

## ***September Compendium of Events, News, Resources, and Research Results for ROCIS Stakeholders***

The themes for Tom Phillips' September "Back to School" Compendium include, but are not limited to, schools and EJ (environmental justice). 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**

- ✓ September 24, 2015. Making the Connection: Air Pollution and Physical Activity
- ✓ (Ongoing). Make My Trip Count: Pittsburgh Commuter Survey
- ✓ October 6, 2015. Green Roof Walking Tour: Oakland
- ✓ November 12, 2015. Written public comments are due on Clean Power Plan for Pennsylvania

#### **EVENTS – NATIONAL AUDIENCE**

- ✓ September 29, 2015. National Forum on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Communities of Color
- ✓ October 2, 2015. Green Schools Conference- Proposals Due
- ✓ October 3, 20, 27, 2015. Webinars on High Performance Schools: Introduction, Verification, Operations Report Card
- ✓ October 6, 2015. Healthy Homes and Communities Webinar Series: Can housing and community development really improve health outcomes?
- ✓ October 6 - 8, 2015. EEBA Excellence in Building Conference
- ✓ October 7, 2015. Federal Interagency Committee on Indoor Air Quality (CIAQ)
- ✓ October 14 - 15, 2015. California Asthma Summit 2015
- ✓ October 18 - 22, 2015. International Society of Exposure Science
- ✓ October 18 - 20, 2015. American Planning Association – 2015 Annual Conference: Making Great Communities
- ✓ October 30, 2015. Abstracts due for 2016 National Environmental Justice Conference and Training Program March 9 - 12, 2016
- ✓ October 31 - Nov. 4, 2015. American Public Health Association's Annual Meeting
- ✓ November 2, 2015. Abstracts due. IAQ 2016: Defining Indoor Air Quality: Policy, Standards and Best Practices

#### **REGIONAL NEWS**

- ✓ Allegheny County Health Department tells Shenango to fix problems at Neville Island coke plant
- ✓ County orders Neville Island Coke Plant to Address Emissions
- ✓ Photographs show the sorry picture of Pittsburgh Air Pollution
- ✓ Interactive Air Quality Maps of Allegheny County

#### **OTHER NEWS**

- ✓ School Indoor Air Quality Assessments Go Mobile
- ✓ Be just. Be green. Be real. Green the Church Summit
- ✓ Baltimore and national leaders to call for healthier and safer homes, to help children stay healthy and succeed in school
- ✓ Cyclists Wear Sensors to Study NYC Air Pollution Exposures
- ✓ Duke Energy Corp. to Reduce Emissions from Power Plants in NC, Fund Environmental Projects
- ✓ UTEP Study Links Air Pollution to Children's Low GPAs

## **OTHER NEWS – Continued**

- ✓ Pay For Success Initiatives promotes healthy homes in 21 cities; Austin collaborative joins
- ✓ EPA awards IAQ, climate change, and health research grants to 9 universities, including wildfire, extreme heat and cold, ventilation, and weatherization topics
- ✓ Free tool for mapping traffic related air quality, urban heat island index, and demographics

### ***Wildfires and Air Pollution***

- ✓ Smoke From Hundreds of Wildfires in Canada Streams South Across Much of Central U.S.
- ✓ Smoke Gets in Your Eyes (From Distant Flames)
- ✓ Smoky air from Northern California wildfires concerns Bay Area, triggers alerts
- ✓ Record heat and bad air hit Modesto area; football game moved
- ✓ People living with wildfire smoke can measure air quality on their own -- Visibility Index
- ✓ Wildfire size and numbers break US record for summer

## **RESOURCES**

- ✓ *School Technical & Financial Toolkit, nZEB renovation for Mediterranean schools*
- ✓ *Recognition, Evaluation, and Control of Legionella in Building Water Systems.*
- ✓ *Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance Hospitals Strategic Energy Management (SEM) Initiative: Market Transformation and Lasting Impact.*
- ✓ *DOE Small Business Voucher Pilot.*

