

# High Density Air Sensors: The Power of Next Generation Monitoring for Better Human and Environmental Health.

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## Summary



- Background / Why air monitoring needs new technology
- Elm sensor network experiences in year 1
  - Performance
  - Events
  - Trends
- Where are we headed and how will we get there.

# Mass Market Understanding of Air Quality



## MARKET TRENDS

- Population shift into **mega-cities** is **driving increased exposure** to **poor environmental conditions**
- **Environmental conditions** are known to **negatively impact human health**, with continually strengthening research in scientific community
- **High cost of health care** resulting from **chronic conditions**
- **Cities and municipalities want better data to drive policy decisions** and to demonstrate the benefits of those decisions to stake holders
- **Industry** is looking to **understand their actual environmental impact to plan actions proactively** rather than waiting for regulation and imposed requirements



# We Simply Cannot Deploy Enough Stations

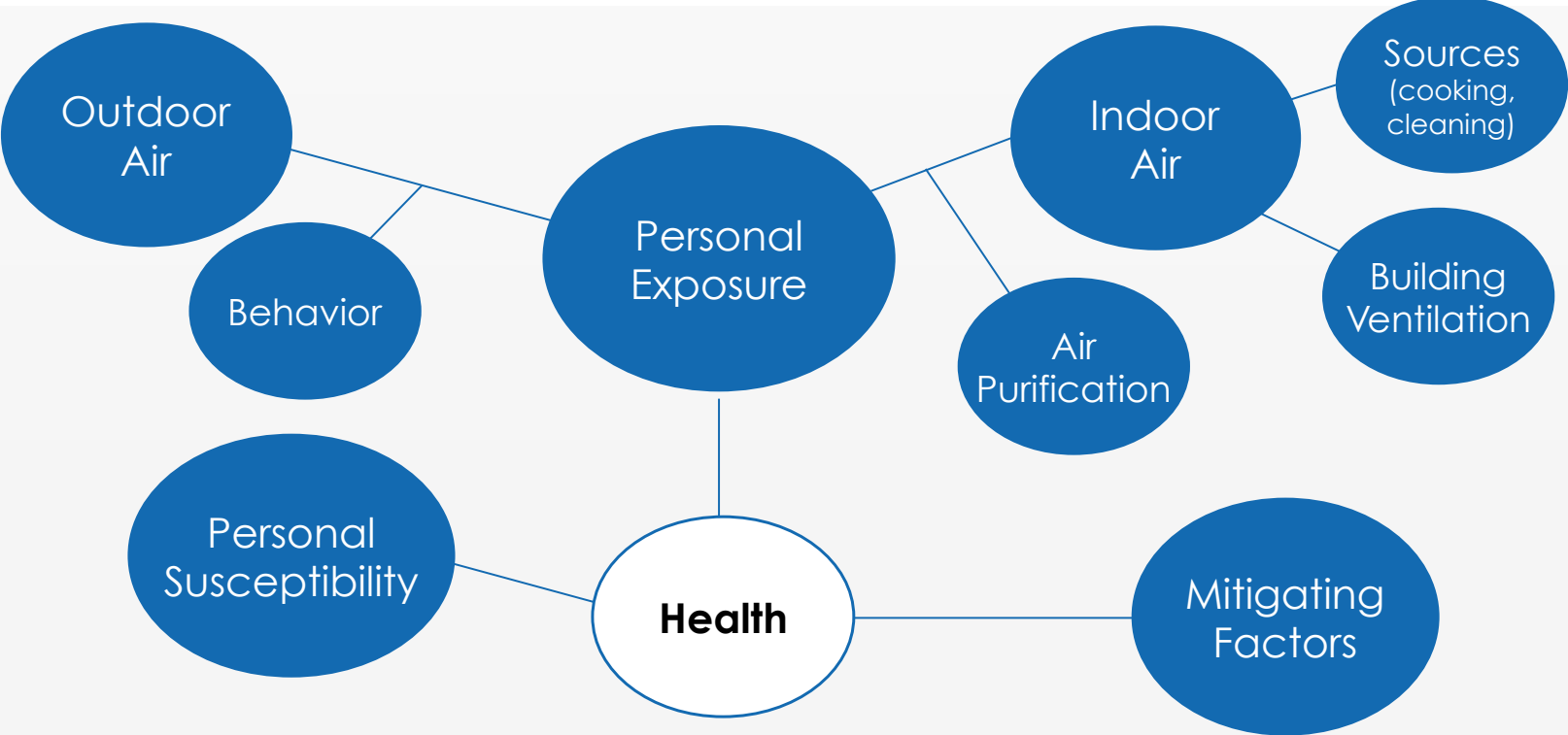


The image is a collage illustrating the sparse deployment of monitoring stations. It features several Google Maps and Street View screenshots:

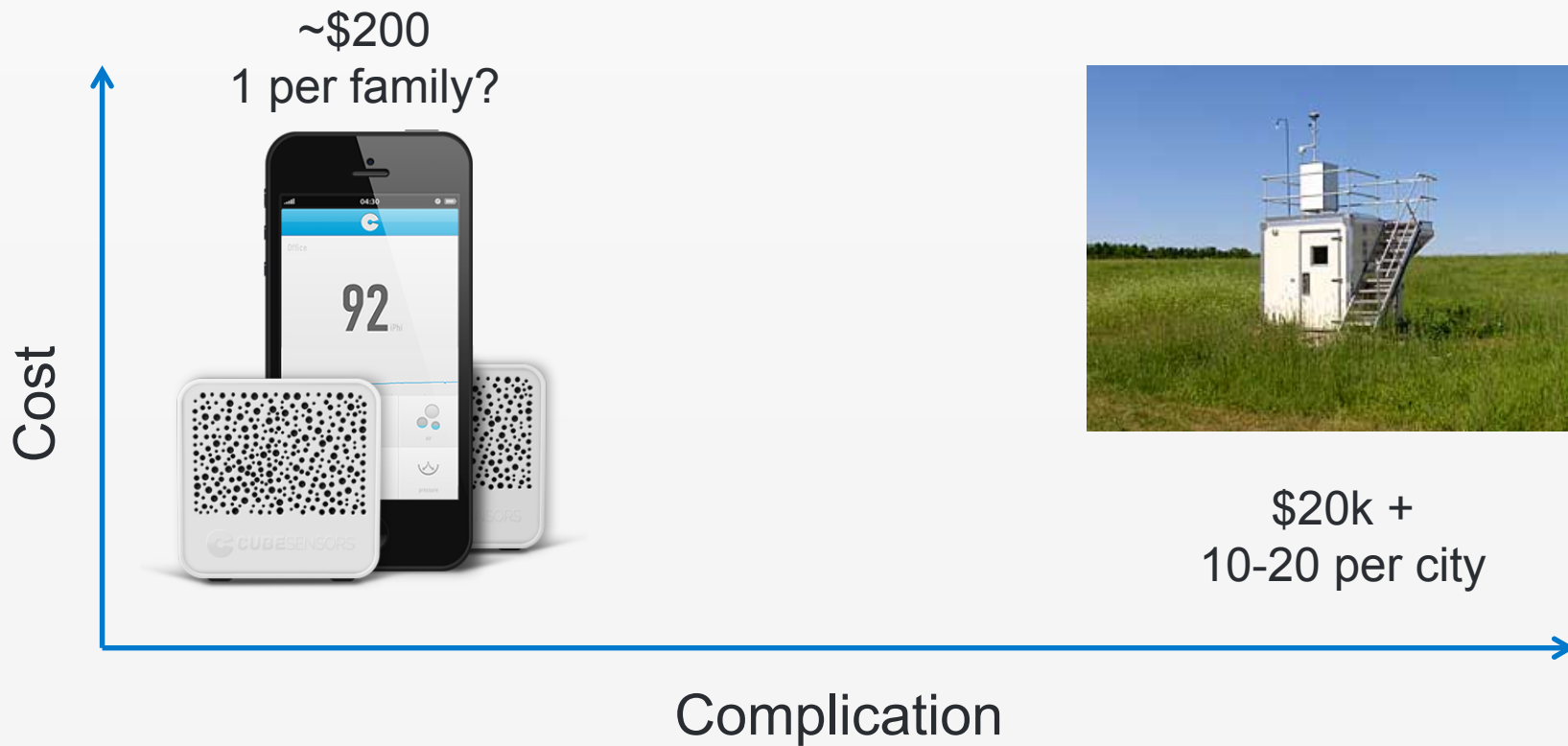
- Top Left:** A map of Waltham, Massachusetts, with a yellow star marking a location near the Middlesex Fells Reservation.
- Top Right:** A Street View image of 901 Winter St in Waltham, Massachusetts, showing a road with trees and a grassy area.
- Middle Left:** A Street View image of Winthrop Shore Dr in Winthrop, Massachusetts, showing a residential street with houses.
- Bottom Left:** A map of Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, with two monitoring station icons (represented by a thermometer) placed on the map. A grey box labeled "Monitoring stations" is overlaid on the map.

