

Wildfire Smoke – Staying Informed

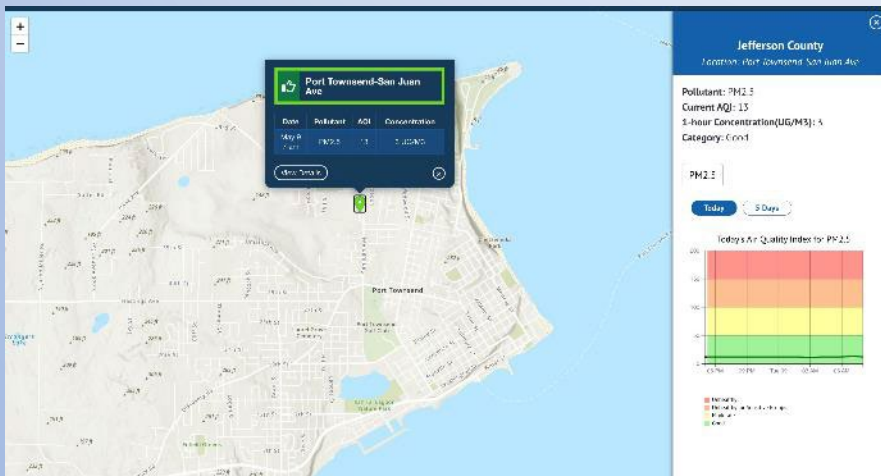
Using local, regional, and national air quality monitoring networks



Olympic Region Clean Air Agency



- ORCAA maintains permanent air quality monitoring stations in each of our six counties.
- Port Townsend's AQ monitor is located on the roof of Blue Heron Middle School



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ORCAA OLYMPIC REGION CLEAN AIR AGENCY

Air Quality Burning Asbestos/Demo For Business Public Resources About Search Q

Current Air Quality

Select a County:

Clallam

GOOD 0 - 50 23

See Current Air Quality Map for our Region

I Would Like to...

Make a Payment File a Complaint File an Asbestos / Demolition Notification Check Public Records Get a Residential Burn Permit View recent permit notifications

Current Burn Ban Status

Not in effect for Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Pacific, Thurston

Mission:

ORCAA promotes air quality and takes actions that protect the health and welfare of people and the natural environment in the agency's six-county jurisdiction (Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Pacific, and Thurston Counties).

ORCAA's air monitoring network

Data are used to:

- Evaluate compliance with National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)
- Provide current air quality conditions to the public
- Issue regional burn bans

One permanent PM2.5 air monitor station in each of ORCAA's 6 counties

- Located in populated areas
- Not too close to any one air pollution source
- The Makah and Quinault tribes operate their own air monitoring stations

Cheeka Peak is a federally funded site and is part of the national NCORE network (ORCAA after 2011 and run by UW 1984 – 2011)