## **RESEARCH RESULTS**

- ✓ Advancing a multidisciplinary research framework on school environment, occupant health, and performance.
- ✓ Can changing the timing of outdoor air intake reduce indoor concentrations of traffic-related pollutants in schools?
- ✓ Residential exposure to air toxics is linked to lower grade point averages among school children
- ✓ Do Classroom Ventilation Rates in California Elementary Schools Influence Standardized Test Scores? Results from a Prospective Study
- ✓ Ambient Heat and Sudden Infant Death: A Case - Crossover Study Spanning 30 years in Montreal, Canada.
- ✓ Mapping the effects of urban heat island, housing, and age on excess heat-related mortality in London
- ✓ Personal exposure monitoring of PM2.5 in indoor and outdoor microenvironments (Dylos PM monitor pilot study).
- ✓ Human Exposure to Unconventional Natural Gas Development: A public health demonstration of periodic high exposure to chemical mixtures in ambient air.
- ✓ Particulate organic nitrates observed in an oil and natural gas production region during wintertime.
- ✓ Part 1. Assessment of carcinogenicity and biologic responses in rats after lifetime inhalation of new-technology diesel exhaust in the ACES bioassay.
- ✓ Spatio-temporal variations of ozone and nitrogen dioxide concentrations under urban trees and in a nearby open area.
- ✓ An assessment of the potential for co-exposure to allergenic pollen and air pollution in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- ✓ *In vitro* and *in vivo* toxicity of urban and rural particulate matter from California.
- ✓ Studies of air leakage testing and energy efficient retrofits in Canada (some studies in progress).

## ABSTRACTS AND LINKS for above items

### EVENTS – REGIONAL AUDIENCE

#### **September 24, 2015 Making the Connection: Air Pollution and Physical Activity**

Allegheny General Hospital. Dr. Tegan Boehmer, epidemiologist, CDC's Healthy Community Design Initiative, and Dr. Albert Presto, Carnegie Mellon University. [For more information.](#)

#### **(Ongoing). Make My Trip Count: Pittsburgh Commuter Survey**

To help improve your commute and improve the environment, take this survey if you commute by any mode in the Pittsburgh region. Especially if you make regular trips into Downtown, Oakland, and the North Shore. [Take this survey.](#)

#### **October 6, 2015. Green Roof Walking Tour: Oakland**

Green Building Alliance. [Register here.](#)

#### **November 12, 2015. Written public comments are due on Clean Power Plan for Pennsylvania**

The PA DEP is hosting a "listening session" at Carnegie Mellon University on Sept. 21, to take comments from the public on how PA should craft its plan to reduce carbon pollution from power plants to meet the Clean Power Plan's goals and requirements. The federal plan also allows investments in energy efficiency in multifamily homes. [For more information.](#)

### EVENTS – NATIONAL AUDIENCE

#### **September 29, 2015. National Forum on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Communities of Color**

Washington, DC. [For more information.](#)

#### **October 2, 2015, proposals due. Green Schools Conference**

Pittsburgh, PA. March 31 – April 1, 2016. The Green Schools Conference & Expo (GCSE) brings together green schools thought-leaders and champions, connecting educators, school administrators, non-profit and corporate partners, and elected officials to advance the shared mission of green schools for all within this generation. [For more information.](#)

#### **October 3, 20, 27, 2015. Webinars on High Performance Schools: Introduction, Verification, Operations Report Card**

Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS). Presentation on best practices for inspecting school faculties and operations: [View the presentation.](#)

#### **October 6, 2015. Healthy Homes and Communities Webinar Series: Can housing and community development really improve health outcomes?**

Part 2 of 6: Healthy Homes. Next in series: Nov. 3 and Dec. 1. [View previous webinars.](#)

#### **October 6 - 8, 2015. EEBA Excellence in Building Conference**

Denver, CO. Multiple sessions address IAQ, energy efficiency, ventilation, air sealing, etc. in homes. [For more information.](#)

## EVENTS – NATIONAL AUDIENCE - Continued

### **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. [For more information.](#)

### **October 14 - 15, 2015. California Asthma Summit 2015**

Los Angeles, CA. <http://www.calasthmasummit.org/>. University of Pittsburgh will be represented by Anna Marsland, Ph.D., R.N. "A School-Based Stress Management Intervention for 8-14 Year-Olds with Persistent Asthma".

### **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.

[View Conference Program.](#)

### **October 18 - 20, 2015. American Planning Association –2015 Annual Conference: Making Great Communities**

Pittsburgh. [For more information.](#)

### **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. American Public Health Association's Annual Meeting**

Chicago, IL. [For more information.](#)

### **November 2, 2015. Abstracts due. IAQ 2016: Defining Indoor Air Quality: Policy, Standards and Best Practices**

ASHRAE and AIVC. Alexandria, VA. [For more information.](#)

## REGIONAL NEWS

### **Allegheny County Health Department tells Shenango to fix problems at Neville Island coke plant.**

September 8, 2015. [Read the article.](#)

[View monitoring results.](#)

### **County tells Neville Island coke plant to address emissions.**

September 10, 2015. [Read the article.](#)