At the bottom right of the collage, the text reads: "Illustrative example, not representative of actual network".

# Better Air, Better Life



# State of the Air Monitoring



# Bringing clarity to air and health



Elm transforms how air quality is understood.



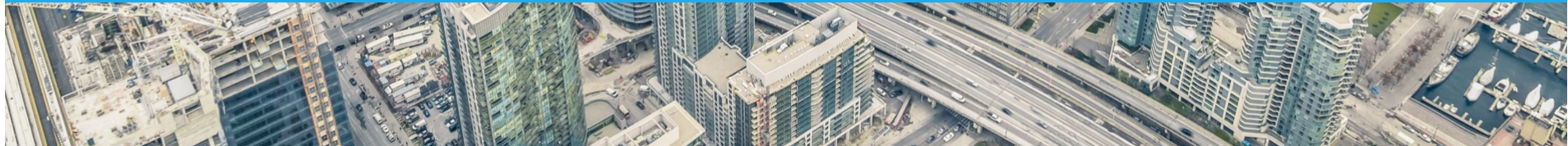
High density sensor networks



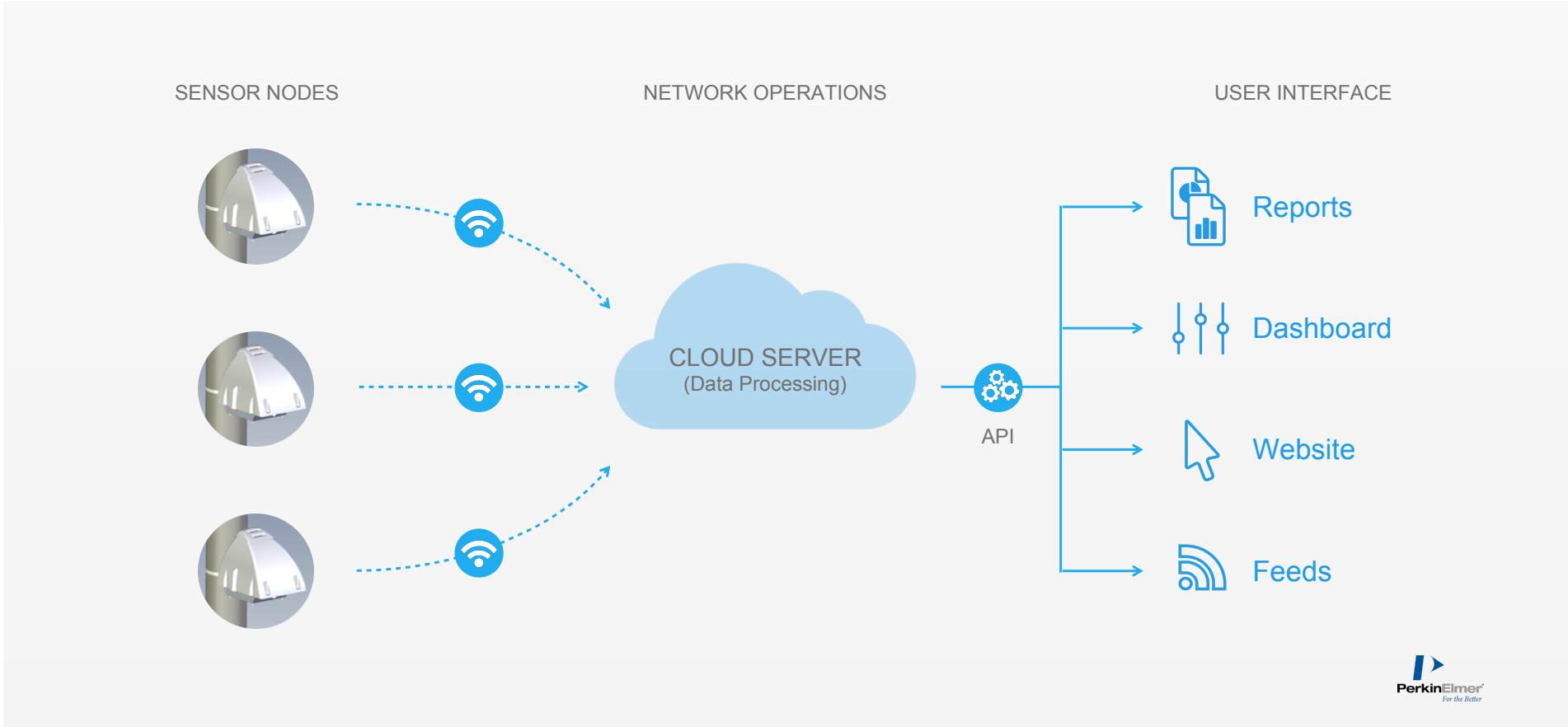
Data to drive decisions; real time, online, mobile



