

**TITLE:** Cleaner Air Oregon Community Engagement: A Cross-Agency Collaboration

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**STUDENT SUBMISSION:** No

**TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE:** Policy makers, program developers and evaluators, researchers, government agencies, community-based organizations, advocacy groups

**ABSTRACT:** Cleaner Air Oregon (CAO) is a health-based air toxics regulatory program adopted in November 2018 to evaluate, communicate, and reduce potential health risks to people living and working near industrial facilities that emit regulated toxic air contaminants. One key component of CAO is a community engagement requirement for facilities with toxic air emissions above specified risk action levels. This rule is intended to tap community knowledge to inform risk assessments and ensure that consideration of health equity is emphasized throughout implementation of CAO. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is implementing CAO with support from the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), who will advise in toxicology, public health education, and community engagement. These agencies are closely collaborating to develop a Community Engagement Protocol that can be flexible and responsive to the needs of local communities for information and involvement in the CAO facility risk assessment and permitting processes. The Protocol is intended to promote meaningful engagement practices designed to meet the specific needs of each demographically, geographically, and economically diverse community. CAO community engagement is essential to effectively implement the program responsive to the unique needs of affected communities and consistent with expectations of policy makers and the public.

**OBJECTIVE(S):** Explain the history of Cleaner Air Oregon program development and origins of the community engagement requirements. Describe the process and rationale for developing the Community Engagement Protocol. Discuss lessons learned from the Community Engagement Protocol development and early Cleaner Air Oregon community engagement activities.

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