

TITLE: Blazing the Trail: A County's commitment to cleaner air for everyone, everywhere, all the time

AUTHOR(S): Nadège Dubuisson, MPH; John Wasiutynski; Brendon Haggerty, MURP; Andrea Hamberg

PRESENTER(S): Nadège Dubuisson, MPH

STUDENT SUBMISSION: No

TOPIC/TARGET AUDIENCE: Topic: Environmental Public Health, Policy and Systems Change, Collaboration and Collective Impact, Air Quality Target audiences: public health practitioners, policy makers, environmental health

ABSTRACT: This session will describe the policy development process culminating in an expansive air quality resolution and year-round wood smoke curtailment ordinance in Oregon's most populous County. Oregon has a reputation for being green, but people living in Multnomah County are at higher risk of cancer from air pollution than anywhere in the state. In 2012 a study on urban air toxics pollution in the Portland metropolitan region, 14 air toxics were identified as present in the air shed in excess of state established health based standards. The study modeled the distribution and risk from each pollutant and identified sources. Residential wood combustion was listed as the top priority among five priority source categories. In response, as the local public health authority, Multnomah County has enacted local-level program and policy solutions aimed at reducing emissions and ensuring cleaner air. A core responsibility of the Local Public Health Authority is to adopt ordinances necessary to administer any public health matter not expressly preempted by Oregon law.

OBJECTIVE(S): Participants will learn local strategies they can implement or advocate for to improve air quality. Participants will learn the power of effective governmental and community workgroup building to address public health issues. Participants will understand the health effects and impacts of wood smoke, based on the latest research.