Data for every location

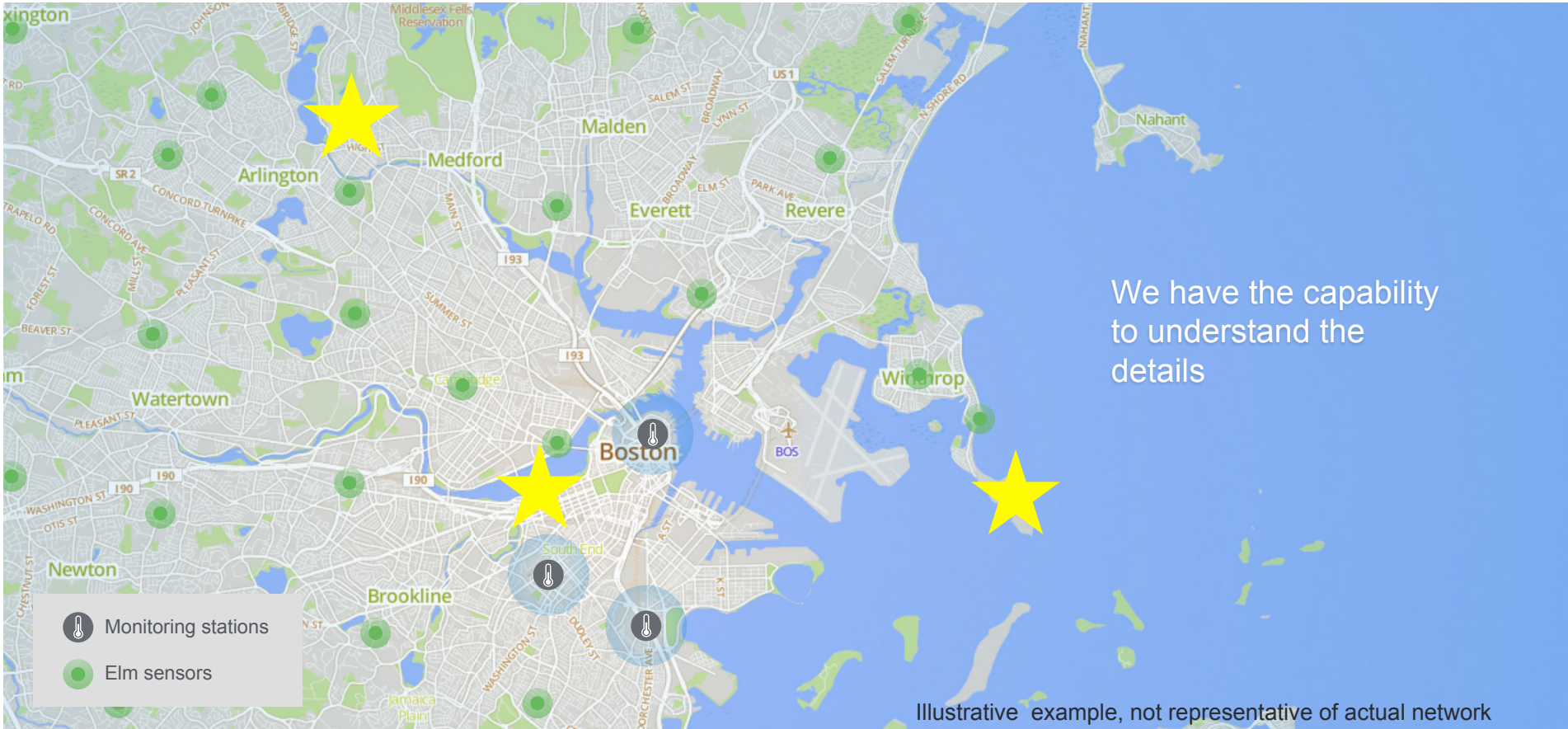


# Network overview





# Sensor technology is complimentary to monitoring stations



## Practical Experience with Elm

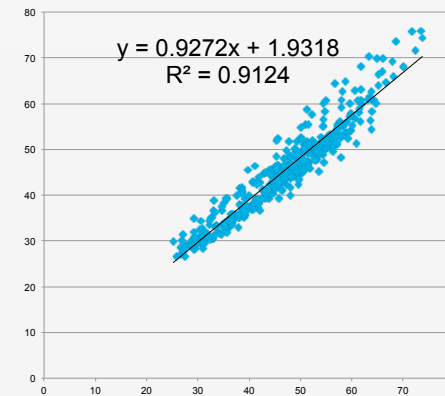
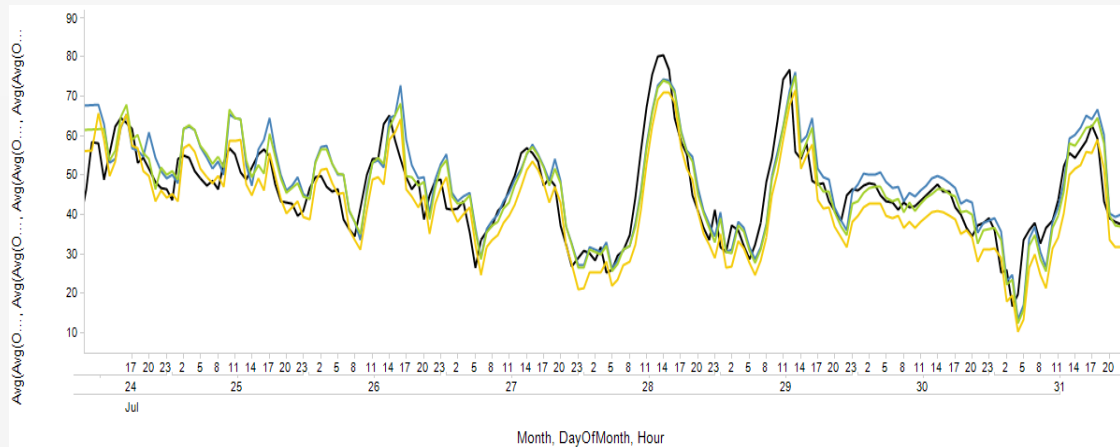


- Comparisons with reference methods
- Local events detected in the network
- How density improves data

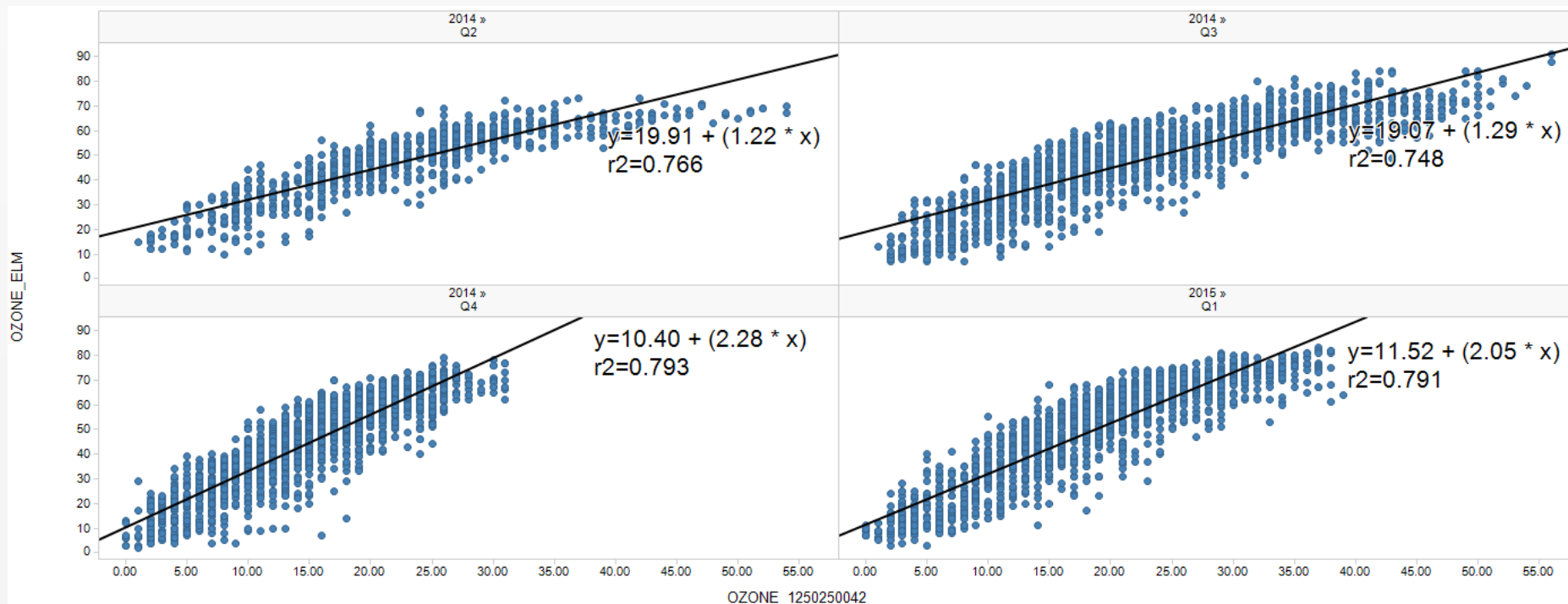
# Ozone colocation – CO, USA



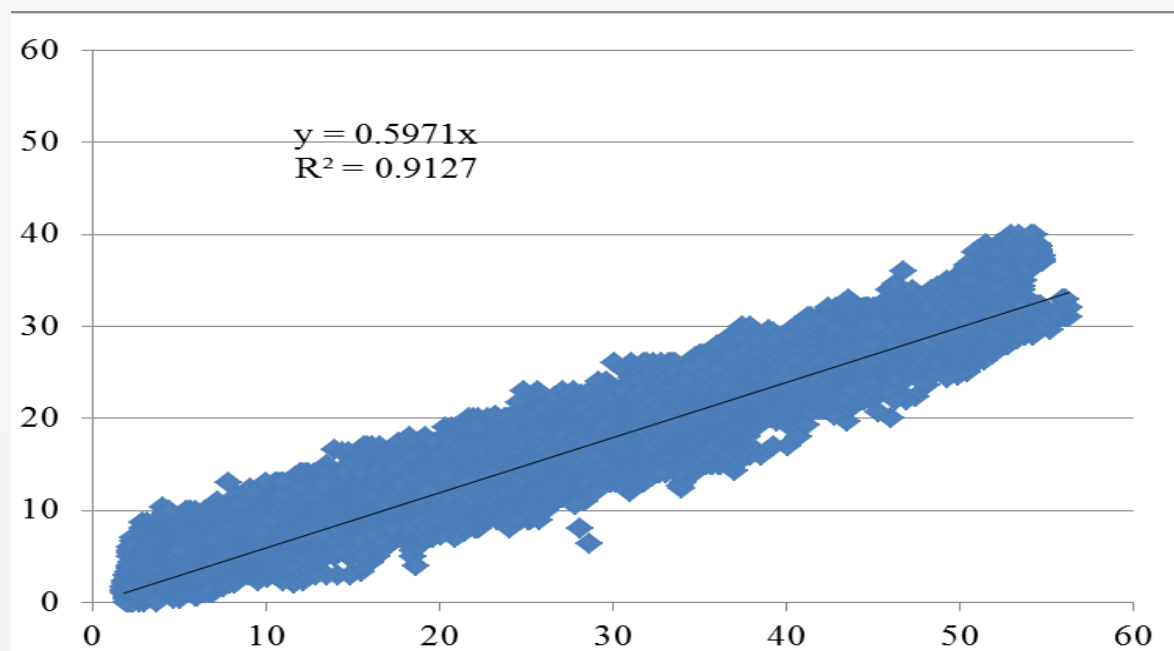
Element	Ozone			Units
Averaging period	5 min	1 Hour	8 Hour	Time
True value average	45.4			ppb
Average absolute error	6.0	5	3	ppb
Average percentage error	15	12	6	%
Error Standard Deviation	5.2	4.1	2.8	ppb
R squared	0.68	0.76	0.91	N/A



