

August Compendium of Events, News, Resources, and Research Results for ROCIS Stakeholders

The themes for Tom Phillips' August Compendium have included, but are not limited to, citizen science, EJ (environmental justice), coal and climate action. Click [here](#) to sign up for this monthly compendium, ROCIS event updates and briefs, and to learn more about the ROCIS stakeholder air quality initiative involving low cost monitoring and interventions.

In this compendium ...

EVENTS – REGIONAL AUDIENCE

- ✓ August 22, 2015 Making the Connection: Air Pollution and Autism
- ✓ August 27, 2015 Green Workplace Challenge Workshop: Air Quality

EVENTS – NATIONAL AUDIENCE

- ✓ September 17, 2015 Pollution Solution: Improving IAQ Through Source Control webinar
- ✓ September 16 - 18, 2015 Coming to Pittsburgh! LIVING PRODUCT EXPO, Inspiring a Materials Revolution
- ✓ October 7, 2015 Federal Interagency Committee on Indoor Air Quality (CIAQ)
- ✓ October 18 - 22, 2015 International Society of Exposure Science
- ✓ October 30, 2015 Abstracts due for 2016 National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program March 9 - 12, 2016
- ✓ October 31 - November 4, 2015 APHA 2015 Annual Meeting

REGIONAL NEWS

- ✓ Counting trucks in Newark – with results!
- ✓ Court orders EPA to relax limits for cross-state air pollution in 13 states, PA included
- ✓ 2015 Plan for a Healthier Allegheny (PHA) released
- ✓ Health items on Allegheny County Health Department July agenda
- ✓ Lawrenceville (PA) Toxic Metals Study released
- ✓ Air pollution violations continue at Shenango Coke Works

OTHER NEWS

- ✓ Children at risk from lead poisoning; fed enforcement lacking
- ✓ Cooling tower mist causes outbreak of Legionnaires' Disease in the South Bronx
- ✓ Energy efficiency: key strategy in EPA Clean Power Plan Rule
- ✓ EPA Clean Power Plan: implications for affordable multifamily housing
- ✓ As the nation turns away from coal, what do we owe coal workers?
- ✓ The book, *Coal Wars*
- ✓ \$1 Million from NIH to support air pollution monitoring by students

RESOURCES

- ✓ Children's Environmental Health information
- ✓ Citizen and student science tools and curricula: ozone, black carbon, CO₂
- ✓ Miss the July 9, 2015 Community Air Monitoring training?
- ✓ EPA Tools for Schools: IAQ & health webinars
- ✓ EPA Environmental Justice Blog
- ✓ Scholarships and other resources for PA environmental education
- ✓ 2015 EPA Vapor Intrusion Guidelines released
- ✓ Legionnaires' disease and cooling towers standards and guidelines

RESEARCH RESULTS

- ✓ International review: the carcinogenic potential of exposure to low doses and mixtures of chemicals
- ✓ GSA links high-performance building outcomes to integrated design
- ✓ Pollutant sensor research in Europe
- ✓ Climate change: Review of overheating of buildings, passive survivability, and indoor heat health indices
- ✓ Climate change impacts on U.S. indoor and outdoor air quality and health
- ✓ Epidemiological studies of wildfire impacts on health
- ✓ SENSIndoor: a new indoor VOC sensor R&D program in the EU

ABSTRACTS AND LINKS for above items

EVENTS

August 22, 2015 Making the Connection: Air Pollution and Autism

Presentation by Dr. Evelyn Talbott, University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health

4-7 PM, "Maren's House" in Squirrel Hill, Pittsburgh, PA [For more information](#)

August 27, 2015 Green Workplace Challenge Workshop: Air Quality

8-12 AM, UPMC East, Monroeville, PA

Discover what local leaders are doing to reduce air pollution impacts, save resources and money, and improve the quality of life in the region. ROCIS's Linda Wigington will participate in a panel discussion. [Register here](#)

September 17, 2015 Pollution Solution: Improving IAQ Through Source Control webinar

Part of IAQ Master Class Professional Training Webinar Series, EPA: ten 1-hour technical, core competency web-based training sessions designed to build the capacity of school district staff across the country to start, improve, or sustain an IAQ management program. Certificates and CEUs available. [Register here](#)

EVENTS, Continued

September 16 - 18, 2015 Coming to Pittsburgh! LIVING PRODUCT EXPO, Inspiring a Materials Revolution

David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh, PA

"The Expo is a groundbreaking new International event that will bring together leading minds in the product industry and ignite a revolution in the way materials are designed, manufactured, and delivered." ROCIS is represented in the "Impact of Airborne Toxins on Health" session which will tell the story about how airborne toxins from industrial and mobile sources overburden the southwestern Pennsylvania region, and initiatives designed to reduce that threat to building occupants. For information:

[Click here](#)

October 7, 2015 Federal Interagency Committee on Indoor Air Quality (CIAQ)

Quarterly webinars on agency activity updates, and guest speakers on current issues such as spray polyurethane foam insulation. Previous presentations are also posted.