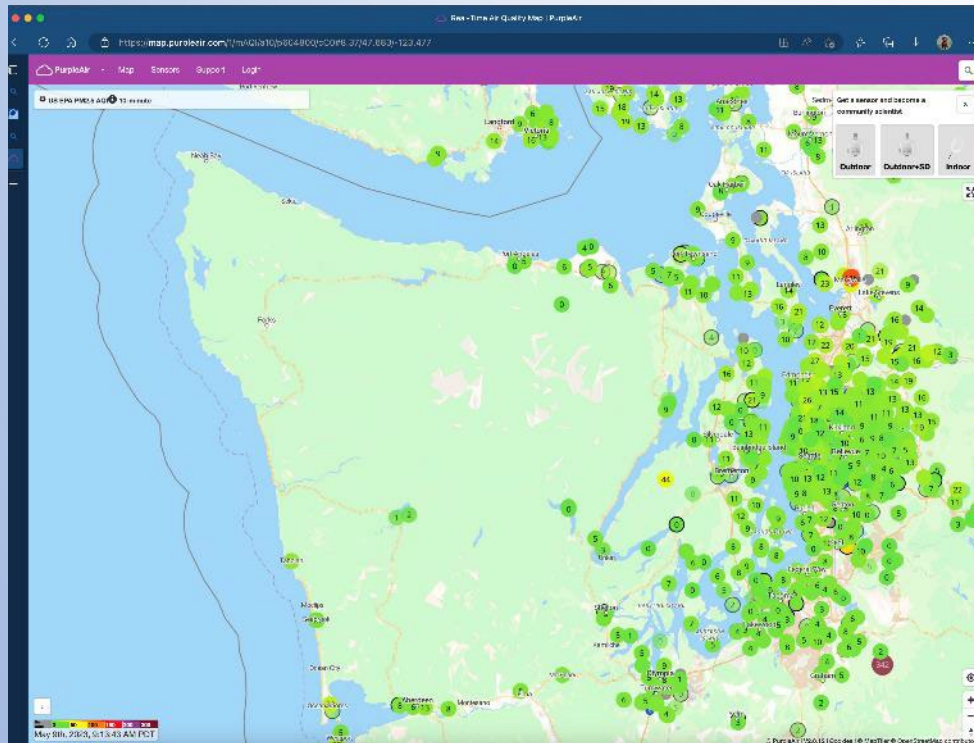


Other Monitoring Networks



- Purple Air personal air monitoring network

[Real-Time Air Quality Map | PurpleAir](https://map.purpleair.com/)

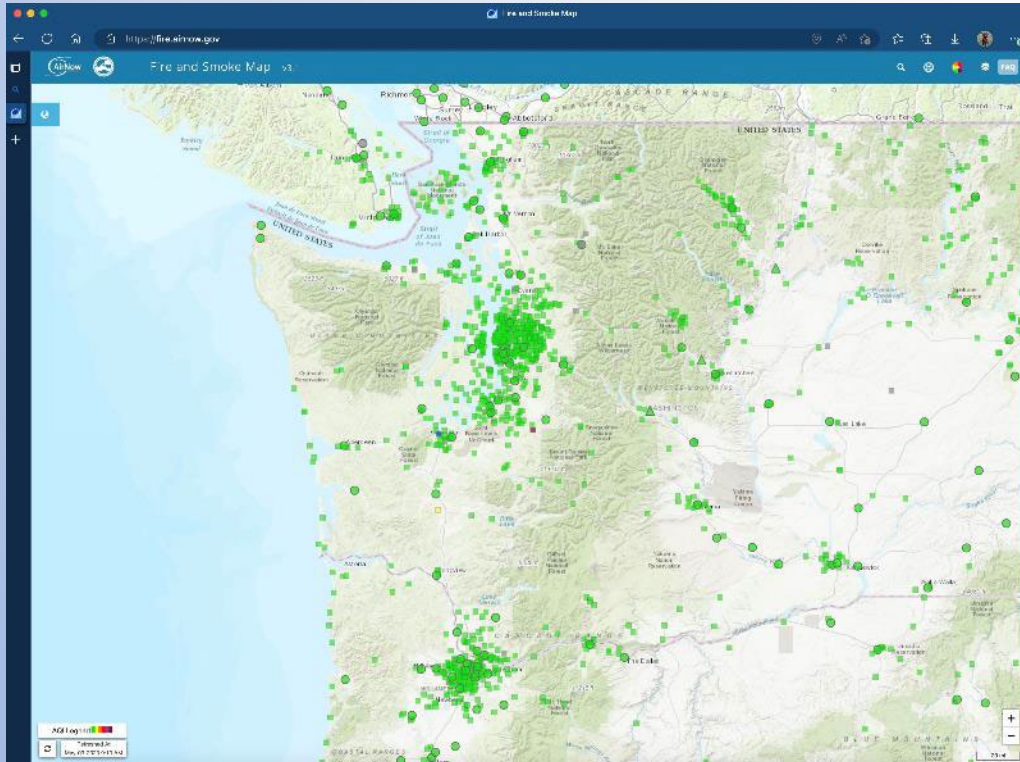


- In the last few years, low-cost particle sensors have become publicly available.
 - Easy to install and can provide reasonably accurate air quality data.
- The Purple Air sensor is currently the sensor most used by residents in our region.
- PurpleAir PM2.5 data tracks well with the federally approved air monitors, **but they consistently overpredict PM2.5 by a factor of ~2**
 - EPA has developed a correction factor for the PurpleAir sensors.
 - Apply this correction directly on the PurpleAir map or visit fire.airnow.gov where the correction has been automatically applied.

