

# Air Quality Flag Program

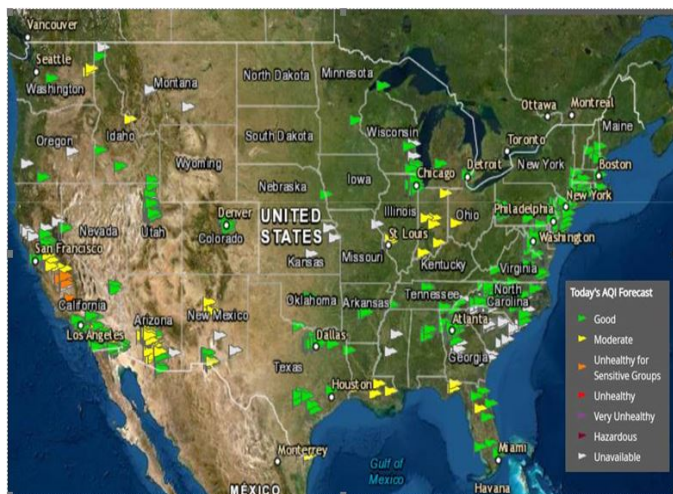
WINTER 2021 NEWSLETTER



## FYI: PARTICIPATING IN A FLAG PROGRAM NEAR YOU

Do you ever wonder what other organizations are flying an air quality flag in your area? There's a map for that. Go to <https://www.airnow.gov/flag> and click on the Story Map in the grey box.

The first graphic in the series shows a map of the country. The flags not only mark the organizations participating in the Flag Program-- they also show the local Air Quality Index forecast for the day for that organization.



## GOT A GOOD STORY?

Has your organization overcome a roadblock related to your participation in the Air Quality Flag Program? Or have you discovered a great way to communicate about the air quality to your community? Let us know what you're up to-- we'd love to hear about it!



## COCO IS BACK... AND IS ANIMATED!



Need some new videos for the classroom? Now you can watch the children's picture book *Why is Coco Orange?* as a narrated "action" video on the EPA YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TAuzMniolU>. Both English and Spanish captions are available. Go to Settings (the gear-like icon on the bottom right of the screen) and choose the appropriate language from the Subtitles drop-down. Check it out!

## NEW: COMMUNITIES POSTER

Just in: a limited number of new posters aimed at community education about the Air Quality Index and local air quality.

The community poster is free, and you can order directly from EPA's [National Service Center for Environmental Publications](https://www.epa.gov/nscep) at <https://www.epa.gov/nscep>. Search for the poster using item number 456H20001. NOTE: The item number is also needed to place the order.

## NEW: VIRTUAL AIR QUALITY FLAGS FOR YOUR ELECTRONIC BOARD

Because quantities are limited:

- Individuals may order one copy each.
- Organizations may order up to 10 copies.
- Larger numbers are approved on a case-by-case basis.



## UPDATED LESSON PLANS

Need some ideas for upcoming science classes? We recently updated the lesson plans below to align with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). They can be downloaded at <https://www.airnow.gov/air-quality-flag-program-classroom-curriculum-publications/>.

**Whirling Swirling Air Pollution** aligns with high school standards. It covers concepts that draw connections between air pollution and individual actions and decisions.

**What's Up There Besides Air** provides an introduction to air pollution and to recognizing types of pollutants in student's communities and aligns with elementary standards.

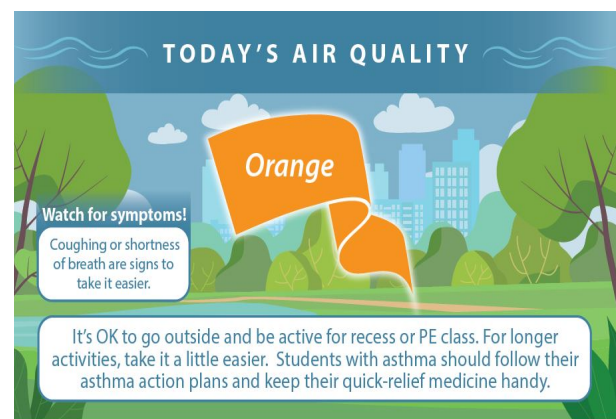
The **Paper Wad** activity is an introduction to particulate pollution and its sources. It is designed for middle grades students but could easily be adapted for students in elementary or high school.

Looking for an alternative way to share the display today's air quality at your school? As you may already know, flying an actual flag isn't the only way to effectively communicate the AQI.

Our new graphics are designed to be displayed electronically on screens. They show the forecast Air Quality Index color of the day, including steps to take if the air quality is poor.

The graphics are especially useful for decisions about PE classes, recess, athletic practices and other outside activities. Students and staff can learn about air quality as they walk by!

Download the electronic flag graphics at <https://www.airnow.gov/publications/air-quality-flag-program-classroom-curriculum/virtual-flag-display/>



## FLAG TEAM CONTACTS

Beth Landis: [landis.elizabeth@epa.gov](mailto:landis.elizabeth@epa.gov)

Sarah Matthews: [matthews.sarah@epa.gov](mailto:matthews.sarah@epa.gov)

Melissa Payne: [payne.melissa@epa.gov](mailto:payne.melissa@epa.gov)

Miki Wayland: [wayland.michelle@epa.gov](mailto:wayland.michelle@epa.gov)

Ellen Wildermann: [wildermann.ellen@epa.gov](mailto:wildermann.ellen@epa.gov)