

Eastside Community Network (ECN)

Air Quality & Truck Traffic

The eastside of Detroit is over-burdened with multiple sources of air pollution which has a negative impact on our community's health. Through the Eastside Community Network's Eastside Climate Action Coalition (ECAC), residents are organizing around policies to address health and safety concerns posed by semi-truck traffic. The University of Michigan's Science, Technology and Public Policy (STPP) program is collaborating on this project.



OUR TEAM

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The Problem

- The Stellantis Plant expansion in 2019 has brought several EGLE violations, two consent orders, and a significant increase in semitruck traffic.
 - Nearly every minute, a semi-truck drives past Clairpointe Woods subdivision on Detroit's east side.
 - Multiple trucks a minute drive next to the Conner Creek Greenway, which was re-routed due to the plant expansion.
 - Green space has been taken over to accommodate truck parking.
 - The expansion took over a vegetative buffer and a main truck route, so the residential streets are seeing more illegal truck traffic.
 - Trucks idle near the plant with no consequence.
- Air pollution created by trucks has significant negative health impacts.
- ECN's Stoudamire Wellness Hub is located in the leading Michigan zip code for asthma hospitalizations.
- There is little to no regulation or enforcement.
- Existing policies, such as the anti-idling ordinance or no-trucks signs on residential streets, are not enforced.

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Our Policy Solution

- Organize resident leaders and build coalition across the city.
- Community-engaged air monitoring and advocacy with data.
- Engage with City Council, EGLE, and EPA around solutions.
- Pass a semi-truck ordinance that is robust, enforceable, and prioritizes community well-being.
- Create enforcement solution that incentivizes and engages residents.



What We are Doing

- Collaborating with Trucks Off Our Streets (TOOS) Coalition
 - Cumulative impacts bus tour (5/6/24)
 - Meetings with Councilmembers
- Researched trucking ordinances and enforcement best practices in other cities
- Organizing resident leaders and youth to advocate to city council through individual meetings and public comment
- Conducted town hall meeting with residents, policymakers, experts in the health impacts of pollution (4/10/24)
 - Learned about impacts and possible solutions
 - Identified concerns and solutions that residents have
- Built indoor air filters at ECAC meeting
- Researched mechanisms for truck counting and crowd-sourced reporting
- Monitoring air quality in community
 - Portable air monitor pilot with youth leaders and sustainability fellows
 - Stationary monitoring at ECN, semi-truck distribution site, and community project sites
- Educating community members about air quality issues
 - Created "Air Quality 101" and "How to engage with City Council" flyers
- Organized community conversation and postcard writing to city council event (5/8/24)

What You Can Do

- Please join the Eastside Climate Action Coalition (ECAC) at their monthly meetings. ECAC is a group of residents, city and state officials, and technical experts across Detroit committed to ensuring that local policies and programs prioritize climate justice and resilience for the community. To get involved, please contact Roshawn Harris at rharris@ecn-detroit.org.
- Sign up for the JustAir app to check the air quality in your area. Borrow portable air monitors from ECN for your project.
- Report air pollution concerns to EGLE (800-292-4706) and the City (313) 876-4715.
- Visit the Stoudamire Resilience Hub (4401 Conner St., Detroit) when the air quality is poor.



Thank you to the Bay Air Center, bayaircenter.org, for allowing us to use their wonderful infographics.

Get Involved TODAY! To Learn more, visit www.ecn-detroit.org