Other Monitoring Networks



- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
[Fire and Smoke Map \(fire.airnow.gov\)](https://fire.airnow.gov)



- This is a national map that includes not only all 'official' agency air quality monitoring stations but also the Purple Air personal air quality monitors <https://fire.airnow.gov/>
- The EPA Correction factor has been automatically applied to the PurpleAir devices on this map.

Other Sources of Information



[Washington Smoke Blog \(wasmoke.blogspot.com\)](https://wasmoke.blogspot.com)

provides the latest information on current air quality conditions and smoke forecasts so you know what to expect.

[Be Smoke Ready: Learn how to deal with smoke when it arrives – www.orcaa.org](https://www.orcaa.org)

If you live in an area where the wildfire risk is high, take steps now to prepare for fire season. Being prepared for fire season is especially important for the health of children, older adults, and people with heart or lung disease.

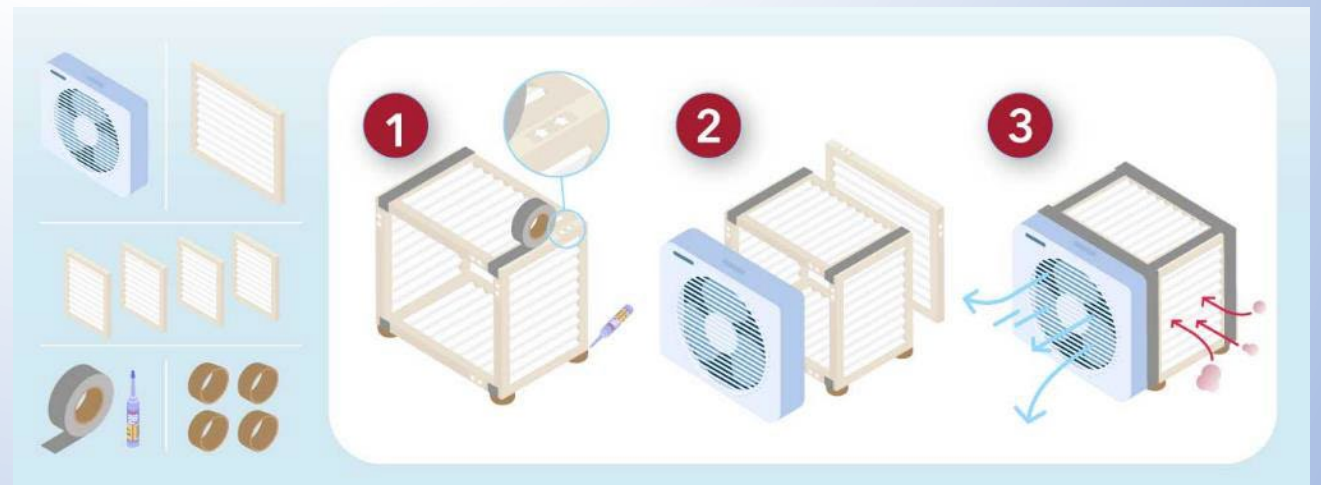
A screenshot of the Washington Smoke Information website. The page has a dark blue header with navigation tabs: LATEST INFORMATION, MONITORING & FORECASTING, FIRE INFORMATION, HEALTH INFORMATION, CONTACT INFORMATION, EN ESPAÑOL, NWS WEATHER ALERTS, and LOCAL SMOKE OUTLOOKS. The main content area features a blog post titled "So long 2022 wildfire smoke season: See you in 2023!". The post text discusses the end of the 2022 wildfire season and provides recommendations for the off-season, including monitoring and forecasting, contact information, NWS weather alerts, and health recommendations. It also mentions winter air quality burn bans and provides a link to a video titled "How to make your own clean air filter". On the right side of the page, there is a "QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?" section and a "NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WATCHES, WARNINGS & ADVISORIES" section with a map of Washington state.

Do It Yourself (DIY) Air Filters

The safest and most effective DIY Box Fan Filters use multiple filters set up in a cube configuration around the intake side of the box fan – this method is called a [Corsi-Rosenthal Box](#).

In DIY projects, to maximize filtration, choose a high-efficiency filter, preferably rated Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV) 13 or higher, and align the arrows on the filter with the direction of the airflow through the fan. Try to get a good seal between the fan and the filter.

<https://cleanaircrew.org/box-fan-filters/>



Thank You!



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