



Welcome to Lehigh Valley Breathes January 2024 update!

Since the press conference in August, the Lehigh Valley Breathes team has been hard at work calibrating and installing air monitors throughout the Valley. Twenty-seven monitors installed across Lehigh and Northampton counties will be viewable on the Shiny App by the end of the month.

While we're not done installing all 40 monitors, some preliminary data analysis shows variation in PM2.5 levels based on geographic location. For example, looking at the average daily levels of PM2.5 from the months of July to November, we see a difference of more than three micrograms per cubic meter of air between some centralized (high traffic) areas in the urban corridor of the Valley and more peripheral urban corridor locations. Additionally, for the months of September through November, our preliminary analysis of existing monitors shows that there are higher levels of average PM2.5 in areas that are proximate to roadways and warehouses than at our urban background sites.

One of the questions the LV Breathes project is designed to answer is, "Are there areas in the Counties that suffer disproportionately from air pollution?" This preliminary analysis would indicate that that is an appropriate question to ask and that the data we are collecting will likely lead to an accurate answer. This early data also shows that the readings throughout the Valley are not all identified by the two PA Department of Environmental Protection monitors in place at the beginning of the project. Each additional monitor we install expands the geographic specificity of the data we collect.

As we have explained previously, we will be collecting data for a full year through all four seasons and as much of a variety of weather conditions as possible. These findings are just a first peak, but they indicate we are headed in the right direction.

See You Next Month

That's it for this month. We'll be back again in February with more updated info. These updates will be posted on this webpage the last week of each month.

If you prefer to receive the updates by email, you can request to be added to the email list at lvbreathes@gmail.com.