



**Para Español**

[communitysystemsolutions.com/yakima](https://communitysystemsolutions.com/yakima)

*This work is funded by the Washington Department of Ecology, supported with funding from Washington's Climate Commitment Act. The CCA supports Washington's climate action efforts by putting cap-and-invest dollars to work reducing climate pollution, creating jobs, and improving public health. Information about the CCA is available at [www.climate.wa.gov](http://www.climate.wa.gov)*

# AIR QUALITY IN OVERBURDENED COMMUNITIES GRANT



## Breathe Easy Community Meeting





## Tonight's Agenda

- Introductions: 6:05 - 6:10
- Overview of the WA AQ Grant: 6:10 - 6:30
- Survey: 6:30 - 6:45
- Small group discussion: 6:45 - 7:15
- **Prioritize the Findings: 7:15 - 7:45**
- Prize Drawings: 7:45 - 8:00





## Things to Keep In Mind

- **Meeting objectives**
  - Learn about the WA Air Quality in Overburdened Communities Grant
  - Get your feedback by taking the Survey
  - Discuss Air Quality In East Yakima
  - Identify Priority Air Quality Issues
  - Stay in touch and updated as the process moves forward
- **Constructive and civil conversations**
  - We may not all agree on everything – that's ok!
- **Community compensation**
  - Gift Card Prizes - Drawing at end of the event





## Some Alphabet Soup

- WA Air Quality in Overburdened Communities Grant: **AQOCG**
- Climate Pollution Reduction Grants: **CPRG**
- Criteria Air Pollution : **CAP**
- Air Quality: **AQ**
- Greenhouse Gasses: **GHGs**
- Particulate Matter: **PM 2.5** (diameter of 2.5 micrometers or less)



## Who We Are

- Community System Solutions (CSS)
- Central Washington University – Office of Sustainability
- Funded by the WA Department of Ecology - Air Quality in Overburdened Communities Grant







# What is the AQOCG?

**The purpose of this grant is to:**

- Engage members of the community to identify projects that reduce criteria air pollution.
- Design locally-led projects that reduce criteria air pollution.
- Part 1: Community Meetings to Identify Top Priority AQ issues
- Part 2: Develop a Comprehensive Plan and Design for at least one criteria air pollutant reduction project—positioning it for potential grant funding.





# Why Does this Matter to You?

- **WA needs to improve air quality in overburdened communities**
- **Air Quality affects us all**
  - Air Pollution transcends local, state, and federal policy issues
  - Affects everyday life, right now
  - Air Policies will affect your life, too
- **We need your help to plan solutions**
  - You know your community better than we do





AQOCG

# Communities Identified as Overburdened



- 1 Ellensburg
- 2 Everett
- 3 George and West Grant County
- 4 South King County
- 5 Mattawa
- 6 Moxee Valley
- 7 Northeast Puyallup
- 8 North Seattle and Shoreline
- 9 South Seattle
- 10 Spokane and Spokane Valley
- 11 South and East Tacoma
- 12 Tri-Cities to Wallula
- 13 Vancouver
- 14 Wenatchee and East Wenatchee
- 15 East Yakima
- 16 Lower Yakima Valley

Communities listed alphabetically.



