

# Air Quality Awareness Week

## 2022 Toolkit

Every May, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hosts Air Quality Awareness Week (AQAW) with the goal of sharing information on air quality and how it affects health, as well as encouraging people to incorporate knowledge of the Air Quality Index (AQI) into their daily lives. To help increase this awareness, EPA works with our AirNow partners - National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), U.S. Forest Service, and U.S. Department of State - as well as State, Local, and Tribal agencies to promote events.

On each day of AQAW, we will feature an important air quality topic and share information, resources, and latest developments related to that topic.

### **Theme: "Be Air Aware and Prepared!"** **May 2 - 6, 2022**

5/2, Monday - Wildfires & Smoke

5/3, Tuesday - Asthma & Your Health

5/4, Wednesday - Participatory Science & Sensors

5/5, Thursday - Environmental Justice & Air Quality

5/6, Friday - Air Quality Around the World

Air Quality Awareness Week is a great opportunity to encourage people to use available tools and resources to check air quality forecasts, learn about what causes poor air quality, and determine what they can do to help make our air cleaner - not just during the month, but year-round!

## **PROMOTE AIR QUALITY AWARENESS IN YOUR COMMUNITY**

Air Quality Awareness Week 2022 has been designated as May 2 - May 6. This timeframe corresponds with the beginning of ozone season, wildfire season, and World Asthma Day. This creates a great opportunity to engage your community in air quality awareness activities. Air quality awareness is more than just understanding the Air Quality Index (AQI) forecast that utilizes the color code system. Air quality awareness includes education about the air in your specific area and what associated health effects might be a concern for your community. Understanding the importance of the air quality forecasts and their direct relation to health impacts will make the difference between allowing children outside to play during Code Orange air quality days or reducing exposure by simply rescheduling an activity for a time when air quality is expected to be better.

Here are some ways to engage your community on air quality awareness.

**Check Your AQ IQ.** To celebrate #AQAW2022, @AirNow will be posting air quality trivia questions throughout the week to test your AQ IQ. You can join the fun and check your AQ IQ by following @AirNow on Twitter and Facebook.

**Learn Keywords through Activities.** To help learn important words and phrase related to AQAW, there

will be word searches and other activities available to download and play.

**Host a Virtual Community Health Fair** or other public events that feature air quality awareness information. Coordinate with your local health department, local health care providers, and other health-focused groups, to organize exhibits, education sessions, and distribute materials.

**Partner with Schools** to provide air quality awareness education to students and staff. Contact local high school and junior high school science and health departments to arrange for special presentations about the importance of air quality awareness. Use this opportunity to provide a real-time demonstration of how students can find the current AQI for their areas. EPA's [www.airnow.gov](http://www.airnow.gov) web has several activities for students, parents, and teachers to learn more about air quality.

**Hold an Air Quality Awareness Poster Contest.** Encourage local schools, daycares, and after-school programs to participate in a creative contest commemorating Air Quality Awareness Week. Partner with local businesses or non-profit groups to co-sponsor activities, participant on the review panel, and offer incentives or prizes for the chosen winners.

## JOIN US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Throughout the week, we will be posting about AQAW and the importance of air quality awareness. You can join us by tagging us and using the hashtags below.

### Social Media Accounts

@airnow  
@epaburnwise  
@EPAAir  
@EPAairmarkets

### Hashtags

#AQAW2022	#AQI	#Asthma
#BeAirAwareAndPrepared	#Sensors	#Wildfire
#AQIQ	#EJ	#ParticipatoryScience
#AirQuality	#EnvironmentalJustice	#CitizenScience

### Sample Posts

Air Quality Awareness Week is coming soon - May 2-6! Check out the #AQAW2022 website and follow @airnow for info and resources on how to #BeAirAwareAndPrepared: [airnow.gov/aqaw](http://airnow.gov/aqaw)

Have you checked your #AQI today? Knowing the air quality in your community can help you better plan your daily activities. Learn more at: [airnow.gov](http://airnow.gov) #BeAirAwareAndPrepared #AQAW2022

Its #WorldAsthmaDay! Did you know that #airquality can greatly impact people with #asthma and other respiratory conditions? Learn more at [airnow.gov/aqaw](http://airnow.gov/aqaw) #AQAW2022

How much do you know about #airquality? Check your #AQIQ during Air Quality Awareness Week (May 2-6) by following @airnow for trivia questions during the week. #AQAW2022