



COMMUNITY AIR MONITORING: MOUNT VERNON/YONKERS

Learn about DEC's Community Air Monitoring Initiative

Purpose

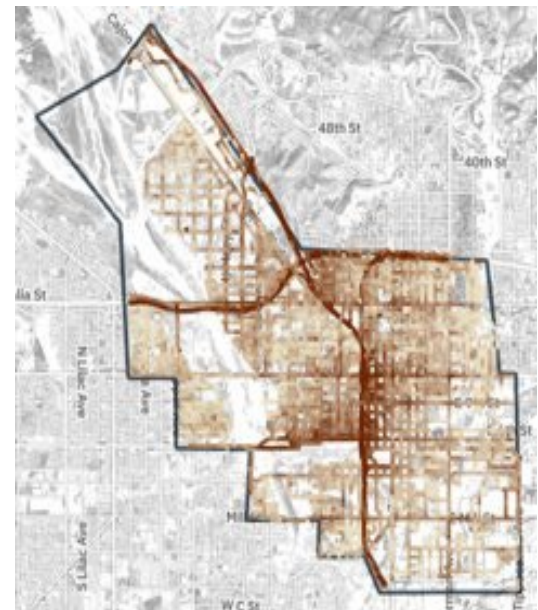
The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is conducting community air monitoring statewide in 10 disadvantaged communities in areas with high air pollution burdens. This effort will help DEC target strategies to reduce air pollution in these areas to achieve the goals of the State's Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. Neighborhoods in and around Mount Vernon and Yonkers were identified with high air pollution burdens (see map on pg. 2). DEC used the draft disadvantaged communities criteria proposed by the State's Climate Justice Working Group to identify these areas. For more information about the criteria and indicators, visit <https://climate.ny.gov/DAC-Criteria>.

Method

To measure air pollution from sources such as cars, diesel trucks, construction equipment, commercial operations, and industrial facilities, cars equipped with sensors will drive throughout the neighborhood. The information collected will be used to create maps that show air pollutant estimates for every 100 meters (about 330 feet of road) across the community. This information will help identify air quality issues and help guide actions to reduce localized pollutant levels and target sources of greenhouse gases. The pollutants that will be measured include carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitric oxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, fine particulate matter, methane, ethane, black carbon, and targeted toxics. The map below is an example of pollutant measurements for fine particulate matter (called PM_{2.5}) in a similar study conducted in California. These maps and data will be made available to local organizations in the 10 communities.



Mobile air monitoring will be conducted using Aclima hybrid vehicles. Drivers will be trained through a partnership between Aclima and BlocPower.



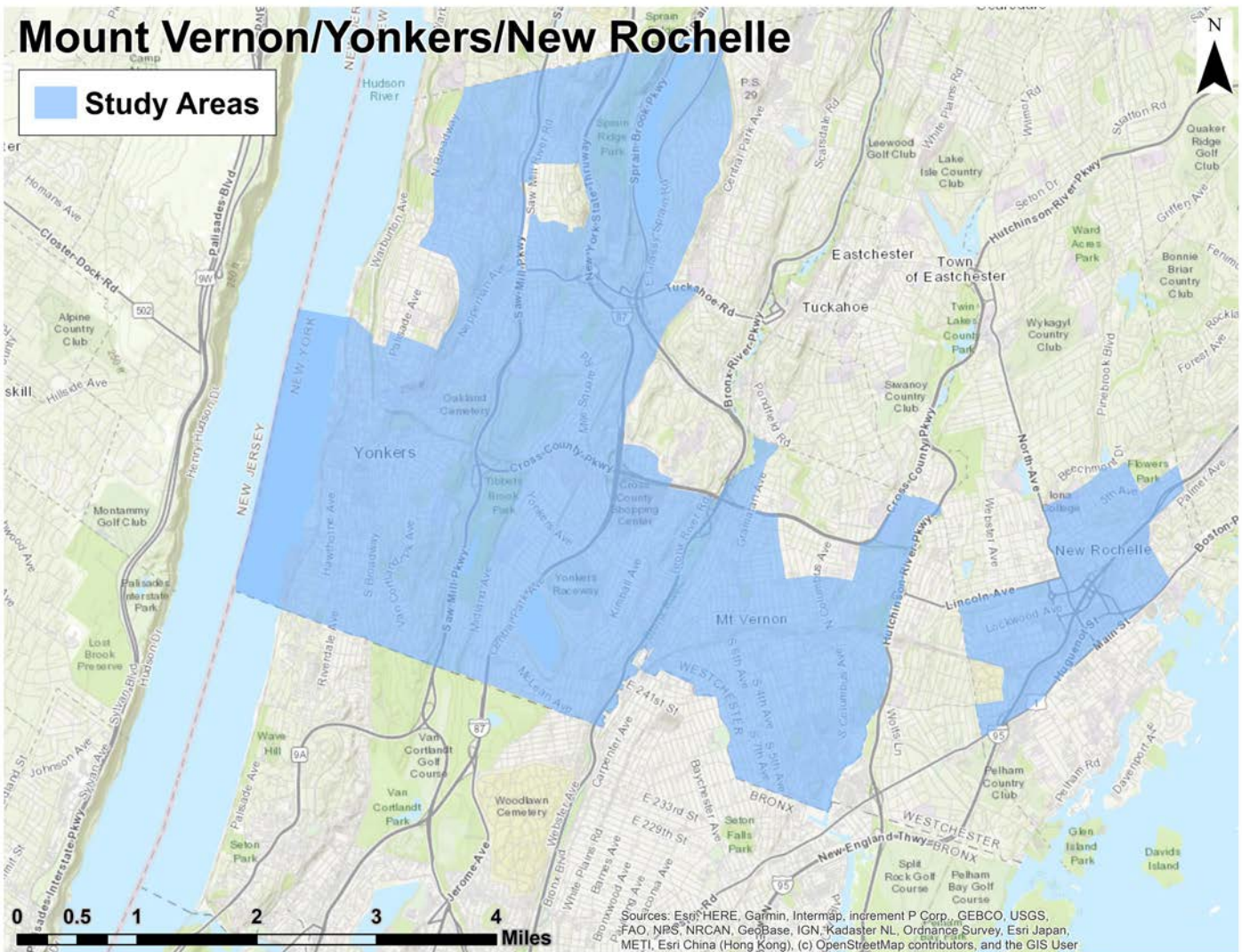
A map show PM_{2.5} results from San Bernardino study.

Community-Led Efforts

Community grant funding is now available through DEC's Office of Environmental Justice to support capacity building for eligible community-based organizations located in or serving the 10 identified communities. The capacity building grant can be used for, but is not limited to, developing or strengthening existing programs focused on reducing exposure and improving public health in communities most impacted by air pollution, or supporting community engagement in the State's air monitoring program.

Next Steps

- Mobile monitoring began in your community in September 2022 and will continue for one year. To learn more about the progress in your community, visit <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/125320.html>
- DEC will provide updates on air monitoring periodically to the community in coordination with local organizations. In addition, DEC will share year-end reports to discuss results and air pollution reduction strategies after the air monitoring is complete.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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