**Photographs that show the sorry picture of Pittsburgh air pollution.** September 15, 2015. ["In the Air: Visualizing What We Breathe,"](#) at Pittsburgh Filmmakers in North Oakland, attempts to raise our consciousness about the progress we have yet to make. The exhibit ends February 26. [For more information.](#)

## REGIONAL NEWS - Continued

**Interactive air quality maps are available for Allegheny County.** May 10, 2015. The current interactive maps Breathe Project's website only allow people to find averages for black carbon and nitrogen dioxides, at the neighborhood level. CMU's plan is to add more pollutants as the maps become available, and eventually help translate measurements to health risks and identify the contributing sources of pollution. [Read the article.](#) [For more information.](#)

## OTHER NEWS

**School Indoor Air Quality Assessments Go Mobile.** August 12, 2015.

EPA developed a mobile app to help schools carry out IAQ programs and to help schools to conduct regular and thorough assessments to ensure their schools are safe and productive places to learn. [For more information.](#)

**Be just. Be green. Be real. Green the Church Summit.** September 16, 2015.

For three days in August, faith leaders, green innovators, and hundreds of church members were brought together for worship, community-building, discussion, and action. Sponsored by Green For All and the U.S. Green Building Council, [Read more.](#)  
More info and tools: Green the Church, [http://www.greenforall.org/green\\_the\\_church](http://www.greenforall.org/green_the_church).

**Baltimore and national leaders to call for healthier and safer homes, to help children stay healthy and succeed in school.** August 25, 2015. HUD announced a \$4M grant for removing lead and other safety hazards in Baltimore homes. GHFI unveiled a new smartphone tool, the "My Healthy Home" app, teaches families how to identify hazards in the home that may make them sick. [For more information.](#)

**Cyclists Wear Sensors to Study NYC Air Pollution Exposures.**

September 14, 2015. Columbia University researchers are attempting to measure bicyclists' exposure, inhaled dose, heart rate, and breathing rates to measure inhaled dose to air pollution. [For more information.](#)

**Duke Energy Corp. to Reduce Emissions from Power Plants in NC, Fund Environmental Projects.**

September 10, 2015. [For more information.](#)

**UTEP Study Links Air Pollution to Children's Low GPAs.**

September 3, 2015. [For more information.](#)

**Pay For Success Initiatives promotes healthy homes in 21 cities; Austin collaborative joins. Social Innovation Fund resources are used to achieve cost effective reduction of asthma impacts in children.**

Healthy Homes, Happy Families, III (II), Aug. 2015, p. 3. [Read more.](#)

Pay For Success: [For more information.](#)

**EPA awards IAQ, climate change, and health research grants to 9 universities, including wildfire, extreme heat and cold, ventilation, and weatherization topics.**

August 11, 2015. [For more information.](#)

## OTHER NEWS - Continued

### **Free tool for mapping traffic related air quality, urban heat island index, and demographics is available.**

Portland State University has developed the free The Trees and Health app. It "delivers a neighborhood-by-neighborhood map of tree cover for 13 U.S. cities (*including Pittsburgh*) and easy-to-use tools to view and analyze factors including demographic data, traffic-related air quality, and urban heat island index. The website offers a framework for prioritizing at-risk neighborhoods and then estimating the number of trees necessary to make a positive impact on the lives of residents."

[Read More.](#), August 3, 2015. [For more information.](#)

### **(WILDFIRES and AIR POLLUTION)**

#### **Smoke From Hundreds of Wildfires in Canada Streams South Across Much of Central U.S.**

June 29, 2015. [For more information.](#)

#### **Smoke Gets in Your Eyes (From Distant Flames).**

August 2015. [For more information.](#)

#### **Smoky air from Northern California wildfires concerns Bay Area, triggers alerts.**

August 16, 2015. [For more information.](#)

#### **Record heat and bad air hit Modesto area; football game moved.**

September 11, 2015. [For more information.](#)

#### **People living with wildfire smoke can measure air quality on their own -- Visibility Index.**

August 20, 2015. [For more information.](#)

#### **Wildfire size and numbers break US record for summer.**

August 2015. [For more information.](#)

## RESOURCES

### ***School Technical & Financial Toolkit, nZEB renovation for Mediterranean schools.***

Interactive information on appropriate techniques and financial resources and mechanisms to implement nearly Zero-Energy Buildings. It includes high energy and indoor environment goals. Case studies and training are provided. European Commission, February 2015. [For more information.](#)

### ***Recognition, Evaluation, and Control of Legionella in Building Water Systems.***

Guidance for industrial hygienists and other occupational and environmental health and safety (OEHS) professionals on best practices for assessing building water systems before disease occurs. Air and Industrial Hygiene Association, August 10, 2015. [For more information.](#)

### ***Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance Hospitals Strategic Energy Management (SEM) Initiative: Market Transformation and Lasting Impact***

Hughes and Price, 2015. Making the business case: the authors recommended highlighting the cost savings, along with non-energy motivations such as improved comfort and health, community and corporate responsibility, and executives' competitive nature and legacy.