# Elm O3 vs EPA O3 Boston (10 months)



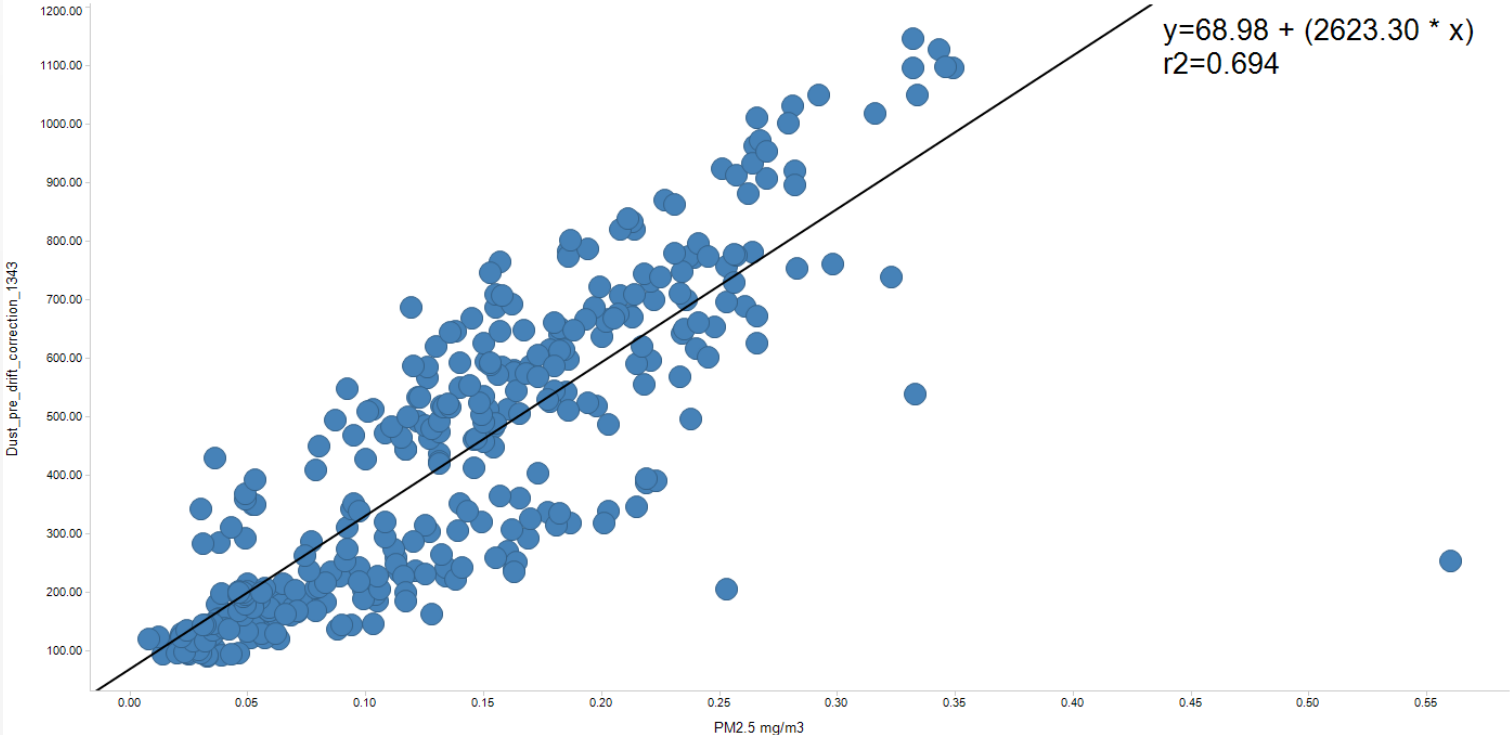
## ELM O3 Asia Reference Comparison



# ELM PM Asia Reference Comparison



Elm Dust tsp  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$



## Where are we headed and how we will get there?



- Demonstrate the value of truly local real-time pollution data
- Create effective mechanisms to operate low cost networks
- Communicate the relevant information to the right audience
- Overcome new issues
- Make the data even more valuable

## The Back Yard Bonfire



- What exactly happens to the air when you have a fire
- How does that travel through a neighborhood

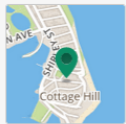




# July 4th



12 PARK AVE WINTHROP 02152, MA

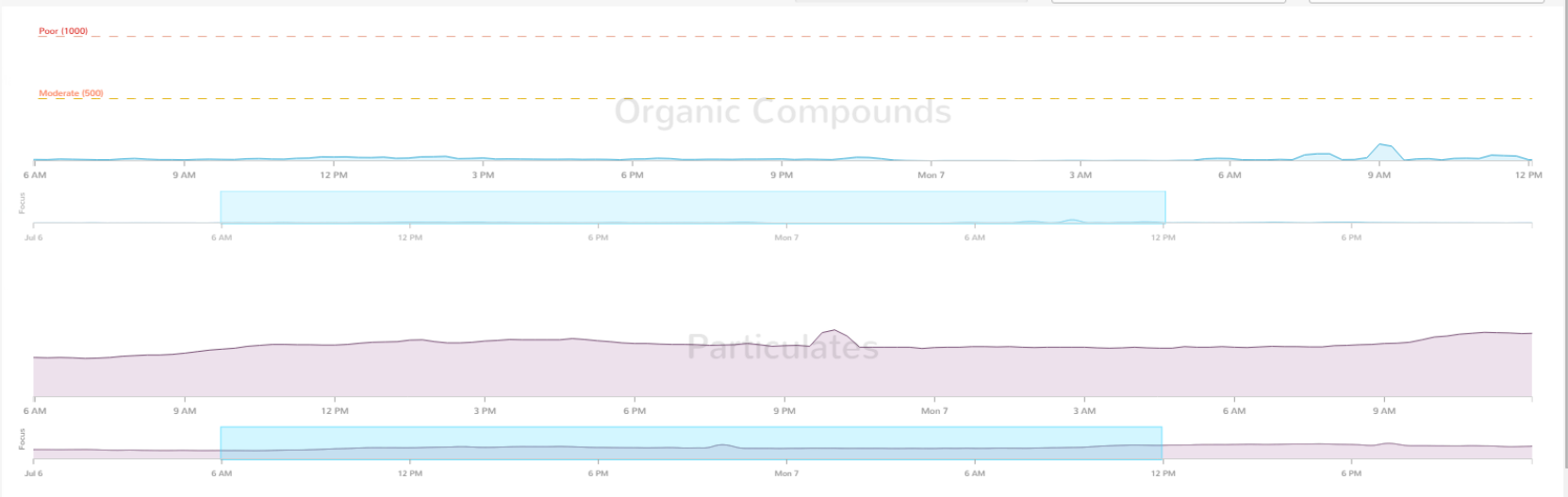


Right now  
**78°F**  
°F | °C

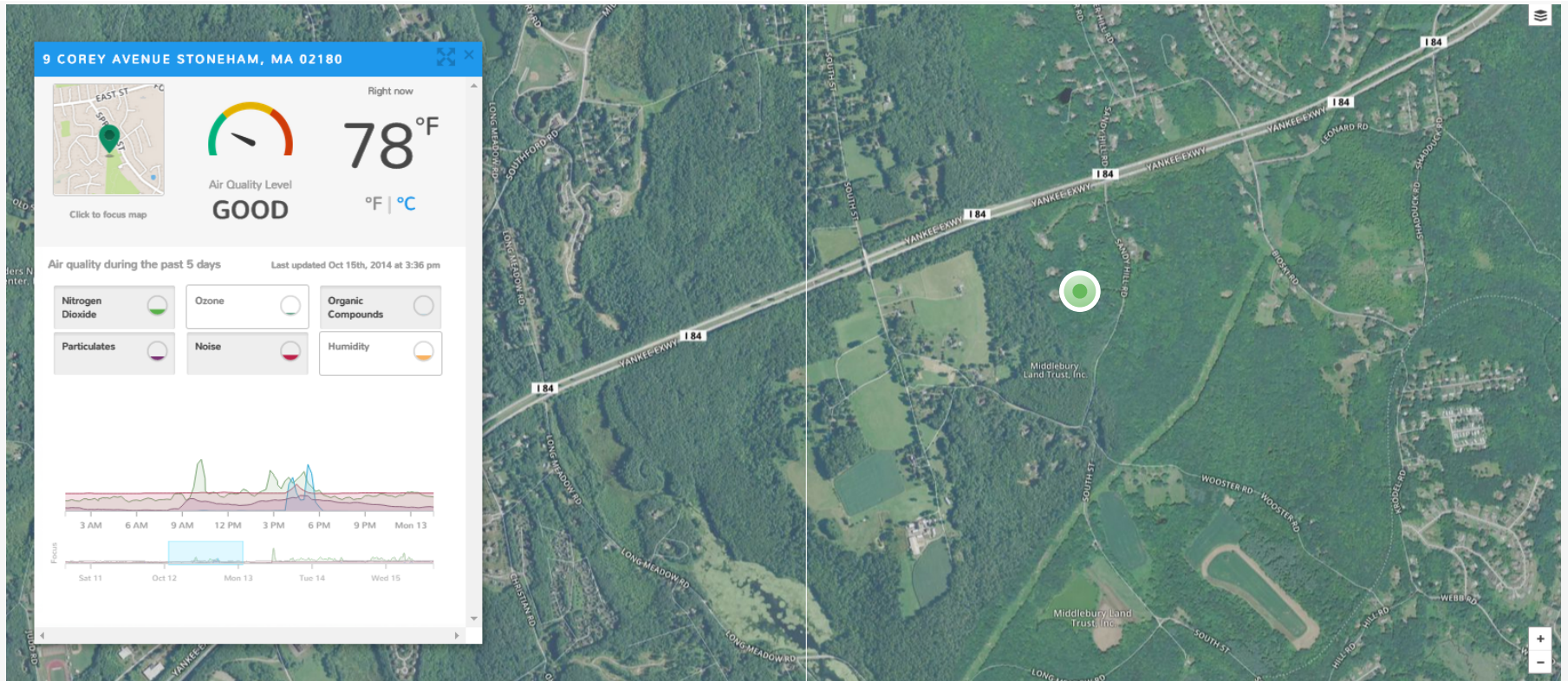
Air quality during the past : custom period Last updated Oct 15th, 2014 at 3:59 pm

