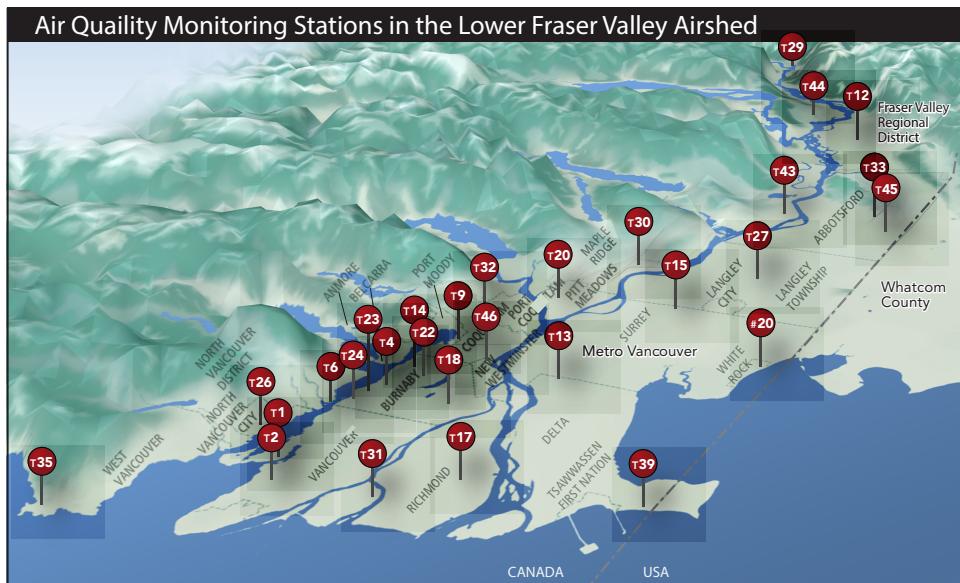


HOW'S THE AIR OUT THERE?

HOW DOES METRO VANCOUVER MEASURE AIR QUALITY?

Our air is sampled every second by scientific instruments at air quality stations close to where people live, work and play. Twenty nine air quality monitoring stations, located from Horseshoe Bay to Hope, form the Lower Fraser Valley Air Quality Monitoring Network.

Metro Vancouver uses two tools to determine how clean the air is: the Air Quality Health Index and our outdoor air quality objectives.



WHAT ARE 'AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVES'?

Metro Vancouver compares the measurements at our stations to our air quality objectives, which are based on current knowledge about the effects of air pollutants on human health. In a nutshell, these objectives set the acceptable amounts of each pollutant in our region.

AIR CONTAMINANT	AVERAGING TIME	AMBIENT AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVES	
		µg/m ³	PARTS PER BILLION
Carbon monoxide	1-hour	30,000	26,500
	8-hour	10,000	8,800
Nitrogen dioxide	1-hour	200	107
	Annual	40	22
Sulphur dioxide	1-hour	196	75
	24-hour	125	48
	Annual	30	12
Ozone	1-hour	160	82
	8-hour	126	65
Inhalable particulate matter (PM10)	24-hour	50	-
	Annual	20	-
Fine particulate matter (PM2.5)	24-hour	25	-
	Annual	8	-

Did you know? Metro Vancouver's air quality objectives are some of the most stringent in the world.

For more air quality information visit:

Caring for the Air | BC Air Quality | Northwest Clean Air Agency |
US Environmental Protection Agency

HOW CLEAN IS THE AIR RIGHT NOW?

You can check the latest air quality readings from a station near you by visiting www.airmap.ca

WHAT IS THE AIR QUALITY HEALTH INDEX?

This index measures air quality in relation to your health on a scale from 1 to 10. It is calculated every hour using specific pollutant measurements from our stations.

RISK:



Visit Environment Canada's website for more information on the Air Quality Health Index.

CAN SOMEONE EXPLAIN THIS TABLE TO ME?!

These are Metro Vancouver's outdoor air quality objectives. We compare pollutant levels at each station to these objectives. Each pollutant has short-term (1-hour, 8-hour or 24-hour) and/or long-term (annual) objectives because different health effects can occur over different time frames. Air pollutant levels are measured in micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m³) or parts per billion (ppb).

Metro Vancouver's goal is to stay well below these objectives. If pollutant levels rise above these objectives at a station, Metro Vancouver staff will quickly investigate and, in some cases, a region-wide air quality advisory may be issued. Luckily this doesn't happen very often.