[For more information.](#)

## RESOURCES - Continued

### ***DOE Small Business Voucher Pilot.***

There will be \$20 million in technical assistance vouchers from national laboratories, ranging from \$50-300k per small business. Research areas: Advanced Manufacturing, Bio-Energy, Buildings, Fuel Cells, Geothermal, Solar, Water, Wind and Vehicles. Applications period opens September 23, 2015. [For more information.](#)

## RESEARCH RESULTS

**Advancing a multidisciplinary research framework on school environment, occupant health, and performance.** Magzamen et al., October 2015. Indoor Air (free). [For more information.](#)

**Can changing the timing of outdoor air intake reduce indoor concentrations of traffic-related pollutants in schools?** MacNeil et al., 2015, Indoor Air, in press. [For more information.](#)

**Residential exposure to air toxics is linked to lower grade point averages among school children in El Paso, Texas, USA.** Clark-Reyna et al., 2015. [For more information.](#)

**Do Classroom Ventilation Rates in California Elementary Schools Influence Standardized Test Scores? Results from a Prospective Study.** Mendell et al., 2015. Indoor Air, in press. [For more information.](#)

**Ambient Heat and Sudden Infant Death: A Case - Crossover Study Spanning 30 years in Montreal, Canada.**

Auger et al., 2015. Env. Health Perspectives. [For more information.](#)

**Mapping the effects of urban heat island, housing, and age on excess heat-related mortality in London.**

Taylor et al., 2015. Urban Climate, in press, online. [For more information.](#)

**Personal exposure monitoring of PM<sub>2.5</sub> in indoor and outdoor microenvironments (Dylos PM monitor pilot study).**

Steinle et al., 2015. Sci. of the Total Env. [For more information.](#)

**Human Exposure to Unconventional Natural Gas Development: A public health demonstration of periodic high exposure to chemical mixtures in ambient air.** Brown et al., 2015. J Environ Sci Health A Tox Hazard Subst Environ Eng. [For more information.](#) (Additional reports and presentations on shale gas development are available [here.](#) )

**Particulate organic nitrates observed in an oil and natural gas production region during wintertime.**

Lee et al. 2015. [For more information.](#)

**Part 1. Assessment of carcinogenicity and biologic responses in rats after lifetime inhalation of new-technology diesel exhaust in the ACES bioassay.**

MacDonald et al. 2015. Res Rep Health Eff Inst. [For more information.](#)

## RESEARCH RESULTS - Continued

**Spatio-temporal variations of ozone and nitrogen dioxide concentrations under urban trees and in a nearby open area.**

Fantozzi et al. 2015. Urban Climate, [For more information.](#)

**An assessment of the potential for co-exposure to allergenic pollen and air pollution in Copenhagen, Denmark.**

Ørby et al., 2015. Urban Climate, in press. [For more information.](#) See also: Recommended Article links.

***In vitro* and *in vivo* toxicity of urban and rural particulate matter from California.**

Mirovsky, et al. 2015. Atmos. Env. [For more information.](#)

**Various studies of air leakage testing and energy efficient retrofits in Canada (some studies in progress).**

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, Agency Report to the CHBA Technical Research Committee, October 2014. [For more information.](#)

### ***That's it for the September Compendium!***

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,  
Tom and Linda

Thomas J. Phillips, Healthy Building Research  
ROCIS Technical Lead (Commercial & Multifamily Buildings, Schools)  
(California Air Resources Board - Ret.)  
835 A St., Davis, CA 95616  
530-756-6605 (office); 530-220-4854 (mobile)  
[tjp835@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tjp835@sbcglobal.net); [www.1000HomeChallenge.org](http://www.1000HomeChallenge.org)

Linda Wigington  
Project Lead | Reducing Outdoor Contaminants in Indoor Spaces (ROCIS)  
Linda M. Wigington & Associates | Thousand Home Challenge  
[lwigington1@outlook.com](mailto:lwigington1@outlook.com)  
724-852-3085 (office), 724-986-0793 (mobile)  
<http://ROCIS.org>; [www.1000HomeChallenge.org](http://www.1000HomeChallenge.org)