booths

- DOEE is currently reviewing OCPs for 6 automotive facilities in NE



<https://doee.dc.gov/service/odor-control>

Priorities through FY26



Complete all required Title V inspections



Inspect all gas stations that haven't been inspected in the last 3 years



Bring all auto paint shops into compliance with odor control plan and paint booth permitting and operation requirements



Continue to respond to community complaints and tips

Permitting Branch Accomplishments

Permits/Actions Issued May 1, 2025 through April 30, 2026

Permit/Action Type	Number Issued
Synthetic Minor	2
Standard Chapter 2	40
Soil Vapor Extraction	1
Source Category Approvals	175
Environmental Impact Screening Forms (EISF)	24
Total Actions	242

High Priority Permits Update



Fort Myer Plant 1 (Eckington)

- Received hundreds of public comments during public comment period
- Permit issued November 21, 2025



Vulcan/Virginia Concrete (Buzzard Point)

- Public comment period (after extension) closed on July 10, 2024
- Received nearly 100 public comments
- Internal review nearly complete



DC Water Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant

- Public comment period closed May 4, 2026



National Engineering Products Inc. (Ivy City)

- Draft permits in progress



Fort Myer Plant 2 (Brentwood)

- Draft permit in progress

Air Monitoring Branch: Core Program Updates and Accomplishments

2025 Ambient Air Quality Data Certification - Completed ahead of May 1st EPA deadline; >95% data captured.

Ambient Air Monitoring Network 2027 Annual Plan on DOEE website for 30-day public review; July 1st EPA deadline.

Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for Criteria Air Pollutant Network approved by EPA (>1500 pages of documentation).

QAPP revision for Air Toxics (NATTS) program received conditional approval by EPA.

QAPP for the new solar-powered Village Green park-bench air monitoring station network conditionally approved by EPA.

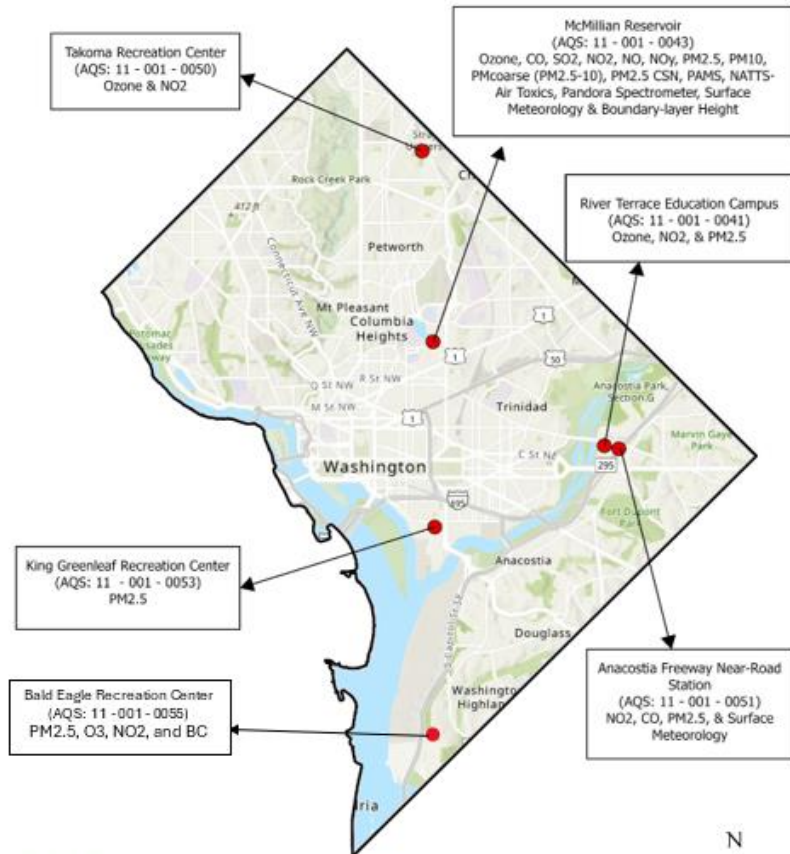
QAPP revision for PAMS (Ozone precursor pollutants) program almost ready; mid-May EPA deadline.

