

Larimer County Department of Health & Environment

Air Quality Actions August, 2022

The Larimer County Department of Health and Environment (LCDHE) is committed to improving air quality in Larimer County. LCDHE recently recommended four tangible actions to improve air quality. These recommendations were unanimously approved by the Larimer County Board of Health and the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) approved the financial support needed to carry out the actions. The actions include:

ACTION	COST	TIMELINE	PARTNERSHIPS	IMPACT
1. Allocate funding to Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) for Larimer County residents to participate in the Mow Down initiative.	\$40,000 (\$150 each for 250 participants)	Pilot in 4th Quarter 2022, full program 2nd Quarter 2023	LCDHE, RAQC, LC Climate Smart	Decrease emissions from nonpoint sources that are known to contribute to ground-level ozone.
2. Ensure oil and gas operators submit Financial Assurance Plans and engage operators on plugging and abandoning low-producing wells.	Consultant fees are currently budgeted and could potentially be amended.	4th quarter 2022 & on-going	Community Development, City of Fort Collins, LCDHE	Reduction in hydrocarbon emissions including VOCs and methane from low producing wells.
3. Locate a new regulatory monitoring site, based on results of temporary ozone monitors placed in west Loveland, Livermore, and Bellvue.	\$125,000	3rd Quarter 2023	CDPHE, LCDHE, RAQC	Additional data that contributes to air quality planning and regulatory activities in our region.
4. Purchase and use of an infrared optical gas imaging (IR) camera to Air Quality inspection program.	\$115,000	1st Quarter 2023	City of Fort Collins, LCDHE	Reduction in hydrocarbon emissions including VOCs and methane from stationary sources of pollution.

1. Budget and Implement Air Quality measures within the Larimer County Climate and Sustainability Action Plan

1.1 LCDHE will be providing support to the Regional Air Quality Council (RAQC) for Larimer County residents to increase and expand participation in the Mow Down initiative. Gas powered lawn equipment is a significant source of pollution (NOx), particularly when this equipment is used during hot summer days.

- LCDHE has met with the RAQC and are working towards a preliminary event this fall to replace gas powered blowers, chainsaws, and trimmers. The goal is to hold several swap events this fall as a pilot to a larger program in the spring of 2023.

1.2 The BOCC approved funding to increase electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure in unincorporated Larimer County. This includes adding EV charging stations at Larimer County fleet facilities.

- Transportation is the biggest contributor to ground level ozone in Larimer County contributing over 70% of nitrogen oxides and 54% of volatile organic compounds.

2. Ensure compliance with Colorado Oil and Gas (COGCC) regulations regarding Financial Assurance

- Community Development and LCDHE is engaging operators to determine how they intend to comply with the Financial Assurance rules using new tools for local government to plug and abandon low-producing wells that pose a threat to public health and the environment. This is ongoing and per the schedule in the COGCC regulation. October 1 and December 31 are the next two deadlines for operators with less than 50 and those with less than 10 wells.
 - An estimated 40% of O&G wells in Larimer County qualify as low producing, we will be working to analyze which of these wells should be a priority to abandon and will make recommendations to the BOCC.

3. Identify a location for a new regulatory monitoring station

- LCDHE is reviewing results of temporary (summer) ozone monitors placed in Loveland, Livermore, and Bellvue with CDPHE and RAQC to determine if one or more of these locations would be beneficial for siting a new regulatory monitor.
- There is the opportunity to pair a regulatory monitoring site with new requirements of HB22-1244, to establish a monitor for toxic air contaminants in Larimer County.
- LCDHE staff met with CDPHE Air Pollution Control Division (APCD) on next steps for placement of a new regulatory ozone monitor. The priority now is identifying a suitable location in the Loveland area. Once a location has been identified, staff will be working with APCD to purchase equipment and complete installation.

4. Leak detection, compliance and outreach

- Purchase optical gas imaging camera to enhance our ability to complete inspections and investigate complaints. The City of Fort Collins has offered to assist with funding of the camera, and we are formalizing an agreement for the purchase. We expect to have the camera available for use in early 2023.
 - Use of the camera requires specialized training which we will have several people go through, but they want you to bring your camera to training. We are also formalizing an agreement with the City of Fort Collins since they have offered to assist with a portion of the cost of the camera.
 - LCDHE is increasing the staffing level in the Air Quality program to assist with compliance and outreach.