7/6/2014 to 7/7/2014

Nitrogen Dioxide	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ozone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Organic Compounds	<input type="checkbox"/>
Particulates	<input type="checkbox"/>	Noise	<input type="checkbox"/>	Humidity	<input type="checkbox"/>



# Yard Care

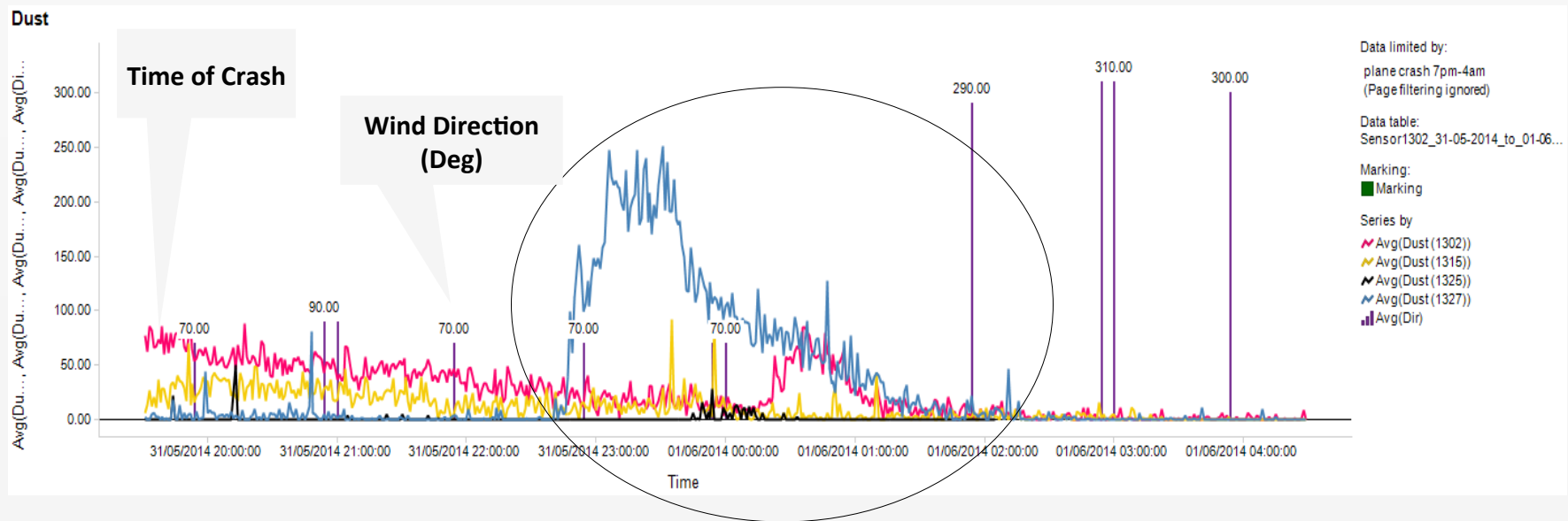




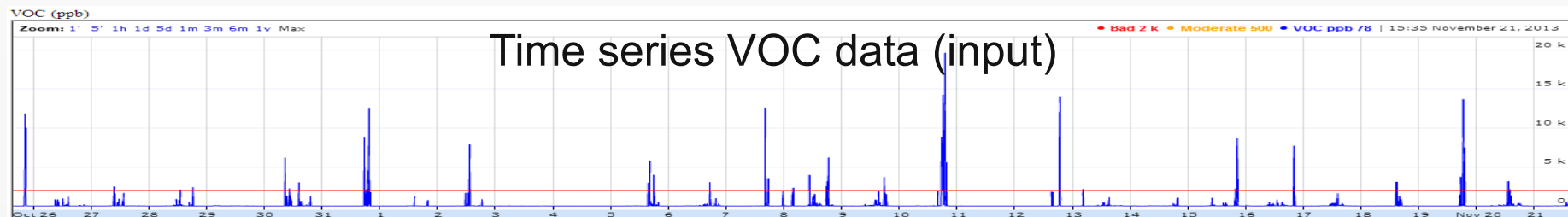
# TSP Resulting from a Jet Crash



# Importance of Meteorological Data

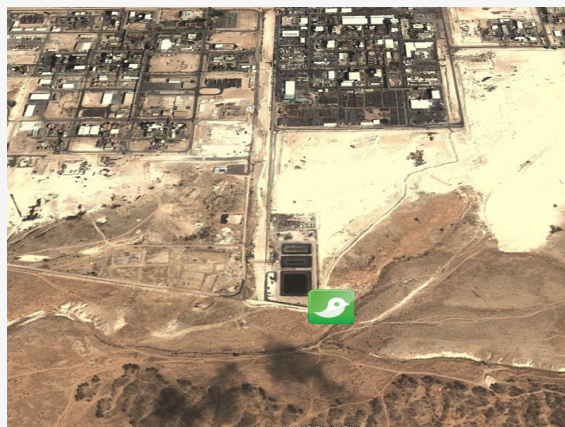


# Back Trajectory to VOC Sources

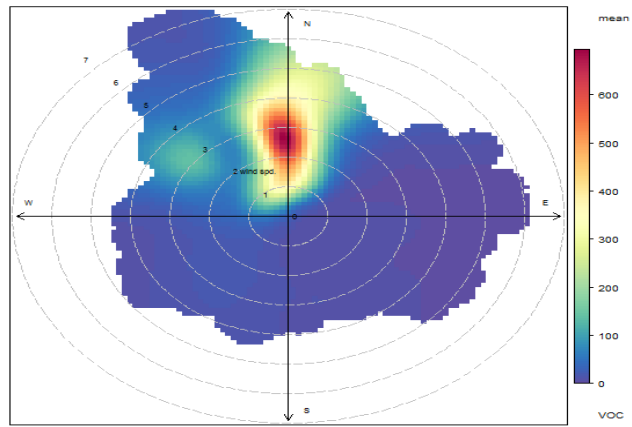


Time series VOC data (input)

