

NEW WILMINGTON AIR MONITORING PROJECT TAKES A CLOSER LOOK AT FINE PARTICLE POLLUTION

A new air monitoring project is underway in Wilmington to take a closer look at fine particulate matter, also known as PM2.5. The three-year study includes one full year of measurements followed by data review and analysis. The air measurements officially began on October 1, 2025, and the project is funded through a U.S. EPA grant under the American Rescue Plan with some resources leveraged from the AB 617 program as part of the Community Emission Reduction Plans and Community Air Monitoring Plans for the Wilmington, Carson, West Long Beach (WCWLB) community. The goal is to better understand the composition and sources of PM2.5 in this community—home to major oil refineries, oil fields, heavy truck traffic, and the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.



The new advanced air monitoring instruments installed at the Wilmington air monitoring site continuously measure the size and chemical makeup of PM2.5 particles. These high-resolution measurements will provide valuable insights into how local emission sources influence particulate pollution, particularly from port activities, refineries, and oil production operations.

This monitoring effort complements the Atmospheric Science and Chemistry mEasurement NeTwork (ASCENT), a nationwide 12-site research network (including two in the South Coast Air Basin) that characterizes aerosol composition and properties. By using the same suite of instruments as ASCENT sites, Wilmington's data will be directly comparable to other regions, helping scientists better understand PM2.5 spatial patterns, secondary PM formation mechanisms, and atmospheric aging processes across the South Coast Air Basin.

This study will also support ongoing clean air efforts through California's AB 617 Community Air Program in the WCWLB community. The enhanced PM2.5 data will help inform and/or support targeted, science-based strategies to reduce PM2.5 exposure and improve public health that were developed by the Community Steering Committee of the WCWLB community.

Ultimately, this project aims to increase community awareness of local air quality while strengthening the foundation for effective emission reduction policies. Lessons learned from this study may also benefit other coastal communities near major ports facing similar air quality challenges.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS FOR A CLEANER, GREENER 2026!

The new year is here, so it's time to set and commit to New Year's Resolutions! South Coast AQMD encourages you to add a few simple ways you can help reduce air pollution to your resolutions.



Avoid Burning Wood in Your Home

Wood burning contributes to particulate air pollution and can aggravate respiratory conditions. Improve your health and reduce PM2.5 emissions by switching to more eco-friendly methods of heating your home such as a gas fireplace or stove.



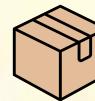
Upgrade to Zero-emission Heat Pumps

South Coast AQMD's GO ZERO Pilot Incentive Program helps residents and businesses switch to zero-emission heat pump systems for space and water heating. Heat pumps use up to three times less energy than conventional systems, providing a healthier, more efficient way to heat and cool your home.



Take Public Transportation and Rideshare

More people on the buses and trains means fewer cars on the road. Coordinate with coworkers or fellow parents of school-age children to arrange carpools. If taking an Uber or Lyft, opt for a rideshare trip instead of traveling alone!



Shop Smart

Buy locally grown produce and locally made products whenever possible. When ordering items online, consolidate packages to reduce shipping materials and transportation emissions.



Recycle, Reduce, Reuse!

Increase physical activity while reducing carbon emissions. Incorporate a daily stroll or bike trip in completing quick errands such as mailing a letter or picking up prescriptions.



Walk or Ride a Bike to Get Things Done

If you're a business owner or know local businesses, promote sustainable practices like reducing single-use plastics, adopting green shipping methods, or using energy-efficient lighting. Supporting green businesses creates a ripple effect that benefits air quality and sustainability.



Upgrade Your Home with Green Energy

Planning on making home improvements this year? Take the opportunity to install solar panels, request green power from your utility, or join a community choice aggregator.



Switch to a More Efficient Vehicle

If you're thinking about upgrading your car this year, explore cleaner options such as hybrid, near-zero, or zero-emission models. Automakers are offering more choices for different budgets, making it easier to reduce emissions and contribute to cleaner air in your community.