QAPP revision for PM_{2.5} Chemical Speciation program is almost ready; August EPA deadline.

Monitoring Program Asset Report ready; July 1st EPA deadline.

Air Monitoring: Core Program Updates...

Washington DC's Ambient Air Monitoring Network



0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles

DCGIS, M-NCPPC, VGIN, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, MET/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS

Ward 8 Station expanded to measure Ozone, Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x), Black Carbon (in addition to PM_{2.5})

2027 Annual Network Plan Update

- Continuation of the six-station network
- Continuation of Special Purpose Monitoring:
 - Air Toxics
 - Ozone Precursor Pollutants
 - PM_{2.5} Speciation and Precursor Pollutants
 - Near-Road

Network Plan will be posted on DOEE's website for 30-day public inspection

If you want to learn more about the Ward 8 monitor, you can find our presentation and recording from last month's Clearing the Air here:

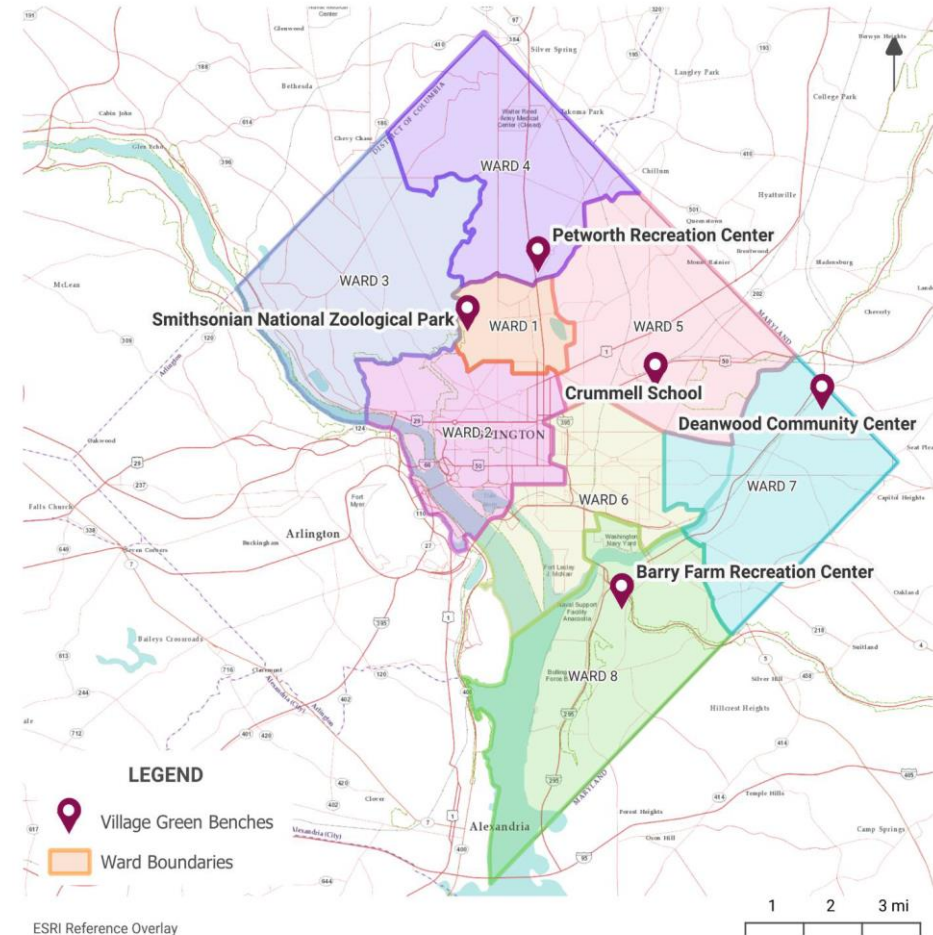
<https://doee.dc.gov/page/past-air-quality-events>

Enhanced Monitoring: New Village Green (VG) Air Monitoring Stations

DOEE procured four solar-powered VG air monitoring stations in FY2025 and recently deployed them in overburdened communities. Community/AQAB chose the following locations:

1. Petworth Recreation Center (Ward 4)
2. Crummell School (Ward 5)
3. Deanwood Community Center (Ward 7)
4. Barry Farm Recreation Center (Ward 8)

These are in addition to the original pilot site at the National Zoo.