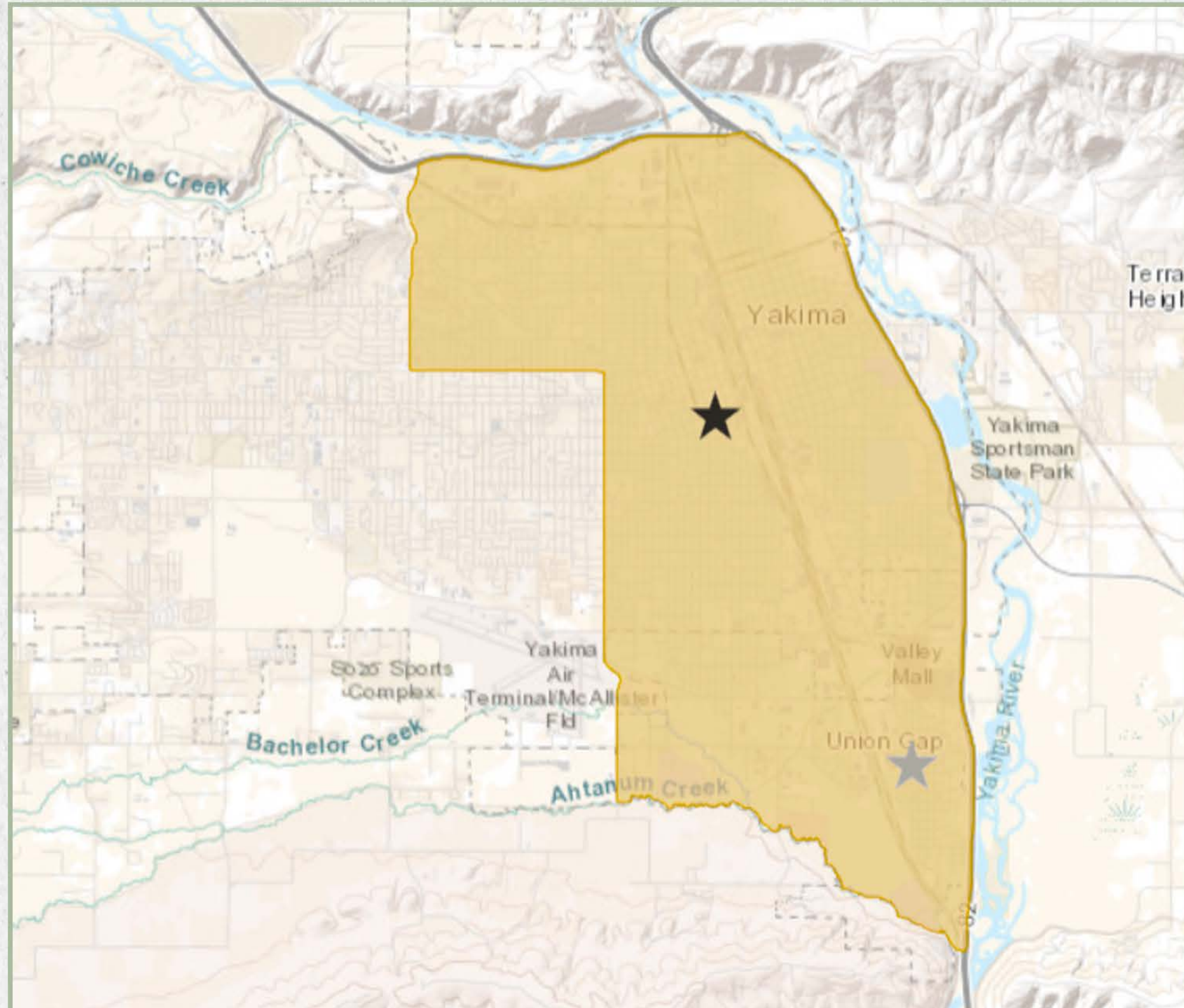


# Why Yakima, East?

East Yakima met the statewide screening criteria, based on the Washington Environmental Health Disparities map ranking, EJScreen demographic index, and elevated level of PM 2.5. The boundaries are consistent with the screened area. The Environmental Justice Index matched the Environmental Health Disparities map in showing that this community is highly impacted by cumulative environmental burdens. The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) also identified the same part of Yakima as disadvantaged. Most of the census tracts in this community are >90<sup>th</sup> percentile for both asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease prevalence, and <10<sup>th</sup> percentile for life expectancy. During our public comment period, commenters specifically referred to East Yakima as an area of concern. Based on exposure to PM 2.5, cumulative environmental burdens and vulnerability, and likely health impacts, East Yakima has been identified as an overburdened community highly impacted by air pollution.



