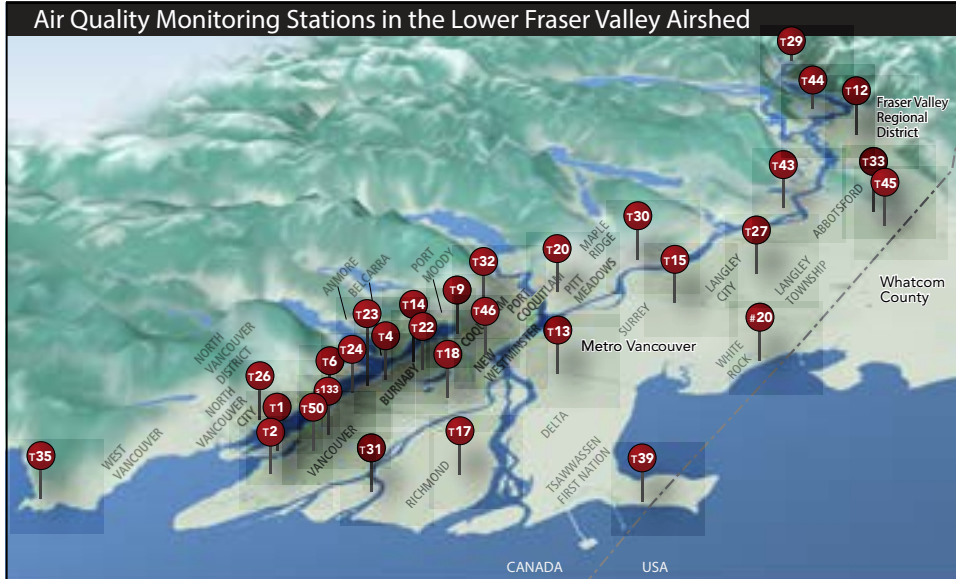


# HOW'S THE AIR OUT THERE?

## HOW DOES METRO VANCOUVER MEASURE AIR QUALITY?

Our air is sampled every second by scientific instruments at air quality stations close to where people live, work and play. Thirty one air quality monitoring stations, located from Horseshoe Bay to Hope, form the Lower Fraser Valley Air Quality Monitoring Network.

Metro Vancouver determines how clean the air is by using the Air Quality Health Index and comparing measurements to outdoor air quality objectives.

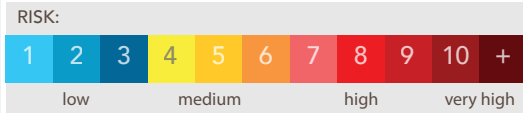


## HOW CLEAN IS THE AIR RIGHT NOW?

You can check the latest air quality readings from a station near you by visiting [www.airmap.ca](http://www.airmap.ca)

## WHAT IS THE AIR QUALITY HEALTH INDEX?

This index helps you understand what air quality means to your health, on a scale from 1 to 10. It is calculated every hour using pollutant measurements from our stations.



Visit the [Air Quality Health Index website](#) for more information

## WHAT ARE 'AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVES'?

Metro Vancouver compares measurements at our stations to air quality objectives, which are based on current knowledge about the effects of air pollutants on human health. These objectives are used to assess the amounts of each pollutant in our region and help guide our decisions.

| AIR CONTAMINANT                                  | AVERAGING PERIOD | AMBIENT AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVES* |        |
|--|------------------|---------------------------------|--------|
|  |                  | µg/m <sup>3</sup>               | ppb    |
| Nitrogen dioxide                                 | 1-hour           | 113                             | 60     |
|  | Annual           | 32                              | 17     |
| Sulphur dioxide                                  | 1-hour           | 183                             | 70     |
|  | Annual           | 13                              | 5      |
| Ozone  | 1-hour           | 161                             | 82     |
|  | 8-hour           | 122                             | 62     |
| Inhalable particulate matter (PM <sub>10</sub> ) | 24-hour          | 50                              | -      |
|  | Annual           | 20                              | -      |
| Fine particulate matter (PM <sub>2.5</sub> )     | 24-hour          | 25                              | -      |
|  | Annual           | 8 (6)**                         | -      |
| Carbon monoxide                                  | 1-hour           | 14,900                          | 13,000 |
|  | 8-hour           | 5,700                           | 5,000  |

\* You can find more information on achievement of these objectives at [Metro Vancouver Ambient Air Quality Objectives](#).

\*\*Metro Vancouver's annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> planning goal of 6 µg/m<sup>3</sup> is a longer term aspirational target to support continuous improvement.

**Did you know?** Metro Vancouver's air quality objectives are some of the most stringent in the world.

## CAN SOMEONE EXPLAIN THIS TABLE TO ME?!

These are Metro Vancouver's outdoor air quality objectives. We compare pollutant levels at each station to these objectives. Each pollutant has short-term (1-hour, 8-hour or 24-hour) and/or long-term (annual) objectives because different health effects can occur over different time frames. Air pollutant levels are measured in micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m<sup>3</sup>) or parts per billion (ppb).

Metro Vancouver's goal is to stay well below these objectives. If pollutant levels rise above these objectives at a station, Metro Vancouver staff will quickly investigate and, in some cases, a region-wide air quality advisory may be issued. Fortunately this doesn't happen very often.

For more air quality and climate change information, visit:

Caring for the Air | BC Air Quality | Northwest Clean Air Agency | US Environmental Protection Agency

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