Working with you for clean air

Founded in 1969, Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency works to achieve and maintain clean air in Spokane County, Washington by administering local, state and federal air quality laws and regulations. We carry out our functions of air monitoring, permitting, enforcement, education and outreach with the support of our member entities, which includes Spokane County and its incorporated cities and towns of Spokane, Spokane Valley, Airway Heights, Cheney, Deer Park, Latah, Liberty Lake, Medical Lake, Millwood, Rockford, Spangle and Wa-verly.

Spokane Clean Air’s projected revenue for Fiscal Year 2018 is approximately $2.09 million. Funding comes from a variety of sources, including state and federal grants, and fees for certain services. Local funding comes from an annual assessment that Spokane County and its cities and towns pay on behalf of their citizens. The assessment is based on a formula outlined in the state’s Clean Air Act.

Spokane Clean Air’s Board of Directors believes that a fully-funded, technically-capable, and locally-controlled air quality agency is necessary to the environmental and economic health of Spokane County.

Board of Directors - We are governed by a five-member Board of Directors. The 2018 members are:

- Al French, Spokane County, Chair
- Tom Brattebo, Member-at-Large
- Kevin Freeman, Small Cities and Towns
- Rod Higgins, City of Spokane Valley
- Ben Stuckart, City of Spokane

Unless otherwise publicized, meetings are held at 9:30 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month, at the Agency’s office located at 3104 E. Augusta Ave., Spokane, WA 99207. A week prior to each meeting, an agenda is available at SpokaneCleanAir.org, under Hearings/Notices.
Pressure Vacuum Vents on Underground Tanks

Owners/operators of most gasoline stations in Spokane County must have P/V caps on their gasoline underground storage tanks (UST) vent pipes.

P/V caps are pressure release devices installed on UST vent pipes. They are designed to minimize vapor (Volatile Organic Compounds – VOCs) loss while maintaining a safe pressure within the UST. P/V caps may also protect tanks against water, debris or insects entering the vent pipes. A normally closed poppet in the P/V cap opens at a pre-determined setting to allow the tank to maintain pressure at safe levels.

Nearly all gasoline stations in Spokane County disperse enough gasoline that they are required to use and maintain Stage I vapor recovery systems. Stage I vapor recovery is designed to control the release of gasoline vapors to the atmosphere when gasoline is delivered to the UST.

For stations required to use Stage I vapor recovery systems, no delivery of gasoline into the UST should be permitted when the vapor balance system is not operated satisfactorily. A P/V cap is an integral part of a Stage I system.

There have been instances where gasoline stations have mistakenly installed “rain caps” on the UST vent pipes that look very similar to P/V caps.

Without P/V caps, tank vent pipes allow an uncontrolled path for gasoline vapors to escape to the atmosphere during UST fuel deliveries. Gasoline vapors that go out vent pipes contain toxic air pollutants, such as benzenes, and contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone.

If you are not sure that you have a properly functioning P/V cap, now is the time to call your gasoline equipment service provider and find out.

I already have a permit, do I need another?

You may have obtained a Notice of Construction (NOC) permit from Spokane Clean Air in the past when opening a business or installing air pollution control equipment. Did you know that you may be required to obtain additional permits each time you modify or replace the equipment? This includes moving equipment to a new location, since the permit is written to address potential impacts to the specific location and its unique surroundings.

A NOC must be obtained prior to the construction, installation, establishment, replacement or modification of air contaminant sources, emissions units or air pollution control equipment. This includes equipment associated with any stationary or portable device or any part of such a device that emits or has the potential to emit air contaminant(s).

Five steps to permitting:

1. Call Spokane Clean Air, 477-4727, to speak with an engineer about your project and to get the application forms.
2. Complete the NOC application and, if required, a SEPA checklist. Submit completed forms and NOC base fee to Spokane Clean Air for review.
3. An engineer will review the NOC application and send draft approval to the applicant for review.
4. When the NOC application is approved, a final invoice for the additional permitting fees and the NOC permit and conditions of approval will be mailed to the applicant.
5. The applicant must call Spokane Clean Air when the installation or modification is completed and be ready for an inspection.

