Improving Health in Communities Near Highways

Northeast Sustainable Energy Association

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POLLUTION CONCENTRATION

Point-Based Results



PREDICTABLE, YET DYNAMIC



- Pollution concentration varies daily and weekly
- Highest pollution concentration at rush hour

HOW DOES THIS APPLY TO MY PROJECT?

- Conduct a site analysis to determine the main sources of pollution
- Consider solutions that can protect the most people





A PATH FORWARD

Kresge Project research support and implementation has focused on:

Working with Developers

Municipal Regulation

Legislation

ACTIONS & ADVOCACY

Working with Developers

- Moving housing and parks outside of buffer zones,
- Installing more effective filtration,
 - Placement of outside air intake grills.

ACTIONS & ADVOCACY

City of Somerville

- Potential addition to updated city-wide zoning aimed at reducing occupant exposure to vehicle-generated pollution.
- Setting performance goals for buildings inside buffer zones,
- Defining testing protocol for compliance.

ACTIONS & ADVOCACY

Proposed Healthy Breathing Act

- Considers fine and ultra-fine particulate,
- Requires siting of publicly funded residential or sensitive buildings outside of defined buffer zones,
- And/or mitigation and testing.



POLLUTION MITIGATION TACTICS

Improving Health in Communities Near Highways

Design Solutions from a Charrette



Report compiled national research and categorized solutions

Solutions reduce exposure from 10-80%

Why do these solutions matter?

- Reduces exposure
- Reduces health risk

VEGETATIVE / BUILT WALL BARRIERS

Pollution Reduction Potential: 10-50%









LAND USE BUFFERS

Pollution Reduction Potential: 40%



AIR INLET LOCATIONS



FILTRATION

Pollution Reduction Potential: **10-80%** (depending on MERV Filters 4-16)





COMBINED SOLUTIONS



GLUMAC SHANGHAI OFFICE

- <u>Health Petal Goal:</u> Maintain indoor air quality in a city that reports harmful air pollution levels
- At times, PM2.5 is measured at 250 ug/m³
- (WELL Building standard must be below 15 ug/m³
- Building employs 3 stage filtration system to achieve 50 ug/m³
 - 1: MERV 8 filter
 - 2: Electrostatic
 - 3: MERV 15 filter

Source:

http://www.glumac.com/announcements/2-new-steps-for-sustainability-glumacbrings-the-living-building-challenge-to-asia-and-our-shanghai



Key Questions

- What does the best possible filtration system look like?
 - How can we increase filtration of air while reducing energy demand?
- How can we deal with operable windows and interior pollution sources?