Franklin County Public Health and climate initiatives

Jennie McAdams, MPH, Sustainability Supervisor
Introduction and objectives
Franklin County Public Health

> 6th largest health district in OH

> Provide public health services to approximately 500,000 residents
  • 14 cities
  • 17 townships
  • 9 villages
Sustainability Section Background

Created in October 2019 to oversee:

• Healthy Homes
• Solid and Infectious Waste
• Nuisance complaints
• Climate and Sustainability work
Air Quality Monitoring Project Background
Low-Cost Air Quality Monitors

- PurpleAir Monitors
  - Transmit PM2.5 data in real-time to an interactive map
  - Allows community members to interact with sensors

- Collecting air quality data for 1 year
Informing Monitor Placement

> A vulnerability map was generated based on socioeconomic & health data:

- Kids < 5 years old
- People > 65 years old
- Percent poverty rate
- Minority population
- Asthma rates
- COVID rates
Finding Site Hosts

Social Media

In partnership with the Ohio EPA, Franklin County Public Health and the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) are working to enhance the Neighborhood Air Quality Monitoring Project. Ohio EPA installs a network of regulatory air pollution monitors to make sure our region is meeting federal standards. We are currently installing low-cost PurpleAir monitors next to one of Ohio EPA's to calibrate them before setting them up across Franklin County.

Engagement & Outreach

Local Media Coverage

New neighbor level air monitoring program underway in Franklin County

The goal is to provide real-time data to identify the air pollution exposure by zip code and show where air quality is the worst.
Finding Site Hosts

> Deployed 20 monitors across 10 zip codes

> Monitor hosts included:
  - Public libraries, transit agencies, museums
  - Local businesses
  - Private citizens
  - Governmental buildings
Validating Sensor Performance

> Compared our network of 20 PurpleAir monitors with high-quality EPA reference monitors before community deployment
Our Air Quality Monitoring Network

- Has been fully deployed since Earth Day 2022
- Plan to release 6-month & 1-year reports on our findings
Next Steps

> Applied for additional funding to expand the network

> Release 6-month & 12-month reports

> Utilize additional data to form a comprehensive understanding of air quality
  • Urban heat island data
  • Canopy coverage data
  • Vulnerability data

> Community engagement & empowerment
Local Initiatives
Partnerships and Engagement
Environmental Health, Climate Change and Funding
Thank you!

Jennie McAdams, MPH, EHST
Sustainability Supervisor
JennieMcAdams@franklincountyohio.gov
FROM DATA TO POLICY SOLUTIONS: USING HEAT SENSORS TO INFORM LOCAL CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Aniella Fignon, JD, MPH
Norwalk Health Department
INTRO & OBJECTIVES
Aniella Fignon

Public Health Program Associate, Norwalk Health Department

• Pronouns: she/her/hers
• University of Connecticut: Juris Doctor, Master of Public Health
• Passions: hiking, camping, snorkeling – anything outside!
INTRODUCTION

• Climate change affects municipalities at a local level.
• Climate change can pose various threats to human health based on geographic location.
• Data collection is necessary to drive informed strategies to combat the impacts of climate change on community health and wellness.
“While climate changes affects everyone, it does not affect everyone equally. Climate change is sometimes called a ‘risk amplifier,’ meaning that many existing risks to health—derived from environmental, economic, demographic, social, or genetic factors—are intensified by climate change impact.”

