



ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

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EPA Installing Air Monitoring Stations at Memphis Area Transit Facilities

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ATLANTA – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in partnership with the Shelby County Health Department (SCHD) and the Memphis Area Transit Authority (MATA), announced a collaborative project to field test newly installed, lower-cost air pollution sensor pods in the Memphis, TN area.

EPA's CitySpace research project is field testing air sensor monitors to understand how the emerging technology can add valuable information on air pollution patterns in neighborhoods. The 16 sensors, including seven at SCHD locations and three at MATA transit facilities, will capture data over a six month period concluding in February 2017.

"The knowledge we gain from the monitoring project will help to advance the use of these lower-cost and portable sensors in communities to learn more about air quality," said Ron Williams, EPA researcher leading the development of the sensor technology being deployed. "We have received support and interest from Memphis residents and organizations in this project, and we plan to keep the community informed about progress and results."

The location of the seven pods, installed at active or historical air monitoring sites operated by SCHD, were selected based upon input from community members, local county and state organizations, predicted air pollution patterns and by comparing sensor readings with higher-quality data from air monitors currently being used. Two additional sensor pods will be installed at separate locations during the month of November.

"The Shelby County Health Department has a long-standing relationship with MATA and look forward to this new initiative to improve the air quality and environment for the community," said Alisa Haushalter, DNP, RN, director of the Shelby County Health Department. "Good air quality is an important part of our everyday health. Helping EPA test new air monitoring equipment in Memphis will assist in informing the community about air quality and what we can do to improve it."

Results from the study will be used to provide Memphis and the scientific community a greater understanding of local air pollutant patterns.

"As a public transportation provider, MATA is concerned about helping assist with the reduction of air pollution in the Memphis area," said John Lancaster, director of planning and scheduling at MATA. "This project coincides with MATA's efforts, and we view the installations of the air pollution sensor pods as another way to help improve air quality in the neighborhoods we serve."

Each monitor will collect data including humidity, particulate matter (PM), temperature and wind which will be recorded every minute and transmitted wirelessly to EPA. The sensor pods are intended to complement existing monitoring networks allowing local air pollution patterns to be explored.

More information on the CitySpace research project can be found at:

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-08/documents/cityspace_fact_sheet_0.pdf

Learn more about air sensor technology at:

<https://www.epa.gov/air-sensor-toolbox>

Social Media: #CitySpaceMemphis