The VG Air Monitoring Stations!



Petworth Recreation Center



Barry Farm Recreation Center



Deanwood Community Center



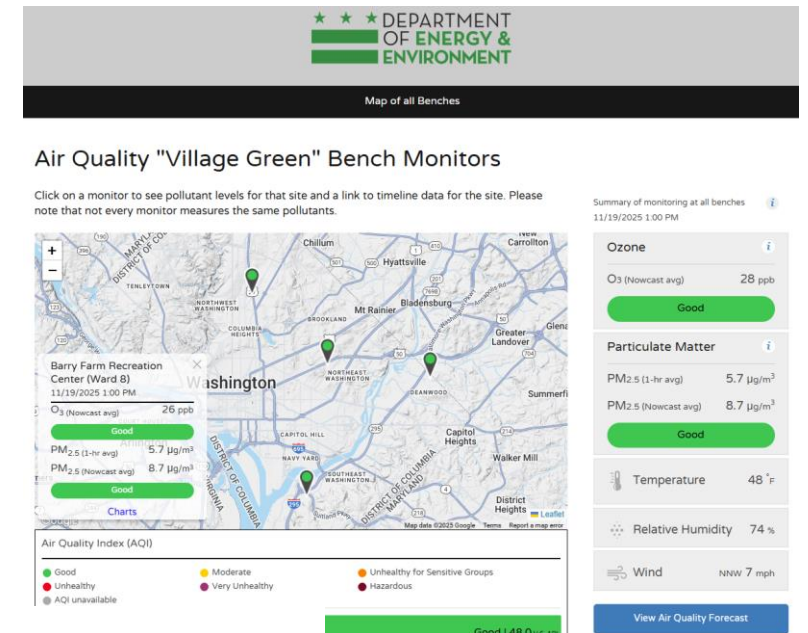
Crummell School



Smithsonian National Zoological Park

Enhanced AQ: DOEE-VG Data Portal

- New public-facing web portal available to the communities, sharing the following information:
 - Live data readings for ozone, fine particulate matter, black carbon, and meteorological conditions.
 - Historical hourly data charts
 - GPS location for each station
 - Air Quality Index (AQI) color-coding and health recommendations
- The data portal has also been formatted for mobile access, allowing users to see local conditions at each monitoring station from anywhere.
- <https://dcbenches.air-resource.net/>