—YALE CENTER ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH
CITY OF NORWALK

A THRIVING CITY IN A VIBRANT COASTAL COMMUNITY

2020 CENSUS DATA
- Population: 91,184
- Median Income (2016-2020): $89,486
- Persons in poverty: 9.1%
- Non-owner-occupied housing rate (2016-2020): 42.7%
The goals of this presentation are to inform on:

- Indicators of climate change’s impact on health in Connecticut.
  - Temperature

- Heat sensor project in Norwalk
  - Objectives
  - Heat Index
  - Collaborating Partners
  - Methodology and Locations
  - Schedule
  - Preliminary Data

- Policy Solutions
CLIMATE & HEALTH
CLIMATE-HEALTH INDICATORS

TEMPERATURE

AIR QUALITY

INFECTIONOUS DISEASES

EXTREME EVENTS
URBAN HEAT ISLANDS

- Increases energy costs
- Worsens air pollution levels
- Heat-related illness and mortality
- Threatens water quality
RESILIENCE: RECOMMENDATIONS

1) **Monitor** current conditions and **project** trends.
2) **Invest** in **social determinants** of health.
3) Tackle the **upstream drivers** of climate change and health disparities.
4) **Pursue** actions that **integrate** mitigation, adaptation, and immediate health benefits.
5) **Build the capacity** of health professionals and decision-makers in other sectors to address climate and health.
6) Incorporate climate change into **decision-making across sectors**.
7) Incorporate **public health** into climate change decision-making.
HEAT SENSORS
PROJECT PURPOSE:

To better understand local environmental conditions and the impact of climate change on heat vulnerability.

Cranbury Park in north Norwalk.
STUDY OBJECTIVES

TEMPERATURE
Identify variability in air and surface temperature over time

RELATIVE HUMIDITY
Collect supplementary RH data to gauge what the weather “feels like”

DEW POINT
Identify levels of moisture in air
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<td>Heat Index</td>
<td>Possible heat disorders for people in higher risk groups</td>
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<td>90-105</td>
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<td>105-130</td>
<td>Sunstroke, heat cramps or heat exhaustion likely, and heat stroke possible with prolonged exposure and/or physical activity.</td>
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**METHODOLOGY**

**STEP 1**
LOCATIONS
Mapped unique install sites based on numerous factors.

**STEP 2**
COORDINATION
Collaboration between City and private partners to ensure permissions and appropriateness of sites.

**STEP 3**
DEPLOYMENT
June 9th – CIRCA and Health Department complete install.

**STEP 4**
DATA COLLECTION
Continuous feedback about street-level climate.
LOCAL CLIMATE ZONE CLASSIFICATION

LCZ classification framework applied to the state of Connecticut in accordance with Stewart and Oke (2012)

UCONN

Fragomeni et al. (2021)
1. Bounton St
2. Calf Pasture Beach
3. Cranbury Park
4. East Norwalk Train Station
5. Huckleberry Drive
6. Naramake Elementary School
7. Norwalk Community College
8. Norwalk Fire Station 2
9. Norwalk Fire Station 5
10. Norwalk Main Public Library
11. Rowayton Shoreline
12. SONO Police Station
13. West Rocks Middle School

Onat (2022)
COLLABORATING PARTNERS

Mayor’s Office
Health Department
Planning & Zoning
Transportation, Mobility & Parking
Department of Public Works
IT Department
Fire Department (OEM)

Recreation & Parks
Norwalk Public Library
Police Department
Norwalk Public Schools
Veolia Water
Water Pollution Control Authority
Norwalk Community College

FUNDED & LED BY THE UCONN CONNECTICUT INSTITUTE FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION (CIRCA)
DEPLOYMENT & DATA

- HOBO MX2300 series data loggers
- Temporary, non-invasive
  - Affixed with zip ties and electrical tape
- Mounted 8-10 feet above ground
- Data sent continuously to CIRCA every five minutes using cell service
- CIRCA will refine heat index and share data with City of Norwalk
Date: July 21, 2022

Satellite Temperature (Sikorsky Airport): **93.79°F**

- Calf Pasture Beach: **96.70°F**
- East Norwalk Train: **104.26°F**
- Naramake Elementary School: **103.76°F**
- Bouton St Pump Station: **107.39°F**
RESILIENCE: RECOMMENDATIONS

1) **Monitor** current conditions and **project** trends.
2) **Invest in** **social determinants** of health.
3) Tackle the **upstream drivers** of climate change and health disparities.
4) Pursue actions that **integrate** mitigation, adaptation, and immediate health benefits.
5) Build the **capacity** of health professionals and decision-makers in other sectors to address climate and health.
6) Incorporate climate change into **decision-making across sectors**.
7) Incorporate **public health** into climate change decision-making.
WHAT KINDS OF POLICIES?

