

# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROJECT

DEFENDING PUBLIC HEALTH SINCE 2012

environmentalhealthproject.org

## MEDIA ADVISORY

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### **EHP's Latest HealthWatch Cohort Seeks Applicants from West Virginia** *Communities faced with shale gas (fracking) pollution encouraged to apply*

The [Environmental Health Project](#) (EHP) is seeking communities from northern West Virginia for its latest HealthWatch cohort. Communities meeting certain threshold requirements have the opportunity to learn more about their air quality, how they can reduce residents' exposure to harmful pollution, and how they can better advocate for health protections from policy makers. This cohort is especially designed for communities impacted by shale gas development (fracking) and related infrastructure, such as compressor stations and pipelines.

#### **What Is HealthWatch?**

The Environmental HealthWatch Model (HealthWatch) helps communities better understand the local health impacts of shale gas development. Through analysis of air quality data and local health risk factors, HealthWatch can equip communities with information they need to better protect their health. Over one year of air quality monitoring, participating communities learn how to reduce their exposure to harmful pollution and more effectively advocate for health protections by engaging elected officials, regulators, and site operators. Successful projects with community interest and available funding may be eligible for ongoing support in subsequent years.

#### **General Eligibility**

The new cohort will start this summer, and applications are being accepted until April 30, 2025, at 7 p.m. Communities interested in applying can take a quick, [5-question eligibility form](#) to see if HealthWatch would be a good fit for the community.

For more information on HealthWatch or if a community is unsure about whether their community is eligible, contact Talor Musil, EHP Field Manager, at 412-866-4525 or [tmusil@environmentalhealthproject.org](mailto:tmusil@environmentalhealthproject.org)

#### **Components of HealthWatch Provided by Environmental Health Project**

- An air quality monitor network recording real-time levels of:
  - Fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>)

- Total volatile organic compounds (tVOCs)
- Access to EHP's AirView app for real-time analysis of monitor network data (initial training sessions and ongoing tech support included)
- Comprehensive air quality reports for the community at large and each individual monitoring site
- Recommendations for policy changes that protect public health, based on local conditions and concerns
- Strategies for residents to reduce their risk from exposure to harmful pollutants
- A community-wide meeting to share project findings and recommendations

### **Requirements for Participating Communities**

Communities participating in HealthWatch must meet the following requirements:

- Have an existing or proposed oil or gas-related infrastructure in or near the community, with priority given to shale gas infrastructure
- Secure willing air quality monitor hosts (all hosts are required to sign a waiver)
- At least four locations within 2 miles of the site of concern (preferably in different directions) willing to host monitors on their property
- Equipment must be mounted to a structure with access to a power supply and Wi-Fi Internet
- Willing volunteers to fill project support roles (all volunteers are required to sign a waiver)
- Community liaison (approx. 40 hours): communicate about project within the community, coordinate with monitor site hosts
- Technical liaison (approx. 40 hours): conduct air quality monitor setup and maintenance (training included), share findings from AirView with community
- Established channels for community engagement
- Community-based organization (501(c)3 preferred) as a program contact to sign the participation agreement, coordinate volunteers, and promote the program
- Community members interested in this issue and able to volunteer time throughout the project, which spans approximately 18 months with preparation, monitoring, and wrap-up

### ***About the Environmental Health Project***

The [Environmental Health Project](#) (EHP) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that defends public health in the face of shale gas development. EHP provides frontline communities with timely monitoring, interpretation, and guidance while engaging diverse stakeholders: health professionals, researchers, community organizers, public servants, and others.

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