Speaker proposals are being sought. <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/ciaq>

October 18 - 22, 2015 International Society of Exposure Science

Henderson, Nevada

Fracking, traffic, other outdoor pollutant sources, heat exposure, and pollutant monitoring will be addressed at this international conference.

<http://www.ises2015.org>, see Conference Program

October 30, 2015 Abstracts due for 2016 National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program March 9 - 12, 2016

A National Dialogue for Building Healthy Communities, Washington, DC [Call for abstracts](#)

October 31 - November 4, 2015 APHA 2015 Annual Meeting (American Public Health Association)

Chicago, IL

Sessions address community health, community health workers, climate change, environmental pollution, environmental justice, etc.

[Searchable Online Program](#)

REGIONAL NEWS

Counting trucks in Newark – with results!

Volunteers in Newark, New Jersey's low-income neighborhoods conduct a truck count every two years. This city has asthma rates three times the state average: the residential areas near the East Coast's busiest port are overrun by trucks. Community efforts resulted in agreements to reduce truck and port emissions and to fund citizen science (monitoring and training). [Read more](#) July 30, 2015

[EPA funds community-based monitoring and citizen training in Newark](#) March 14, 2015

[EPA & Port Authority agree to fund efforts to reduce truck emissions](#) July 28, 2015

Court orders EPA to relax limits for cross-state air pollution in 13 states, including Pennsylvania

[Read more](#) July 28, 2015

REGIONAL NEWS Continued

2015 Plan for a Healthier Allegheny (PHA) released

The five-year plan focuses on five priority areas, which include access to healthcare, chronic disease health risk behaviors, environment, maternal and child health, and mental health and substance abuse. Measurable goals are set forth and specific, actionable strategies identified.

[News release here](#)

[PHA, CHA, and an Indicators reports here](#) July 27, 2015

Health items on Allegheny County Health Department July agenda

Agenda items include the **Northgate Asthma Initiative**, the Healthier Allegheny update, **woodburning and health education**, and the housing program.

[Read more](#) July 7, 2015

Lawrenceville (PA) Toxic Metals Study released

[ACHD Report](#) July 1, 2015

Air pollution violations continue at Shenango Coke Works

The dismissal of a lawsuit to enforce air quality standards is under appeal.

[Link here](#) June 8, 2015

OTHER NEWS

Children at risk from lead poisoning; fed enforcement lacking

Feds rarely enforcing law that protects Maine homeowners and daycares from lead poisoning. "Thousands of Maine children and hundreds of thousands across the country are being exposed to poisonous lead paint because a federal law designed to protect them is barely being enforced." [4-part series](#) August 5 - 8, 2015

Cooling tower mist causes outbreak of Legionnaires' Disease in the South Bronx, NYC

Ten deaths and a total of 108 cases have been reported. The city is testing cooling towers, and has required cooling towers to be disinfected and maintenance plans for cooling towers to be submitted soon. The state is now offering free testing across the state for private buildings with cooling towers or evaporative coolers.

[NYC Health Alert](#) July 29, 2015

NY Times article [Missing the warnings](#) August 7, 2015

[NYC fact sheet and update on the city's response](#) August 8, 2015

Energy efficiency: key strategy in EPA Clean Power Plan Rule

The newly released *EPA Clean Power Plan* limits power plant emissions of CO₂ and encourages energy efficiency efforts. "Energy efficiency programs are generally two to three times cheaper to implement than generating power from traditional sources, and have additional benefits, such as lower utility bills for customers and businesses and local job creation, according to research from ACEEE. This is confirmed in EPA economic analysis, which shows energy efficiency as a key element in efforts to keep the cost of today's rule down."

[Read more](#) August 4, 2015

OTHER NEWS Continued

EPA Clean Power Plan: implications for affordable multifamily housing

Energy efficiency is one of the most cost effective methods of reducing carbon emissions. "A study of nine states commissioned by Energy Efficiency for All (EEFA) determined that electricity usage in affordable multifamily housing could be slashed by as much as a third. The study, *The Potential for Energy Savings in Affordable Multifamily Housing*, also found that the benefits from making affordable rental housing energy efficient will exceed the costs by as much as 3 to 1 ... "States should seize the moment and collaborate with utilities, communities, and affordable housing stakeholders to ensure multifamily energy efficiency is a state priority," concluded Mr. Bodaken. [Read more](#) August 3, 2015

As the nation turns away from coal, what do we owe coal workers?

