

Air Quality Monitoring Network Improvements

Agency: Department of Ecology

Project Impact

The Department of Ecology improved the ambient air monitoring network, resulting in an increased data capture rate. Now, we have a higher rate of data completeness so we can better monitor air quality and protect Washingtonians health.

Project Summary

The instrument Ecology was using to monitor fine particle air pollution (PM2.5 for short) frequently malfunctioned and required a lot of upkeep. We were losing critical data that we and our partners use to understand air quality, prevent pollution, and determine ways to clean up existing pollution problems.

In 2015, our data capture rate was 79 percent, compared to our target of 80 percent, which we wanted to reach by 2016. The data capture rate represents the percentage of the expected data from each monitoring site that Ecology is able to capture.

We improved our air quality monitoring network by upgrading nine PM2.5 monitors to more reliable and efficient models.

Project Results



Increased average data capture rate **from 79 percent to 88** percent.

Data capture rate average is 88 percent, which is 8 percent higher than the target we set.

Project Details

Date improvement project was initiated: 2015

Project Contact: Jase Brooks

Email: Jase.Brooks@ecy.wa.gov

Phone: 360-407-7604

Report reviewed and approved by: Deputy Director, Polly Zehm