- Prioritize accessibility and health equity into decision making.
- Empower community to participate in greener, healthier lifestyles.
- Adapt land use and zoning ordinances to create or improve upon resilience assets.
- Establish joint use agreements.
PRIORITIZE HEALTH EQUITY
BY MAKING RESILIENCE RESOURCES ACCESSIBLE

Make cooling centers physically and socially accessible

Invest in urban parks and interactive water features
EMPOWER COMMUNITIES TO BECOME RESILIENT WITH USER-FRIENDLY TOOLS

Ensure public messaging reaches people where they are

Make active transportation easy, feasible, and fun
ADAPT LAND USE AND ZONING ORDINANCES TO CREATE RESILIENCE ASSETS – PART 1

Transform small areas into green spaces
- Bioswales/rain gardens
- Pocket parks

Convert recreational areas into greener spaces

Invest in tree canopies along contiguous streets and in parks
ADAPT LAND USE AND ZONING ORDINANCES TO CREATE RESILIENCE ASSETS – PART 2
LEVERAGE EXISTING COOL SPACES THROUGH JOINT USE AGREEMENTS

Cool It! NYC Map

A shaded, tented event at a Norwalk Public School
THANK YOU!

Do you have any questions?

Aniella Fignon, JD, MPH
Norwalk Health Department
afignon@norwalkct.org

CREDITS: This presentation template was created by Slidesgo, including icons by Flaticon and infographics & images by Freepik and illustrations by Storyset
REFERENCES – PART 1


- Environmental Protection Agency.  
REFERENCES – PART 2


Norwalk Tomorrow: https://tomorrow.norwalkct.org/tag/norwalk-ct-heat-sensor-project/.


Climate and Health Equity: a Policy Approach

Judy Olsen, REHS, AEC
Bloomberg American Health Initiative Fellow
Johns Hopkins University, School of Public Health
October 2022
Agenda:

Pierce County, WA
- Climate
- Communities of Focus
- South Tacoma

State Environmental Protection Act
- Usual approach
- Revised approach

Health Impact Assessment
- Board of Health Resolution
- Climate and Health Equity criteria
What really makes us healthy?

RWJF County Health Rankings:

Health Starts Where We Live, Learn, Work and Play.

What makes us healthy?

20% Health Behaviors

20% Clinical Care

5% Genes and Biology

55% Social, Economic and Environmental Factors

Adapted from http://www.cdc.gov/socialdeterminants/FAQ.html
City of Tacoma and Pierce County, WA

- Pierce County
  - 2nd Largest County, Pop 950,000
  - 14% over age 65, 6% under age 5
  - 36% people of color
  - 9% poverty

- Tacoma
  - Pop 220,000
  - 42% people of color
  - 14% poverty
Extreme Heat

Health Advisory

July 2022 • Information for Pierce County Medical Providers
Kitty Rea, MPH  cruzo@pierce.org  (253) 416-6657

Environmental Health Division
333 South Twin Street, Tacoma, WA 98403
(253) 798-2000 (phone)

Heat wave guidance for childcare and summer camps

National Weather Service forecasts high temperatures in the Puget Sound region from Monday, July 25 through Friday, July 29. Temperatures will rise into the low to mid 90s, possibly higher later in the week. When outside temperatures are high, stay out of heart-related stressors. Older adults, young children, and pregnant women, people experiencing homelessness, and people with mental illness and chronic illnesses are at greater risk.