(This is a simplified overview. A detailed NOC Info Sheet is available online at www.spokanecleanair.org)
Regulation & Program Update

Effective January 15, 2018, Regulation I, Article 2, Section 2.15 - Intimidation. Following a public comment period and public hearing, the Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency’s Board of Directors approved this amendment to help protect the safety of SRCAA staff.

The agency is now able to issue a Notice of Violation (NOV) if an employee is directly or indirectly, assaulted, intimidated, threatened, coerced, harassed, or unlawfully imprisoned.

The NOV may be issued regardless of a criminal charge or conviction related to the same incident. The NOV may be followed with a civil penalty.

Full regulations are available at www.spokanecleanair.org/about-us/regulations-fees.

Marijuana Production & Processing:

On January 4, 2018, the SRCAA Board of Directors adopted regulations to minimize odors and other air contaminants from LCB-licensed marijuana production and processing operations in Spokane County.

The regulation includes annual registration, annual reporting, routine inspections, and requirements to minimize odors.

The effective date of the regulation is March 1, 2018. For more details, visit www.spokanecleanair.org.

2018 Annual Registration

By mid-January, all sources registered with Spokane Clean Air should have received both their Annual Registration form and their Annual Registration billing. The form and the fees are both due by March 2.

The registration billing is based on the 2016 data reported on the 2017 Annual Registration Form. Paying the registration fees allows companies to continue operating as an air pollution source under the registration program.

The registration form is used to report your 2017 data.

It’s important that both the form and the fees are submitted to Spokane Clean Air on time.

If you need assistance with your registration, please call us at (509) 477-4727 and ask for an engineer.

Compliance Status Reports

At the end of a routine inspection at your facility, you will be provided a Compliance Status Report (CSR) by a Spokane Clean Air inspector.

Occasionally, if compliance issues are found, there may be items which need corrective action. A due date for completion is usually given for each corrective action required along with a request that you notify your inspector of any actions taken. Failure to meet a due date can lead to a Notice of Violation (NOV).

Occasionally, a receipt for the work done is required to show that the compliance issue was addressed.

A follow-up inspection may also be conducted. If more time is needed, the business needs to contact the inspector before the due date to request an extension. There is no guarantee that an extension will be granted.

In some cases, a CSR may not be issued in the field. The inspector may send a letter in the mail. In some instances, a NOV may be issued for a compliance issue that may still have a corrective action which needs to be addressed.

Contact your inspector if you have any questions, 477-4727.
**Boiler Combustion Test Requirements**

Operations that have boilers using natural gas or other gaseous fuel with maximum heat inputs of 4 million BTUs/hour or more (per unit) are required to be permitted and registered with Spokane Clean Air. The permit, called a Notice of Construction (NOC), outlines specific combustion testing requirements for boilers.

Inspections have revealed problems with combustion testing that may result in Notice of Violations. To avoid such action, please review your NOC permit issued by Spokane Clean Air.

Your permit will be more specific, but generally the following requirements must be met:

- A combustion test must be performed annually.
- A combustion test must be conducted for each fuel type the boiler is permitted to use (wood, natural gas and diesel).
- The combustion test must be capable of analyzing for NOx and CO emissions, corrected to 3% oxygen.
- The combustion test shall be performed at high fire rate (80% or higher load). An alternate firing rate may be approved by Spokane Clean Air. Operating a boiler at a lower firing rate may result in reduced combustion efficiency and higher CO emissions.
- The source must demonstrate compliance with the NOx and CO limits specified in their NOC, regardless of the boiler’s load during the combustion test.
- The combustion analyzer is required to be calibrated using certified calibration gases, immediately prior to the test.

**During each combustion test, the following parameters must be measured and recorded:**

- NOx and CO concentrations ppmv in the exhaust stream
- Percent oxygen for each NOx and CO reading
- Temperature
- Average load
- Fuel burned

A report documenting the results of each combustion test is due to SRCAA within 30 days of each test. The report shall include:

- A calibration report for the combustion analyzer
- A summary of the NOx and CO emissions given in ppmv and corrected to 3% oxygen
- The testing parameters used
- Copies of actual data sheets

Combustion analysis is a tool to ensure your boiler is operating at peak efficiency, resulting in decreased fuel use and air emissions.