The free market is not the only answer. "Slowly, tentatively, unions and environmentalists are beginning to talk about an entirely different option called Just Transition, a guarantee that the cost of bringing down the curtain on the coal industry will not be paid by coal workers alone, but will be spread across society. It would be a huge undertaking, ideally encompassing the tens of thousands of workers directly employed in coal, from mining to electric-power generation, plus the communities that depend on their spending and taxes."

[Don't be a Jerk](#) July/August 2015

The book, *Coal Wars*

Examining the future of energy and the fate of the planet from both sides. Pittsburgh Post-Gazette [book review here](#) July 19, 2015

\$1 Million from NIH to support air pollution monitoring by students

The National Institutes of Health funds Phase 2 of portable ozone monitoring, adding other pollutants. Phase I involved 4,000 students from more than 50 high schools, where they conducted more than 350 monitoring treks of ozone and black carbon in and near their communities. Phase 2 will use web-based mapping, real-time display, and data sharing.

Newsletters [here](#) July 2015

Project results from schools [here](#) Spring and [Summer](#) 2015

RESOURCES

Children's Environmental Health information

Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units are located in all regions of the U.S. These units are available to answer questions from healthcare professionals, parents, school officials, or other community members about children's symptoms that may be related to regionally specific environmental exposures, including exposures at schools.

[Learn more](#)

Citizen and student science tools and curricula: ozone, black carbon, CO₂

[Project GO₃](#)

RESOURCES Continued

Miss the July 9, 2015 **Community Air Monitoring** training?

EPA webinar on using low cost monitors by citizens and communities.
The podcast, slides, and resource materials from the webinar are posted [here](#)

EPA Tools for Schools: IAQ & health webinars

[Access webinars on demand here](#)

EPA Environmental Justice Blog

Updates, funding opportunities, and activities on the EJ 2020 Action Agenda
<http://environmentaljusticeblog.blogspot.com/>

Scholarships and other resources for PA environmental education

Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators. <http://www.paee.net/>
Scholarship application deadlines vary.

2015 EPA Vapor Intrusion Guidelines released

Updates on protecting buildings from soil gases. [Summary](#) July 22, 2015

Legionnaires' disease and cooling towers standards and guidelines

[Background health information](#) and related links.

Cooling tower drift management, best practices: Cooling Tower Institute, 2008,
Legionellosis Guideline: Best Practices for Control of Legionella (WTP-148)
[OSHA guidelines for workplaces](#)

RESEARCH RESULTS

International review: the carcinogenic potential of exposure to low doses and mixtures of chemicals

A major review of cancer prevention and causes focused on environmental exposures, chemical mixtures, interactive immune effects, low dose effects such as genomic instability, and research needs. A special issue on cancer prevention will be published this summer. [News article](#) August 2015
[Journal editorial and articles](#) Open Access (free)

GSA links high-performance building outcomes to integrated design

Recent retrofits of three federal buildings using an integrated (collaborative) design process had improved building performance and project team engagement and collaboration. The University of Minnesota report concluded that the General Services Administration should continue to pursue collaborative project delivery and adopt some integrated processes—such as quality-based procurement and team selection—as standards. [Read more](#) July 2015

Pollutant sensor research in Europe

Publications, presentations, and newsletters are available for multinational research and demonstration projects. <http://www.eunetair.it/>
http://www.cost.eu/media/cost_stories/EuNetAir
[Presentation](#) EuroNanoForum, June 2015

RESEARCH RESULTS Continued

Climate change: Review of overheating of buildings, passive survivability, and indoor heat health indices

Holmes et al., [read more](#), 2015. (copy available on request)
Presentation at [National Adaptation Forum](#), Seth Holmes, May 2015

Climate change impacts on U.S. indoor and outdoor air quality and health

APHA (American Public Health Association) 2015 (abstracts)
Sarofim et al., [Indoor & Outdoor Air Quality Modeling, Lyme Disease Modeling](#)
Limaye and Patz, [Interactive Modeling Ozone and Extreme Heat Impact on Mortality in Eastern U.S.](#)
Sarofim et al., [Projected Heat and Cold Deaths in 209 Cities](#)

Epidemiological studies of wildfire impacts on health

Liu et al., 2015. [Review](#) (also see Related Studies links)
Thalen et al., 2013 [San Diego fire impacts](#)

SENSIndoor: a new indoor VOC sensor R&D program in the EU

The program started in 2014, and aims to develop novel nanotechnology based intelligent sensor systems for selective monitoring of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). The primary application of the sensors will be to control ventilation systems in indoor environments. Initial results indicate parts per billion sensitivity for some VOCs. Publications, presentations, and newsletters are available [here](#)

That's it for the August Compendium! The ROCIS 2015-16 activity update is up next.

Please send us event information, news, resources, research results for next month's compendium. Visit the ROCIS website for current and past compendiums, as well as the ROCIS white papers, and archives from meetings and webinars.

Cheers,
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