

# Why monitor air quality?

## It's a public health priority in our region



The Franklin County/North Quabbin Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) set a goal for increasing local public health's access to data on air quality in our region over the next five years to prepare for additional wildfire impacts. State-run air quality monitoring is spaced far apart for regional coverage, and our rural towns and residents need better data.

## Data can inform healthy decisions



Air quality data from sensors helps people stay safer by limiting outdoor time when airborne particulate matter and fine particle pollution levels are high in their neighborhoods. People most at risk from unsafe air quality include those with heart disease, asthma and/or lung disease; pregnant people; children; and older adults. (Source: American Lung Assn.)

## It's easy to do: Set it up and watch results!



Thanks to grants from the MA Dept. of Environmental Protection, no-cost sensors were provided to local towns and school systems. These sensors join the Healthy Air Network, which monitors air quality in our region – where our residents can watch it in real time – and contributes to the national data included in weather apps.

See local, real-time air quality and what it means:  
**Healthy Air Network at [healthyairnetwork.org](https://healthyairnetwork.org) and [purpleair.com](https://purpleair.com)**



### Project Collaborators:

Cooperative Public Health Service, North Quabbin Public Health Collaborative, and Valley Health Regional Collaborative  
Town of Montague, Public Health Institute of Western MA, Hitchcock Center for the Environment, MA Dept of Environmental Protection  
Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for FC/NQ

