

**Clean Air Methow**  
**Methow Valley Citizens Council**  
**Community Coordinator: Climate and Health / Air Quality Program**

<b>Supervisor:</b>	Elizabeth Walker, Clean Air Methow Strategic Consultant  <a href="http://www.cleanairmethow.org">www.cleanairmethow.org</a>
<b>Salary:</b>	\$14.49/hour, 24 hours/week for 10 weeks
<b>Period of Employment:</b>	June 21, 2022 – August 26, 2022  3 days per week
<b>Participation Requirements:</b>	Living in the Methow Valley for the summer  Enrollment in UEPP 471 Campus Sustainability Planning Studio course Meets 2 days per week (3 credits)  Optional internship credits are available but not required (up to 8 credits)

### **Overview**

The Methow Valley Citizens Council has been raising a strong community voice for the protection of the Methow Valley's natural environment and rural character since 1976. We accomplish this predominantly through education, citizen engagement, and advocacy. Clean Air Methow (CAM), a program of MVCC, seeks to improve air quality where possible, and protect health where necessary, ensuring equitable access to clean air for all. CAM engages in year-round air quality programming and is especially focused in the summer months on wildfire smoke preparedness and effective response interventions for poor air quality (AQ) and extreme heat.

Wildfires and wildfire smoke have had greater impact on Okanogan County than any other county in Washington state over the last several years. Many refer to late summer as “the fifth season” – fire and smoke season. Climate change is anticipated to perpetuate fires and smoke for the foreseeable future, and additional prescribed burning will also be necessary to help restore forest health and prevent catastrophic wildfires. Hazardous AQ often coincides with the hottest part of the year to further complicate keeping people safe indoors. CAM is committed to helping Okanogan County and rural Eastern Washington become smoke-ready to live healthfully and joyfully in the beautiful places we call home through the implementation of the Methow Valley’s climate action plan to create a smoke-ready community. Smoke-ready communities know their sources of air pollution, are actively working to reduce them, and have resources available to protect vulnerable populations.

The summer Air Quality Program/Climate and Health Community Coordinator will assist Clean Air Methow staff with activities related to preparing Okanogan County for wildfire smoke readiness and response, specifically focusing on the deliverables defined in our 2022 EPA Environmental Justice grant to reach vulnerable populations such as outdoor workers, Spanish speakers, and those without the ability to create clean indoor air environments.

**Responsibilities may include the following, depending on intern's skills and interests:**

- Assist CAM staff with meeting coordination and communication with partners and stakeholders, such as health care and social service providers, schools, chambers of commerce, businesses and other community health leaders and organizations.
- Assist CAM staff with direct outreach activities to the general public, such as tabling at the Methow Valley and Winthrop Farmer's Markets, the Winthrop Library grand opening, the Methow Arts Fourth of July celebration, recreational events and races, and other community gatherings.
- Help stock N95 masks and educational pamphlets at a variety of locations around the county
- Help set up and maintain "pop-up" educational displays (e.g. DIY box fan air purifiers, informational materials, N95 masks, resource lists) in local health clinic waiting rooms and lobbies.
- Help coordinate the DIY box fan distribution program to vulnerable populations. Receive applications, coordinate with distribution partner organizations, track delivery to recipients, and follow up with recipients to sample indoor air quality and assess perceived efficacy.
- Support CAM's Clean Air Ambassador network. Assist with daily monitoring of air quality sensor data, work with ambassadors to trouble shoot their sensors, and craft meaningful communications about local air quality data.
- Communications: coordinate with our social change marketing team to develop and place new creative materials and messages about smoke, health, and ways to improve air quality for print, radio, newspaper, and more. Assist with social media communication and engagement tracking. Organize and add to a library of photographs and images communicating the experience of living with wildfire smoke.
- Monitor the scientific literature and news for relevant articles and research on wildfire smoke for dissemination and incorporation into CAM's efforts.
- Help prepare presentations for partners, stakeholders and the public.

**Required Qualifications and Experience**

This position will involve engagement with critical project partners, stakeholders, and the public. Excellent communication skills are a must.

- Enjoy working with people, comfortable engaging with people of a diverse range of world and political views, socioeconomic backgrounds and income levels, race/ethnicities, etc.
- Meticulous in using thoughtful language to communicate verbally and in writing, unfailingly respectful and curious about other's experiences.

Highly organized and detail oriented.

- Excel at developing and maintaining systems for organizing information, projects, and people.
- Proficient in Microsoft excel and/or google sheets for creating tracking systems.
- Ability to work some weekends for outreach events.
- Familiarity with social media platforms, specifically Facebook and Instagram.

Subject matter experience.

- Experience or willingness to learn about the impacts of climate change on rural communities in fire-adapted ecosystems, indoor and outdoor air quality and monitoring (specifically, PM2.5), and wildfire smoke preparedness.

#### **Educational/Professional Benefits**

- Help develop a nationally recognized and funded community-engaged participatory research program addressing the health impacts of climate change and climate justice.
- Learn about low-cost interventions for healthy, energy-efficient environments.
- Mentorship and network building with eastern Washington leaders in climate change and health.
- Build community outreach and communication skills.

**Find more information about Sustainability Pathways Fellowships at:**

<https://sustain.wwu.edu/pathways>

**Please direct all questions to Sustainability Pathways Director, Joshua Porter at:  
[Joshua.Porter@wwu.edu](mailto:Joshua.Porter@wwu.edu)**