# Boundaries of “East Yakima”

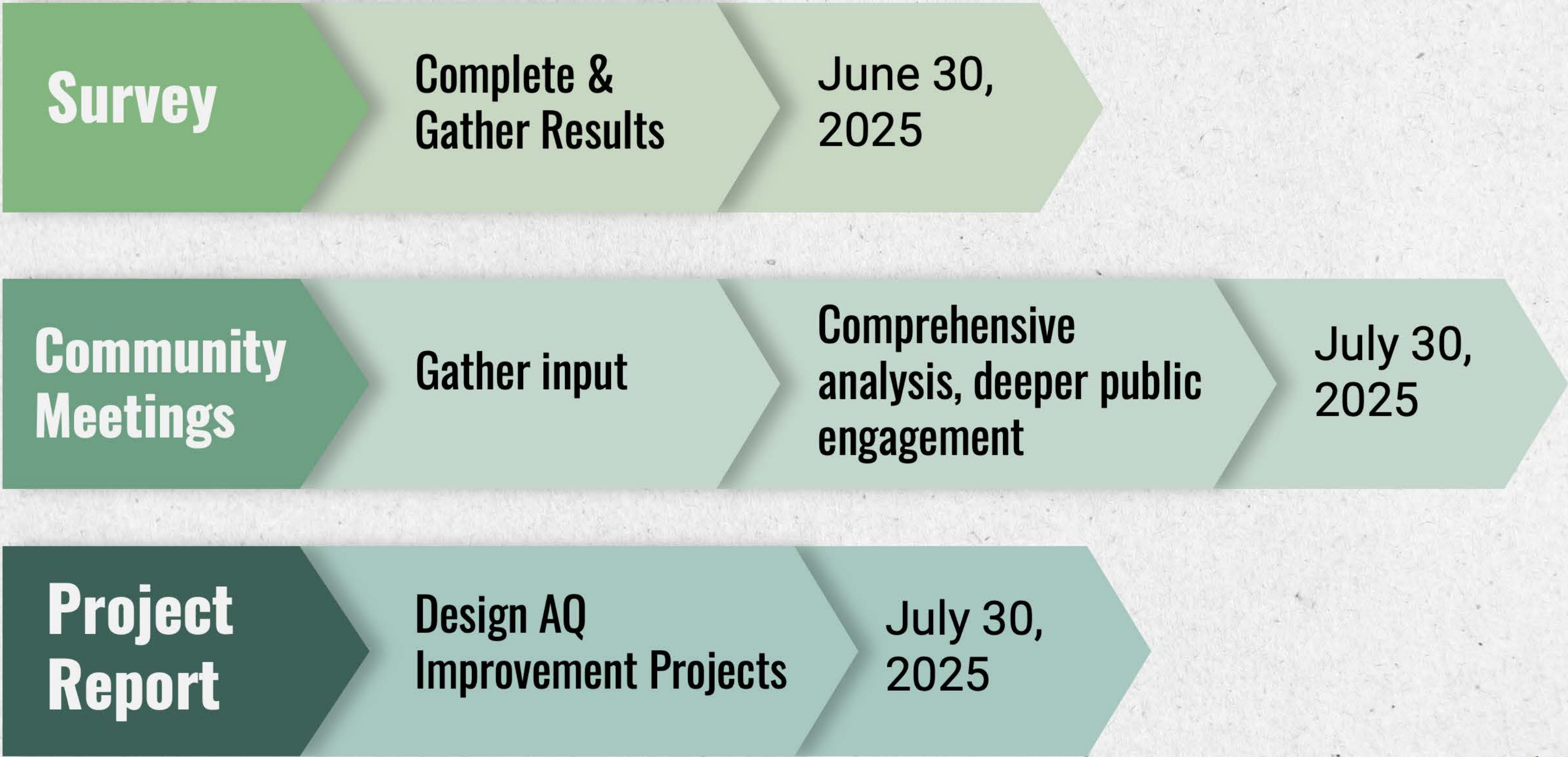


AQOCG





# AQOCG Timeline





# AQOCG Objectives



Engage **communities** across the state to **educate and gather input**



Prioritize **community benefits**



Identify **significant AQ improvement projects** within designated communities to fund and complete