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**Conditionally Exempt SQG Hazardous Waste Collection**

Small-quantity generators (SQG) are businesses that generate less than 220 pounds of hazardous waste per month. They are conditionally exempt from Washington’s Dangerous Waste Regulations if they manage their wastes properly.

Clean Harbor & Waste Connections offer a drop-off location for Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators (CESQG) of hazardous waste at two locations locally:

**Valley Transfer Station**
3941 N. Sullivan Rd, Spokane Valley

**North County Transfer Station**
22123 N. Elk Chattaroy Rd, Colbert

Drop off is by appointment only on Saturday and Sunday. Appointment Times are 9-10 a.m. and 2-3 p.m. Call for Holiday Schedule. Call 509-202-7397 to Schedule a Drop-off Appointment. COD only: Credit Card or Check only.

Here is a list of a few items we accept at the CESQG drop-off:

- Paints, Adhesives & Solvents
- Corrosive liquids (Acids/Alkalines)
- Fluorescent Light Tubes
- PCB Light Ballasts/Capacitors
- Mercury (Amalgam, Thermometers) < 2.2 lbs.
- Aerosols (Propane, Spray Paint, Cleaners, etc.)
- Antifreeze and Machine Coolant
- Batteries (Lead Acid, Mercury, NiCad, Lithium)
- Fuels (Gasoline, Oil, Diesel)
- Photo Chemicals (Fixer, Developer)

Learn more at WA State Department of Ecology’s webpage: www.ecology.wa.gov/Waste-Toxics/Business-waste/Manage-your-waste.
Eastern Washington University (EWU) is the 2018 Clean Air Award recipient, recognized for their innovation, leadership and commitment to reducing air emissions. The annual award, in its 15th year, is presented by Spokane Clean Air to publicly recognize outstanding efforts and to encourage others to follow suit.

EWU is home to more than 13,500 students and 1,900 staff. The campus has 58 buildings and covers approximately 155 acres. They have their own heating plant and fueling facilities for their service fleet. Most services required by the University are handled by University shops.

Most of the campus buildings have propane-powered back-up generators supplying emergency power. There is one diesel powered back-up generator for the Rozell Heating Plant. Propane is preferred over diesel because its cleaner and no risk to contaminate soil or water due to spills.

Generators are set to start automatically when an interruption is detected to the buildings power and shut down automatically when power is restored. All generators are tracked by hour and fuel use to determine emissions.

EWU’s boilers are kept running at a high efficiency. Year-round maintenance efforts reduces stack and heat loss, improves heat transfer and recovers waste heat.

In the past, EWU used solvent stills, which generated volatile organic compounds. With chemical substitution and thrifty management, EWU’s use of the stills was minimized and eventually eliminated.

Roos Field’s artificial red turf, fondly known as "The Inferno," eliminates the need for fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides.

EWU’s Custodial Department shifted from toxic volatile chemicals to environmentally friendly products to avoid employee exposures to dangerous chemicals and decrease chemical disposal.

EWU has a robust commute trip reduction program for employees and students. Their program consists of preferred rideshare parking, subsidized vanpool and transit, secured bicycle parking, showers and lockers, Guaranteed Ride Home program and employee recognition and incentives. In 2017, the program was responsible for saving over 1.2 million vehicles from being driven on our roadways. This is a reduction of nearly six tons of carbon monoxide pollution.

Congratulations EWU! Your efforts are making a difference. GO EAGS!
Wildfire Season 2017

Last August and September the Spokane area experienced unprecedented levels of smoke from regional wildfires. There were ten days in August and six days in September when fine particle pollution exceeded the 24-hour federal, health-based standard of 35 micrograms per cubic meter of air. The standard is equal to 100 on the Air Quality Index (AQI) scale, depicted below.