



View of Maroon Bells near Aspen, CO

Community Monitoring in Colorado

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COLORADO
Department of Public
Health & Environment

Overview

- Importance of community air monitoring
- Legislation & community monitoring in Colorado
- Potential challenges
- Future of community monitoring



Community Air Toxics [CAT] Mobile Van.



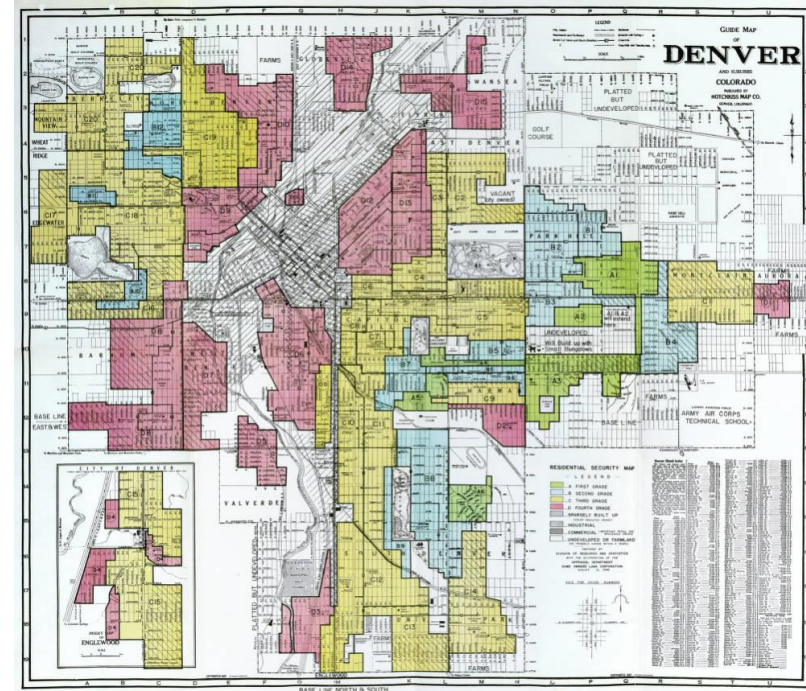
Community air sensor.

Importance of community air monitoring

- Community air quality monitoring is a powerful tool!
- Providing locally-relevant information on air quality can help:
 - Raise awareness
 - Enhance understanding
 - Provide local feedback and data
 - Build trust

Historical context

- Redlining and zoning practices led to racial income segregation in housing
- Pollution sources more likely to be located near low-income neighborhoods and communities of color
- Low-income communities and communities of color face greater environmental health risks



1938 Denver redlining map.

Legislation & community monitoring in Colorado

- **CO HB21-1266 - Environmental Justice (EJ) Act (July of 2021)**
 - “All people have the right to breathe clean air, drink clean water, participate freely in decisions that affect their environments, live free of dangerous levels of toxic pollution, experience equal protection provided by environmental policies, and share the benefits of a prosperous and vibrant pollution-free economy.”
 - Focus on meaningful community engagement, specifically in disproportionately impacted communities (DIC).



Colorado State Capitol.

Legislation & community monitoring in Colorado

- **HB21-1189 - Colorado Air Toxics Act (June of 2021):**
 - Creates a new program in CDPHE to regulate toxic air contaminants at four covered facilities, along with a community monitoring program, prioritizing DIC, to better protect public health.
 - Required mobile and ground-based monitoring of:
 - Hydrogen cyanide (HCN)
 - Hydrogen sulfide (H₂S)
 - Benzene in the communities

Legislation & community monitoring in Colorado

- In May 2023, the Air Quality Control Commission (AQCC) adopted the **Disproportionately Impacted Community Permitting rule**.
- Requirements include:
 - Community monitoring for new or modified Title V or construction permit applications
 - Air pollution education in impacted areas

Community monitoring in Colorado

- Enhanced Community Outreach (ECO) Unit in the Air Pollution Control Division:
 - Funding and supporting community-based monitoring efforts, including disproportionately impacted communities (DIC)
 - Outreach and engagement resources
 - Working to create NGSS-aligned curricular materials to support pK-12 air quality education



Wooden road sign with words Engage, Join, Participate, Unite and Involve.

Community monitoring challenges

- Funding
- Longer project timelines
- Logistical issues
- Findings can change
- Long-term sustainability

Future of community monitoring

- Next generation air monitoring
- Data sharing
- Data standardization
- Long-term sustainability



Global network around Earth, information technology.



Data analytics visualization.



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Questions?



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