If the National Weather Service issues a heat warning or heat alert, consider the following precautions:

Stay cool:
- Plan for the children in your care to spend more time in air-conditioned or shady places. For larger groups, rotate groups of children through times in shady spots outdoors and time inside buildings.
- Cover windows that receive morning or afternoon sun.
- Use fans when necessary.
- Encourage caregivers to dress children in lightweight clothing.
- Provide cool beverages or water activities in the shade.
- Provide frequent rest periods to avoid heat illnesses like heat exhaustion or heat stroke.
- Provide info about Cooling centers and emergency plans for traveling to or from cooling centers.

Drink fluids:
- Encourage children to drink plenty of water. Avoid drinks with caffeine and large amounts of sugar because they can dehydrate you.
- Have beverages available to the children whenever possible so they can sip or drink frequently. Don’t wait until they are thirsty to drink.

If you go outside:
- Limit the time the children are in direct sunlight when outdoors.
- Do not leave infants or children in parked cars, vans, or buses even with the windows rolled down.
- Avoid or reduce activities that are tiring or take a lot of energy.
- Do outdoor activities in the cooler morning and evening hours.
- Avoid sunburn. Make sure children use a sunscreen lotion with a high SPF (sun protection factor) rating.

Water safety:
- If you take children to swim, choose a safe location—a local pool or beach with lifeguards. Have children wear personal flotation devices (PFDs) while in the water.

Know the signs of heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke and take appropriate actions:
- With heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke are not life-threatening.

Find prevention tips and more info at tpchd.org/keepcool.

Be Careful in Hot Weather

High temperatures can be dangerous. Know the signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke and how to help.

Heat exhaustion
- Take action now to prevent heat stroke.

Heat stroke
- This is an emergency. Call 911 immediately.

Head
- Faint or dizzy.
- Throbbing headache, confused or unconscious.

Sweat
- Excessive.
- None.

Pulse
- Weak, rapid.
- Strong, rapid.

Stomach
- Nausea or vomiting.
- Nausea or vomiting.

Body
- Muscle cramps, weakness.
- Temperature 103° or higher.

Skin
- Pale, cool, clammy.
- Red, hot, dry.

How you can help:
- Move to a cooler, air-conditioned place.
- Sip water, if fully conscious.
- Call 911 if the person is not fully conscious or their condition worsens.
- Call 911 or go to the hospital immediately.
- Cool down rapidly. Lay in cool water or douche with water.
The “Super Massive” Plume

From WA Smokeblog, Washington Dept. of Ecology, Air Quality Program 2020
Wildfire Smoke

Washington Smoke Blog:

MapPurple Air

Puget Sound Clean Air Agency

Urban Air Map
Harmful Algae Blooms
Pierce County Communities of Focus

Healthy. People. Everywhere.
Communities of Focus Strategies

- Increase investments in the community.
- Form new, and strengthen existing, partnerships.
- Improve customer service between the Health Department, residents and partners.
- Increase opportunities for civic engagement, i.e., training, leadership, community involvement, etc.
South Tacoma Community

- Housing and homelessness.
- Access to healthy food.
- Transportation and road safety.
- Crime prevention.
- Healthy environment.

Asian Pacific Cultural Center,
2022 Samoa Cultural Week
South Tacoma Socioeconomic Factors

Selection: Environmental Health Disparities V 2.0 -> Socioeconomic Factors

ACS: Limited English (LEP), No High School Diploma (%), People of Color (Race/Ethnicity), Population Living in Poverty <=185% of Federal Poverty Level (%), Transportation Expense, Unaffordable Housing (>30% of Income), Unemployed (%)

Legend: (High) 10 | 9 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 (Low)
South Tacoma Sensitive Populations
South Tacoma Livability Score
South Tacoma Poor Health Outcomes
State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA)

- Identifies and analyzes environmental impacts
- Private projects
- Public facilities
- Regulations
- Policies
- Plans

SEPA can be used to modify or deny a proposal to avoid, reduce, or compensate for probable impacts.
SEPA- Regulatory Response

• Historically focused on areas of regulatory influence.
  • Grade and fill (contaminated soils).
  • Onsite septic systems.
  • Drinking water wells.
  • Surface water.