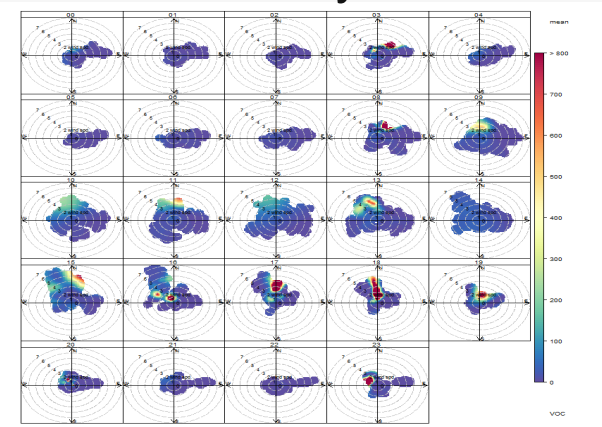
Location



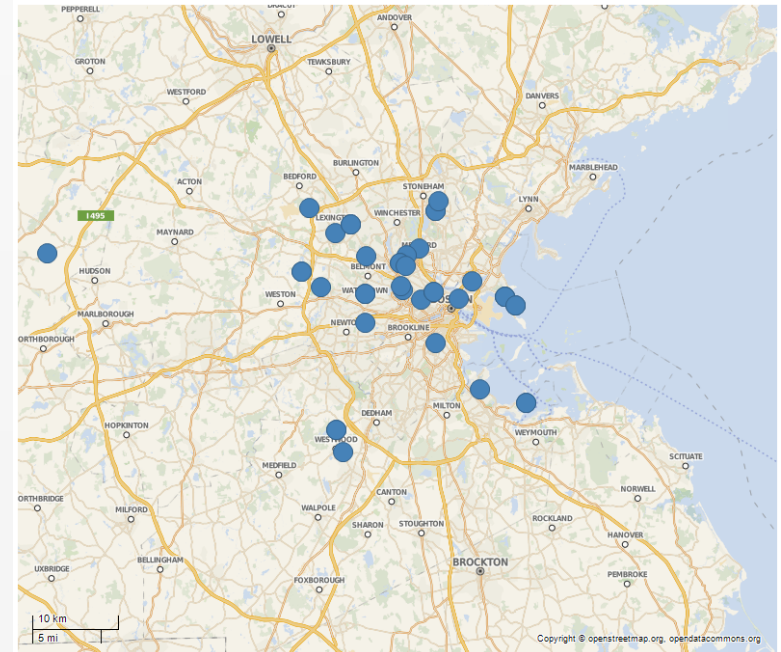
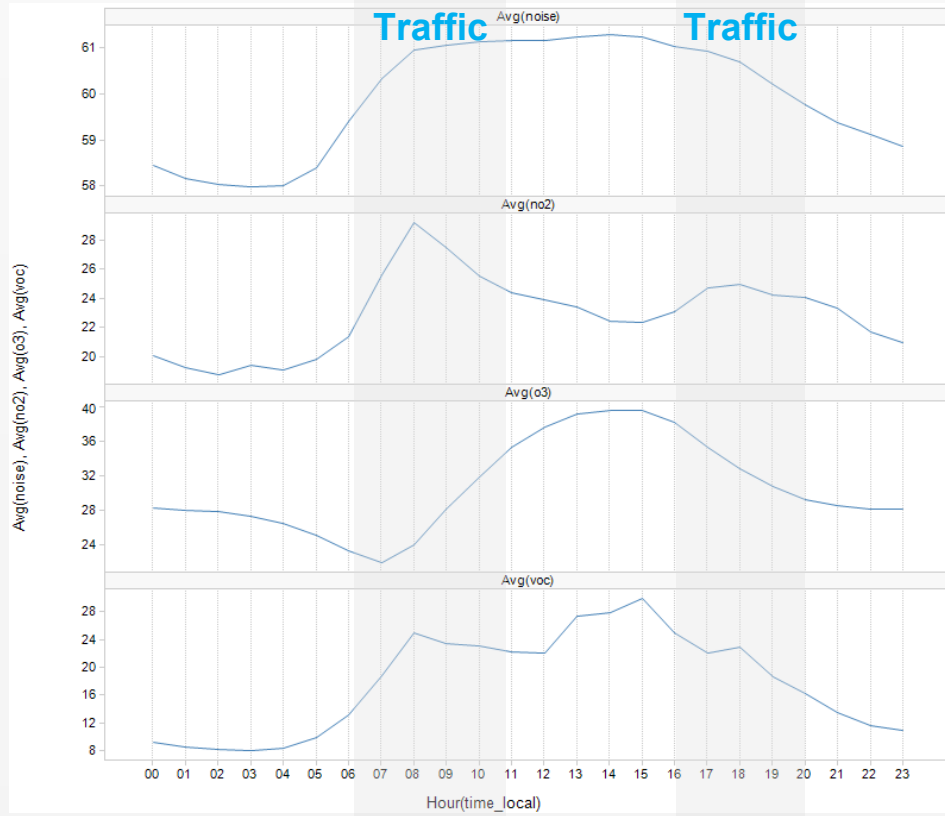
Source direction



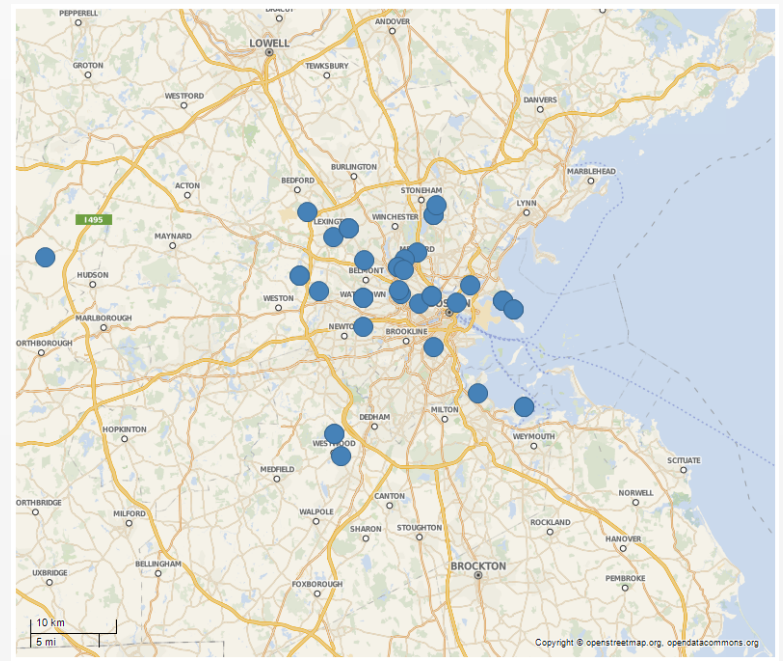
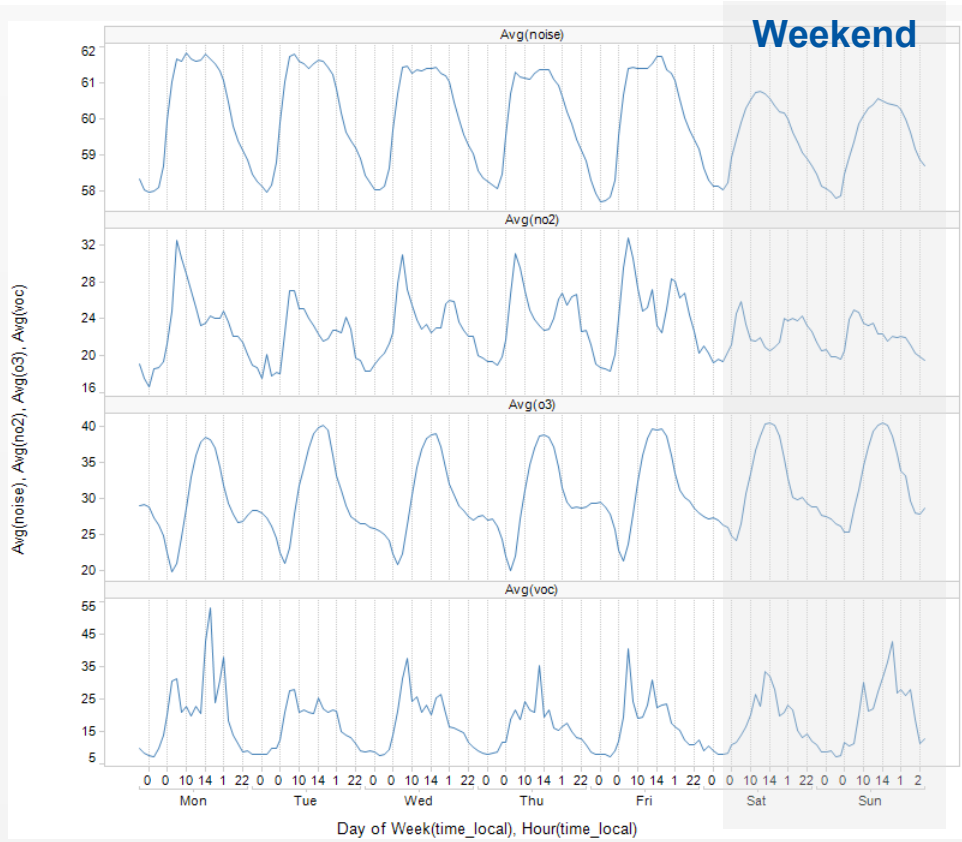
Time analysis