Create plans to complete projects and hit **reduction goals**



Achieve significant **air quality improvements** in overburdened areas





# What the AQOCG is Not

- Some air quality concerns might best be addressed through regulatory action and policies, rather than the project plans and actions that will result from this initiative.
- We still want to understand the issues that concern you the most, regardless of how they might be solved.
- The state is working on these other aspects!



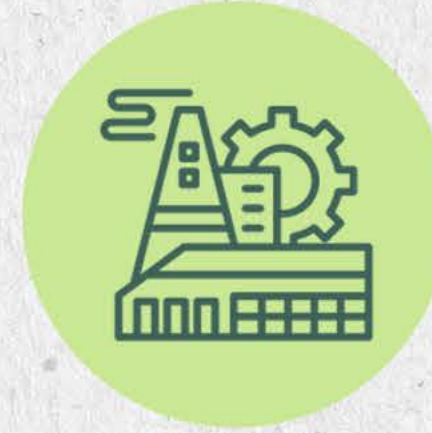
# Potential CAP Sources



Electricity  
generation



Transportation



Industry



Buildings



Agriculture



Natural &  
Working Lands



Waste &  
materials



# Benefits to Addressing CAP



Co-pollutant  
reductions



Improved public  
health



Improved water  
quality



Climate resilience &  
soil quality



More green  
space



Cleaner energy



Economic  
development





## What's Next This Evening?

- **Take the Survey, if you haven't already done so!**
- **Small group discussion questions -**
  - How are you impacted by poor Air Quality?
  - What Air Quality issues are your biggest concern?
  - What do you want to see done to improve Air Quality? Any Specific projects?
  - What do you think was missing from today's discussion?
- **We want you to lead the conversation!**



An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. A winding road or path cuts through a vast, open field. In the background, there are rolling hills and a line of trees. The sky is filled with large, dramatic clouds. The overall tone is somewhat muted, with a greenish-grey tint.

**Before We Begin:  
Questions? Comments?**





# Survey

**Request Printed Survey - If you would prefer to take the survey by hand, we have printed versions available at the check-in table.**

**If you have any questions or need assistance, feel free to grab the attention of a facilitator. We are happy to lend a hand.**

**Feel free to grab snacks or use the restroom at any time, but be mindful of fellow participants' need for quiet focus**



# Small Groups

- Break into groups with facilitators
- This is a conversation—feel free to share any and all thoughts
- Feel free to grab snacks or use the restroom
- Find me or another team partner if you need help



# **Small Group Discussion**

- 1. How are you impacted by poor Air Quality?**
- 2. What Air Quality issues are your biggest concern?**
- 3. What do you want to see done to improve Air Quality?  
Any specific projects?**
- 4. What do you think was missing from today's discussion?**



An aerial photograph of a rural landscape serves as the background. A winding road or path cuts through a field of dry grass. In the distance, a line of wind turbines is visible against a cloudy sky. The overall tone is muted and greenish-grey.

# **Open Floor**

- **What do you care about most?**
- **Prioritize Top Five**



# Prize Drawing

- Get ticket from table – make sure you put other half in the basket
- Five Gift Card winners
- Gift Card drawings also available for taking online survey – 2 per month. Must leave contact information so we can send gift card.



# Thank you for your input!



Keep up with us at [breathe-easy-css.org](https://breathe-easy-css.org)

Please reach out with any questions.

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## Community System Solutions

Creating Positive Social & Environmental Impact

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