Contamination may be present in the soil at this site and require remediation or removal, per Chapter 173-340 WAC, Model Toxics Control Act Cleanup Regulation. Soil removed from the site requires proper disposal at a permitted facility. Soil that designates as a solid waste must be disposed at a WAC 173-351 or WAC 173-350 permitted facility. Soil that designates as a dangerous waste must be disposed at a WAC 173-303 permitted facility. The subject site remains on WA Department of Ecology’s (Ecology) Confirmed and Suspected Contaminated Sites List. Here is a link to Ecology documents:

This project is proposing to utilize onsite sewage systems as the method of sewage disposal. Density, lot size and soil conditions must be shown to meet WAC 246-272A (The State Board of Health Onsite Sewage System Regulations) and Environmental Health Code, Chapter 2, On-Site Sewage. Please contact George Waun at (253) 798-6485 for further information.
Bridge Industrial Warehouse Proposal

- 160 Acres.
- 2.5 Million Sq Ft.
- 1,349 Parking spaces.
- 891 Tractor Trailer parking spaces.
- 486 Door positions.

- Transportation and Road Safety
- Healthy Environment
South Tacoma Community Concerns

- Air pollution.
- Traffic congestion.
- Pedestrian and vehicle safety.
- Noise.
- Lights.
- Proximity to schools and playfields.
- Groundwater protection.
South Tacoma Schools and Childcares
RESOLUTION NO. 2016-4483

A RESOLUTION OF THE TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
RECOMMENDING PIERCE COUNTY, AND THE CITIES AND TOWNS THEREIN, USE
HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENTS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE REVIEW OF
PROPOSED ACTIONS UNDER THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT.

WHEREAS, assessing public health starts by examining where we live, learn, and work, and environmental and
docio-economic factors play a significant role in determining our health; and

WHEREAS, private and public projects, regulations, policies, or plans can have unintended consequences for public
health which may not be adequately assessed under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) (Chapter 43.21C WAC)
and implementing rules (Chapter 197-11 WAC); and

WHEREAS, Health Impact Assessments are a nationally and internationally accepted practice to evaluate the
potential health effects of proposed projects, regulations, policies and plans; and

WHEREAS, Health Impact Assessments can identify cumulative impacts on the community and public health,
including potential impacts to vulnerable and underserved communities; and
Establish model program for State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) reviews – policy work related to environmental and health impacts. Initial staffing will develop a process for receiving, prioritizing, and completing SEPA reviews and Health Impact Assessments. A key aspect of year one will be building relationships within the selected region with LHJs, Tribes, community partners, and academic institutions.
SEPA 2.0 - Climate and Health Equity

New SEPA screening criteria and ‘violations’.

- Community of Focus.
- Environmental Justice.
  - Health outcomes.
  - Urban heat island.
  - Air pollution.
  - Traffic safety.
  - Contaminated sites.
- Climate considerations.
  - Greenhouse gas contributions.
  - Tree canopy and green space.
  - Surface water and drinking water.
Bridge Industrial Current Status

- Increase investments in the community.

- Form new, and strengthen existing, partnerships.

- Improve customer service between Health Department, residents and partners.

- Increase opportunities for civic engagement, i.e., training, leadership, community involvement, etc.
Bridge Industrial Current Status

- Likely MDNS.
- Intermediate HIA.
  - Community engagement.
  - Mitigation
    ○ Health
    ○ Climate

"Issuing an MDNS and permit for this project instead of requiring a full EIS would undermine environmental justice by cutting off an opportunity for impacted community members to meaningfully engage in the City’s land use decisions… result in cumulative harms being imposed on a community that has already disproportionately suffered many other environmental harms."

-Earth Justice, NW Regional Office
Contact information:

Judy Olsen, Program Manager
Social, Economic, and Environmental Conditions for Health
Environmental Health Division
(253) 377-4390
jolsen@tpchd.org