# Boston's Diurnal Pattern – 25 units averaged over 6 months

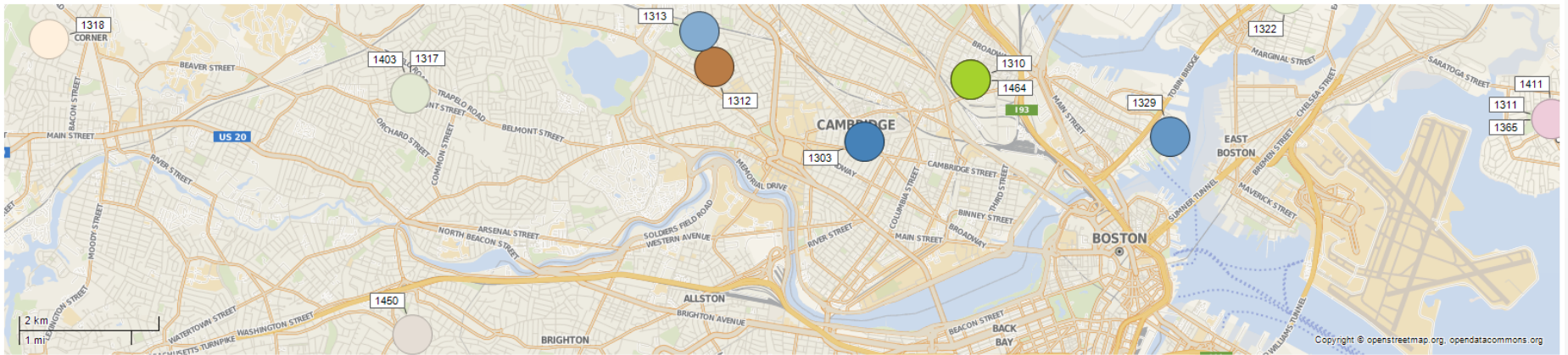


# Boston Weekly Pattern –25 units averaged over 6 months

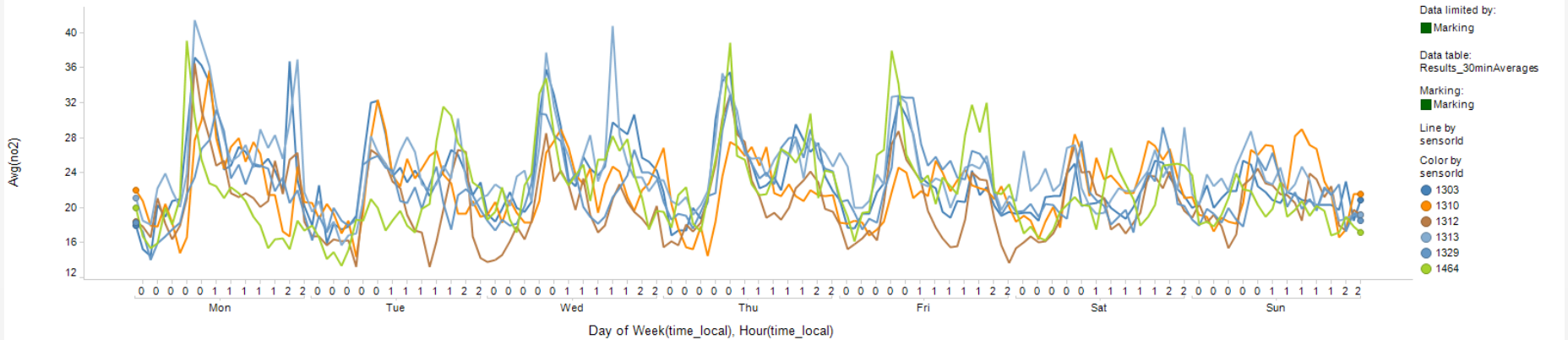




# Boston Weekly Pattern – No2 6 units nearby



Weekly pattern each station NO2 6 months averages

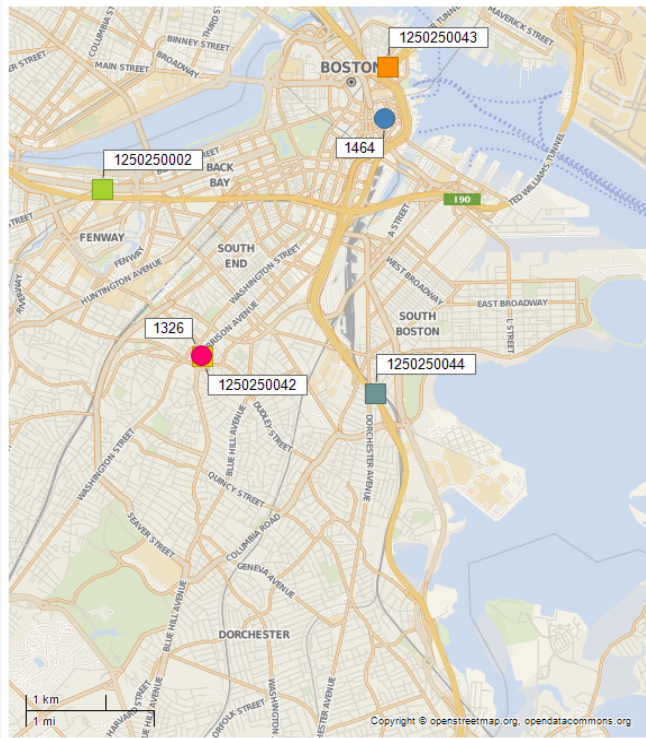


# NO2 Boston vs close AQM stations

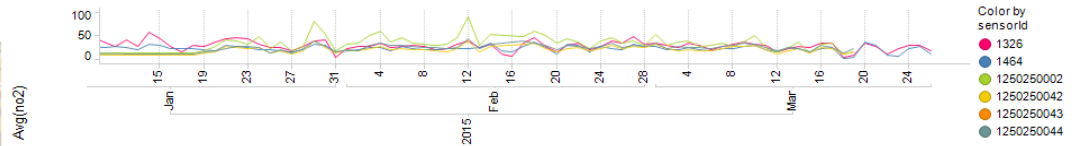


1464 and 1326 are elm, vs AQM reference

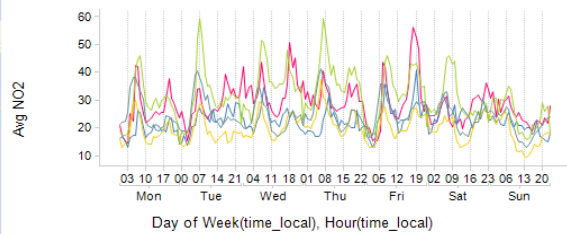
Square shapes - AQM stations  
Round shapes - elm stations



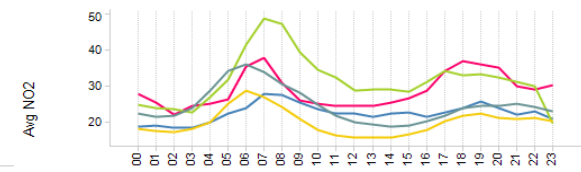
30min Average data for NO2 Daily Average



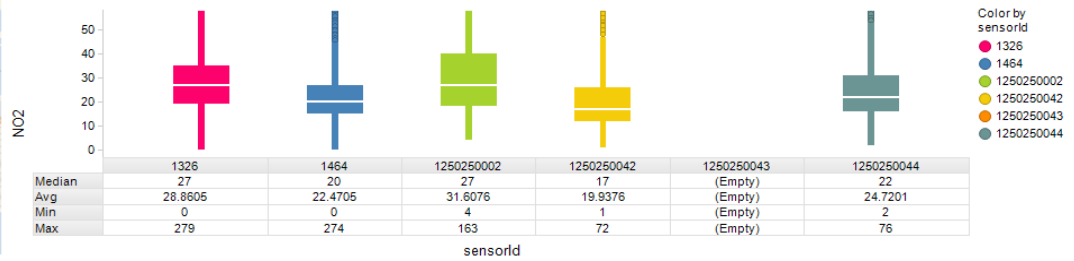
By day of week and hour



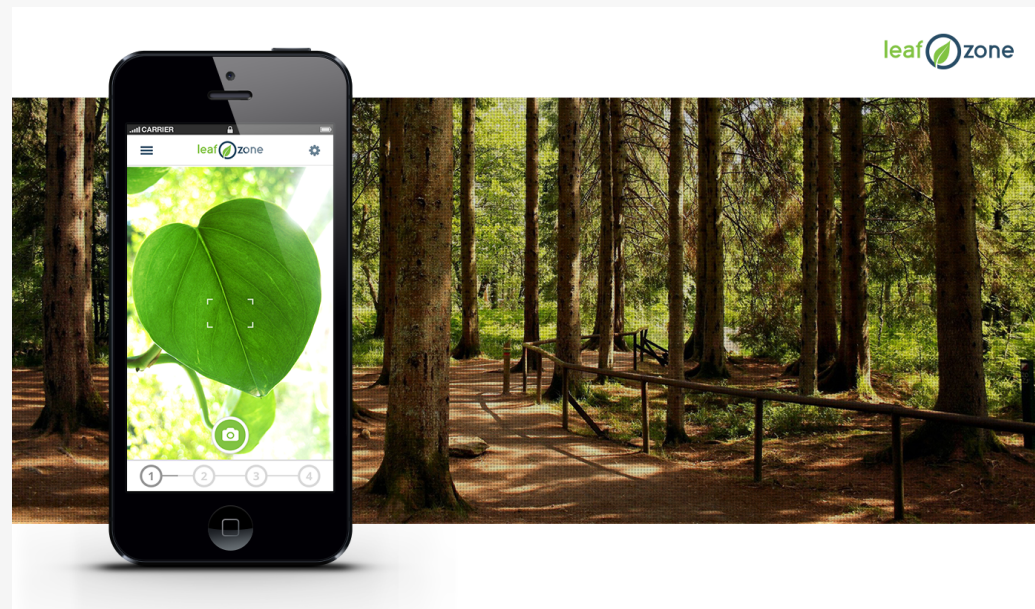
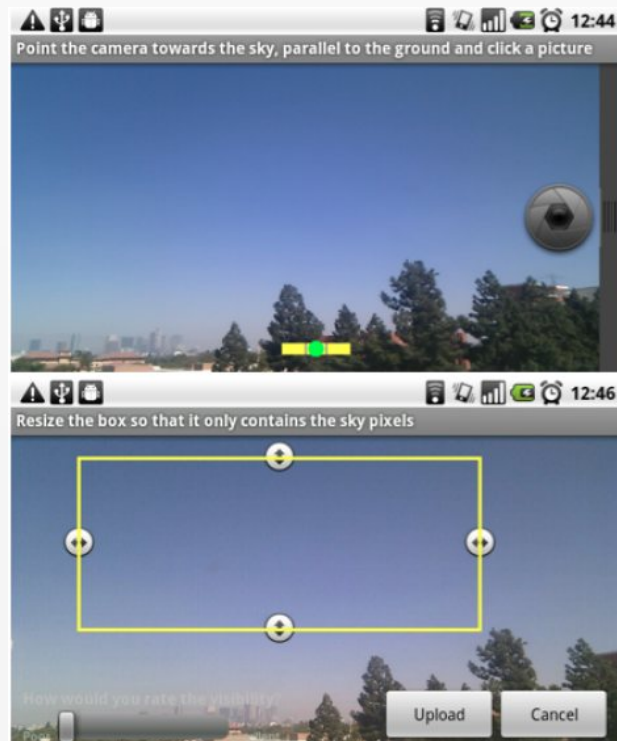
By hour of day