VG Bench map

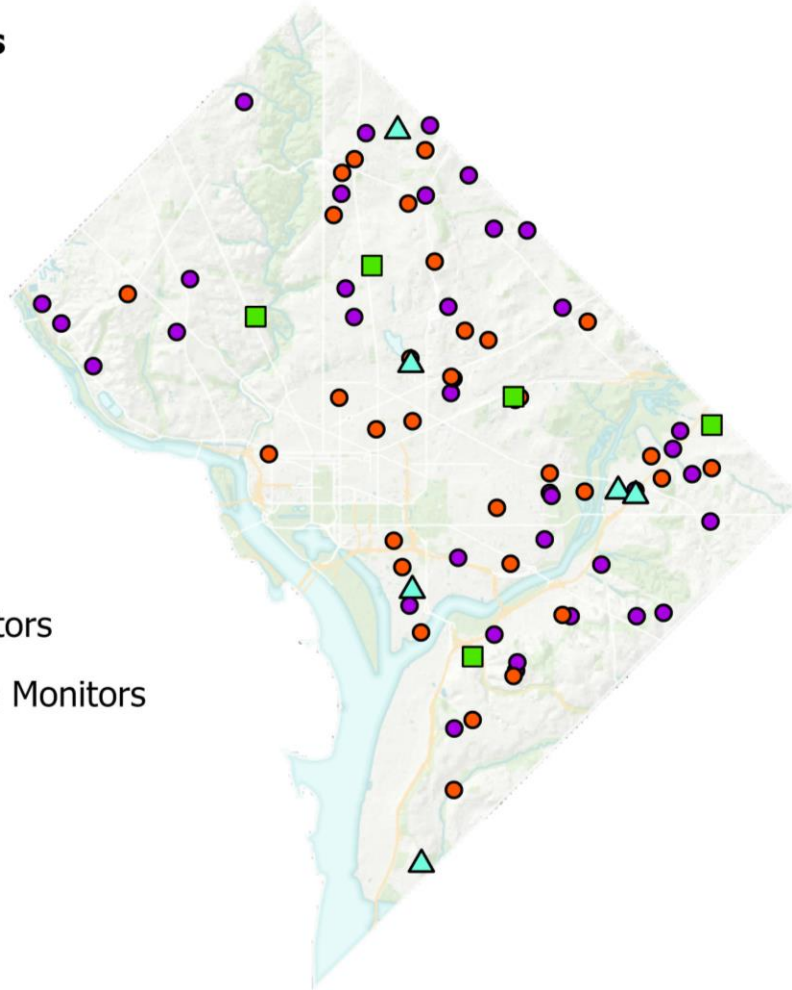
Understanding Air Quality at the Neighborhood Level

DOEE Monitors

5/6/2026

Legend

- ▲ Federal Monitors
- Village Green Monitors
- Clarity Node
- PurpleAir



- Clarity and PurpleAir sensors are being deployed across the District at host sites including charter schools, libraries, and other businesses and institutions.
- DOEE will use collected data to identify pollution sources and pinpoint pollution hotspots.
- The network also provides near real-time, hyper-local air quality data to the public.

We are still looking for host for Clarities west of Rock Creek, downtown, and far southeast if you know a partner for us.

DC GIS

Low-cost Sensors around the District



Clarity Node sensor measures $PM_{2.5}$, NO_2 , Ozone, and meteorological data



Purple Air Sensor measures PM, temperature, and humidity

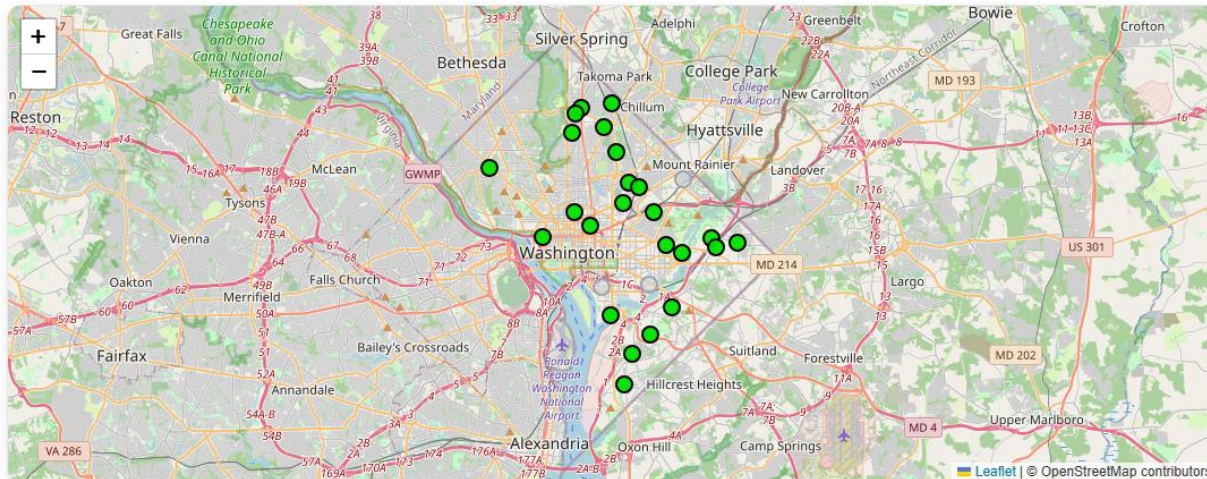


We are currently testing 3 Apex sensors. In addition to $PM_{2.5}$, Ozone, and NO_2 , they also measure VOCs

