

Program Description

The proposed Community Air Monitoring Network for Delaware will strengthen and utilize the existing Community Air Monitoring Steering Committee that is community-led and inclusive. The Steering Committee is primarily comprised of residents, and EJ advocates is supported by local experts, government officials that will help lead the project and participate in making decisions about the climate and health plans and actions that will result from it. For example, the Steering Committee will advise on where to place monitors after identifying pollution sources, and they will inspire the rest of the community to initiate change by sharing valuable information about air quality in the area. Additionally, the group can share news about the project with other community leaders, organizations, and the government as a whole. The *Community Air Monitoring Network 4 Delaware* will also utilize lessons learned from an existing pilot in three impacted communities (funded by a grant from Christiana Care Health Services) before launching a fully implemented CAMN across the state.

After the installation and implementation, the community will have easy access to air quality information in their area. An air quality website will show real-time data gathered by the air monitors. Moreover, different colored flags may be displayed around the neighborhood to let the community know when air quality is dangerous, so they can take actions such as minimizing time spent outside to protect themselves.

This project will build community power through data collection and community organizing. Our ultimate goal is that the tools and improved information on air pollution will engage, educate and empower Delaware residents to speak out more about environmental health issues and work to find solutions. COVID-19 has a more severe impact on people who live in areas with poorer air quality, so knowledge of air pollution problems is very important, especially during this pandemic. We hope that this community engagement and the data collected will provide the nexus for an academic institution to undertake an environmental health study and provide research that will allow community members to advocate for policies that protect public health in Delaware communities and other frontline communities in nearby states.