

Air Quality Flag Program

Autumn 2019 Newsletter



BACK TO SCHOOL

Many flag program participants are going back to school this month. It's time to coordinate new people to raise the flags and make sure any new flag coordinators are up to speed. Don't forget that you can use school announcements, posters and lesson plans to inform new teachers, staff, and students about air quality!

https://www.airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=flag_program.classroom

HAVE YOUR FLAGS READY FOR WILDFIRE SEASON!

An updated version of EPA's *Wildfire Smoke Guide* is now available at www.airnow.gov/wildfire-guide. Wildfires are increasing in magnitude and frequency, and these events create smoke episodes in locations hundreds and even thousands of miles away. The *Guide* has all kinds information on how to prepare for smoke events and, when wildfire

smoke is present, how to communicate health risks and protect public health (including sections specifically for protecting children). Your air quality flags can be part of your communication strategy! Check out the very short video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=waMXCFMqYnA>.

This document is a collaboration between the California Air Resources Board, California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Environmental Protection Agency, and Forest Service.

FREE BOOKMARKS

Looking for a bright handout to bring to your next conference or meeting? Check out the AQFP bookmarks! You can order them FREE at <https://www.epa.gov/nscep#searchApp>. Type EPA number "456F17005" in the search box.



HOW DOES YOUR ORGANIZATION COMMUNICATE THE LOCAL AIR QUALITY?

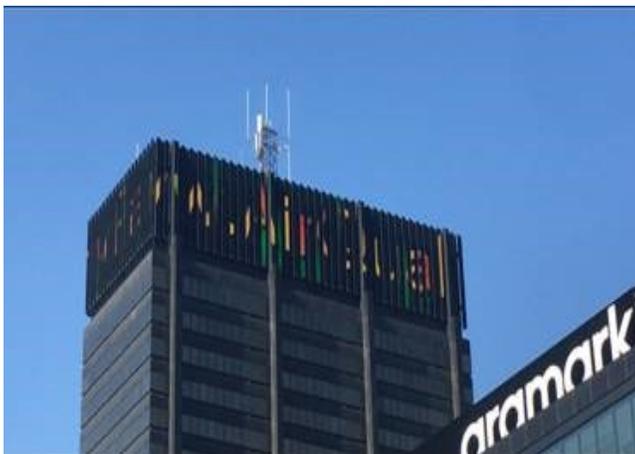


ORGANIZED IN MEMPHIS

Kate Horton, Transportation Planner at the Memphis Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) in Tennessee shared this photo. She says that the MPO received a set of the flags and they have them hanging in their office to educate the public on the AQI and share information related to air quality. We like the way the information is posted all together!

EYES TO THE SKY IN PHILLY

In Philadelphia over Memorial Day weekend, the Air Quality Partnership displayed a message on a downtown office high rise, the PECO Building. The "crown lights," or scrolling text around the building only allowed for 72 characters, including spaces, so the message had to be concise.



The Air Quality Partnership chose the slogan, "Conserve Energy and Clean the Air! Go to www.AirQualityPartnership.org"

The Partnership is part of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for a nine-county area in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Thanks to Jillian Gallagher, Air Quality Environmental Group Manager in the PA Dept of Environmental Protection for sharing!

WILDFIRE VIDEO FROM TULALIP

Check out the short air quality monitoring video from Tulalip Early Learning Academy in Washington State. It specifically highlights how air quality flags can be used for wildfires at <https://www.facebook.com/TulalipNews/videos/368375863850550/>.

And with all due respect to others, this is one of the most attractive flagpoles the Flag Program Team has seen!



Aileen Gagney, technical advisor/trainer for Tulalip Healthy Homes

Flag Team Contacts

Melissa Payne: payne.melissa@epa.gov

Beth Landis: landis.elizabeth@epa.gov

Miki Wayland: wayland.michelle@epa.gov

Ellen Wildermann: wildermann.ellen@epa.gov