Low-cost Sensors – Dashboards

- DOEE-built dashboard for real-time data from our Clarity node network
- Main intent is to provide sensor hosts with hyper-local data
- Public input will also inform design of future dashboards, potentially combining those from multiple sensors, including the benches.

Sensor Map



Data updated hourly · Source: DOEE

21

224 V St. NE
AFFP3XLN

PM_{2.5} NowCast 3.7 µg/m³ (AQI 21)
Ozone NowCast 25.0 ppb (AQI 23)
Updated 2026/04/29 10:00

19

300 Valley Ave SE,
DC
A7TPNM3F

PM_{2.5} NowCast 3.4 µg/m³ (AQI 19)
Updated 2026/04/29 10:00

21

3414 Nebraska Ave
NW
APFHYRCT

PM_{2.5} NowCast 3.7 µg/m³ (AQI 21)
Ozone NowCast 24.9 ppb (AQI 23)
Updated 2026/04/29 10:00

48

Aslin
AWGCGY9K

PM_{2.5} NowCast 8.6 µg/m³ (AQI 48)
Ozone NowCast 26.7 ppb (AQI 25)
Updated 2026/04/29 10:00

21

Center City

23

Center City Shaw

21

Cesar Chavez

20

DC Prep Anacostia



Clarity map



PurpleAir map

Air Researchers Consortium

DOEE organized a regional working group, comprised of local atmospheric and climate scientists, to address air quality and community concerns in the District. The group is funded by an EPA grant.



The Consortium is meeting quarter and the next meeting is May 21st.

- ...Sharing research
- Improving communications between the District government and scientists.
- Keep District government officials up to date on air quality research to inform and improve decision-making
- Addressing gaps in existing research that affect District residents
- Working on how to make research more accessible to District residents

Diesel Vehicle Electrification Projects



Amtrak Switchers

- Two switchers are being repowered to clean Tier 4 engine standards. We expect them to return in Summer 2026 and to be 95% cleaner.



University Shuttles (PF-DEAL Program)

- Originally, issued grants to Gallaudet and Georgetown to electrify three shuttle buses in total.
- Funding for two additional vehicles has been awarded to Gallaudet



Next Steps

- Partnership for electrification with DPW
- Contract for vehicle electrification (medium/heavy duty vehicles and transportation refrigeration units)

Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) Program Updates



Established to reduce vehicle related air pollution

Implementing a covert vehicle program to ensure proper inspector performance and procedure adherence

Two self-service kiosks available for emissions testing for OBDII compatible vehicles

Integrating new technology (OBDonUDS)

Amendments to Nuisance Odor Regulations

DOEE finalized a rulemaking to streamline the process so sources can implement nuisance odor controls as quickly as possible.

The rulemaking:

- **Allows earlier odor-control installation:** DOEE can approve installation before a construction permit only when the change is solely for odor control and doesn't create other air pollution
- **Maintains DOEE regulatory oversight:** When early installation is allowed, facilities must still complete the required permitting process
- **Clarifies odor-control procedures:** The rule explains when permits are needed and how facilities can request early installation
- **Updates key definitions:** Clarifies that cannabis facilities and regulated painting operations must follow the nuisance-odor rules



Link to notice
of final
rulemaking in
DC Register

Upcoming AQAW Events

**Air Quality Monitoring Park
Bench Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**
May 7th at 3:00pm
Barry Farm Rec Center

**Community Walk for Air Quality
Awareness**
May 8th at 10:00am
Starts at Rhode Island Ave Metro

**Come check out our Backyard
Bubble!**
May 24th at Frager's Hardware
1115 Pennsylvania Ave. SE



Thank you!

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