Data Distribution



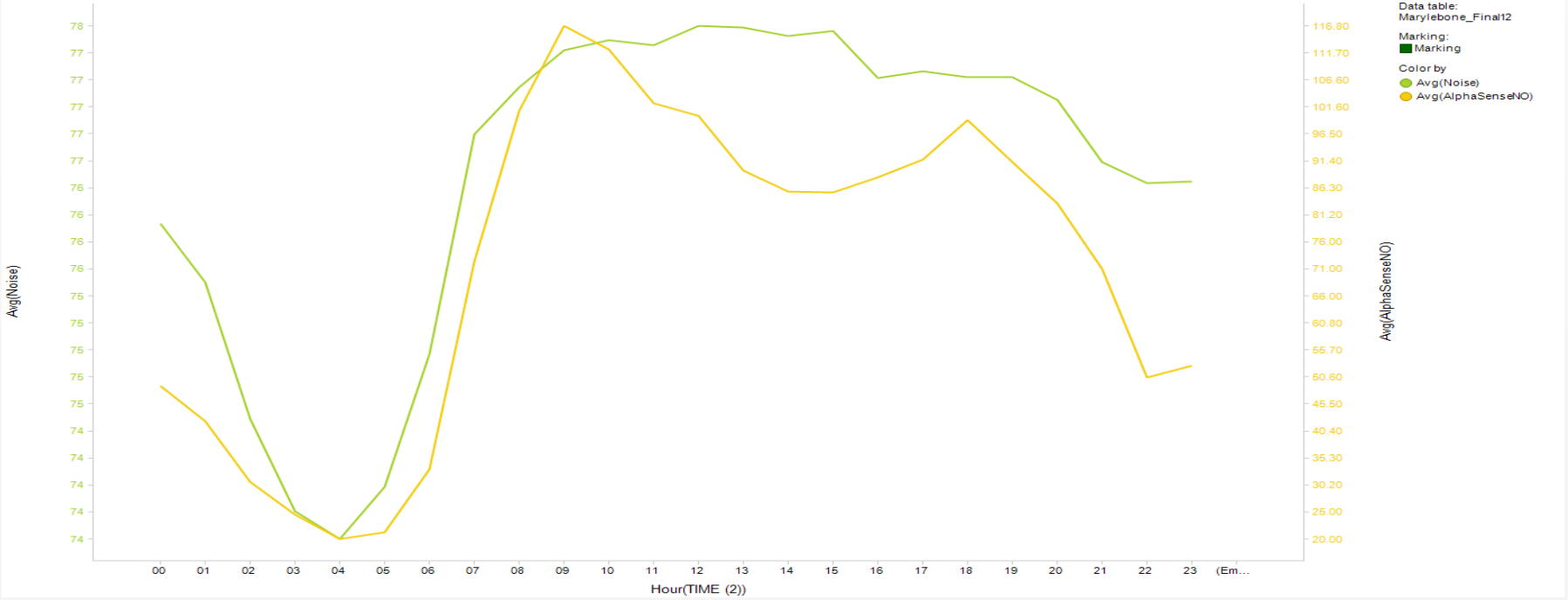
How can we add even more to the data?



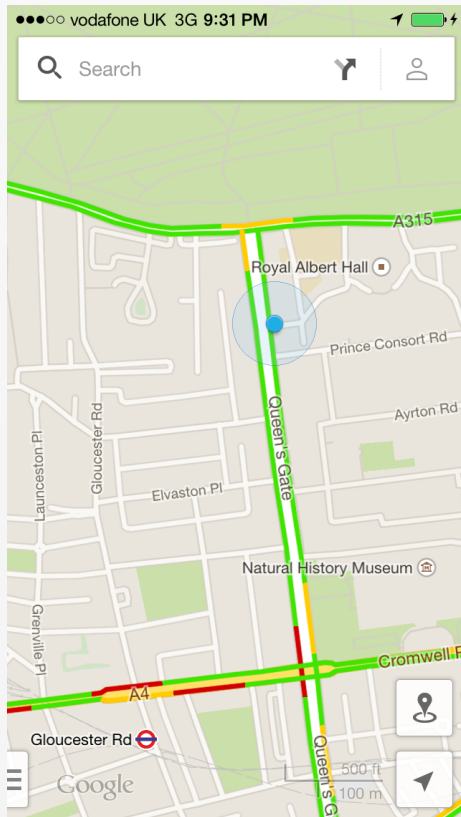
# Noise Vs NO



Line Chart



# What will truly dense networks enable?



## Valuable insights

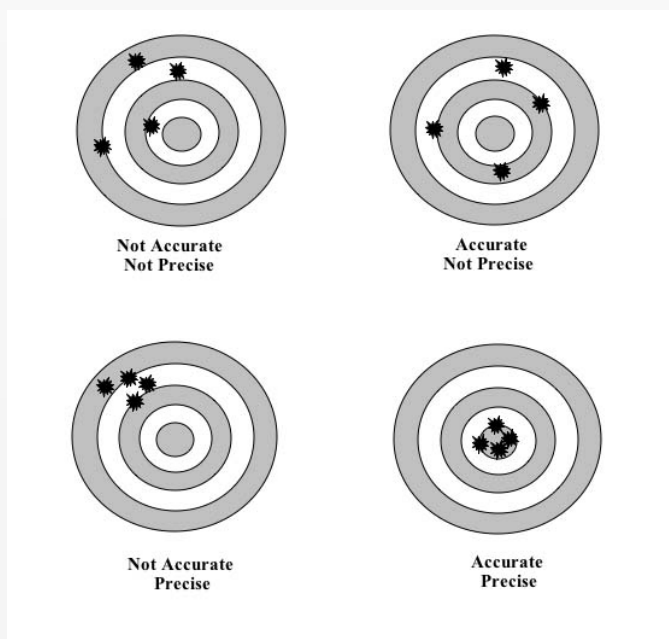
- Real-time decisions and recommendations
  - Be it traffic management, walking to school, where to jog... eventually where public health risks are highest?
- The ability to understand your exposure
  - Ubiquitous devices or mobile sensors
- Individualized exposure data
- Data to link exposure with health
- Event detection

## What are the new Challenges will we face?



- Enabling the masses to measure will bring up a whole series of complications. Relevant info for the right audiences.
- Litigation and indicative data?
- How do you rationalize historical legislation and standards with new technology?
- What about industry?
  - Networks can enable industry to further improve their processes.
  - Risk of measuring something that is not mandatory.

## How do we communicate the relevant information to the relevant audience?



- Providing technical audiences a means to evaluate the performance of the system real-time.
- Tools to fully use heterogeneous air quality data.
- Explaining complicated ideas such as precision and accuracy of a dynamic system to lay people.
- Summarizing it in a means that is most useful in the specific setting.

## Putting it together – how we will get there.



- Demonstrate the value of the data to many stakeholders including the public.
- Deliver the information in through customized applications that enable specific decisions.
- Make the data personal and interesting, enabling people to make decisions they feel good about.
- Make it social
- Make it positive - Air pollution exposure is often something we have some control over. Empower people.