

#### EPA's Next Generation Compliance Strategy and the Role of the Citizen Scientist

NEMC 2016 Citizen Science Session

Orange County, CA

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#### **Presentation Objectives**

- 1. Define Citizen Science
- 2. Explore Citizen Science Models
- 3. Examine Citizen Science Drivers and Enablers
- 4. Review Two Key Areas of Citizen Science Engagement
- 5. Outline a Strategy for Working with Citizen Scientists

### **Oxford Dictionary Definitions of Citizen Science**

#### • Citizen Science:

Scientific work undertaken by members of the general public, often in collaboration with or under the direction of professional scientists and scientific institutions.

#### Citizen Scientist:

A member of the general public who engages in scientific work, often in collaboration with or under the direction of professional scientists and scientific institutions.

or

A scientist whose work is characterized by a sense of responsibility to serve the best interests of the wider community.

#### **History of Citizen Science**

- Early scientists were for the most part citizen scientists, undertaking studies without formal support.
- Science research shifted to universities and government agencies in the mid-1900s.
- Citizen science is growing due to affordable computing power, affordable measurement instrumentation, Web-based collaboration tools, government support, and regulations.
- What is the concern?
  - Enabling programs create "Citizen Deputies" instead of "Citizen Scientists"

# **Three Ideal Models for Citizen Science Programs**

Contributory Projects	<ul> <li>Projects designed by professional scientists</li> <li>Participants collect, process, or analyze data</li> </ul>
Collaborative Projects	<ul> <li>Projects designed by professional scientists</li> <li>Participants have a larger role – framing questions, reporting outcomes</li> </ul>
Co-Created Projects	<ul> <li>Projects are designed by both professional and avocational scientists</li> <li>Much broader participation and contribution by the citizen scientists</li> </ul>

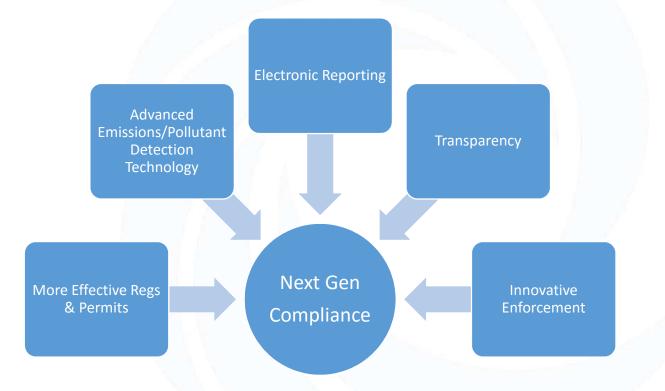
#### **Attributes of a Successful Citizen Science Program**

- Project objectives are clear and understood.
- Project team has the appropriate expertise in all required project areas – design, measurement, analysis, reporting.
- Small scale trials are undertaken to test the approach with potential participants.
- Motivations and skillsets of all parties are understood.
- Quality of the scientific data generated is measurable.

### Several Factors Drive Citizen Science Involvement in the Environmental Area

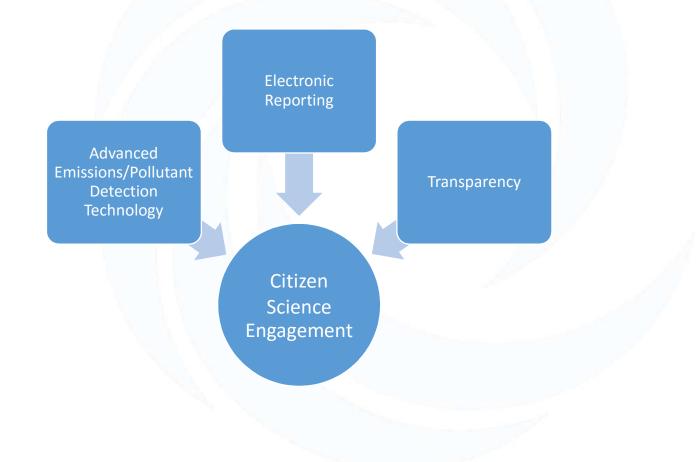
- Public interest in environmental or ecological areas coupled with enabling technology
- Environmental Justice/Community Concerns
- Office of Science and Technology Policy
- University Citizen Science Programs
- EPA Programs
  - The Changing Paradigm of Air Pollution Monitoring
- EPA's Next Generation Compliance Strategic Plan

## Five Elements Define EPA's Next Generation Compliance Strategy



Explained in Next Generation Compliance Strategy: 2014-2017 dated October 2014.

# Three Elements of Next Gen Compliance Engage the Citizen Science Community



#### Next Gen Compliance Strategy is Underway

- Coal Combustion Residuals Rule
  - Includes a requirement for a fugitive dust management plan and maintenance of a public website
- Petroleum Refinery Sector Rule
  - Includes requirements for fenceline monitoring and electronic reporting via EPA's Central Data Exchange (CDX)
- Electronic Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements for New Source Performance Standards (Proposed)
  - Will require use of ERT for all NSPS
- NPDES Electronic Reporting Tool
  - Promulgated 9/15 with a five-year phase-in period

#### **EPA Enables the Citizen Scientist in Two Ways**

#### 1. Data Generation

EPA recognizes and advances emerging measurement technologies that are deployable by citizen scientists.

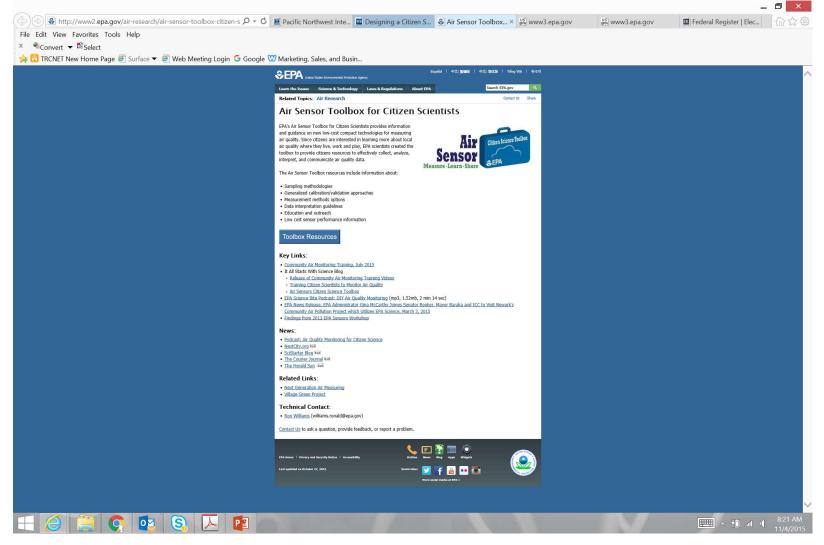
#### 2. Data Mining

EPA maintains various electronic reporting tools and databases that are publically accessible.

## EPA is Enabling Citizen Scientists to Participate in Air Quality Measurement Activities

<u>https://www.epa.gov/air-research/air-sensor-toolbox-citizen-scientists</u>

#### **EPA is Enabling Citizen Scientists to Participate in Air Quality Measurement Activities**

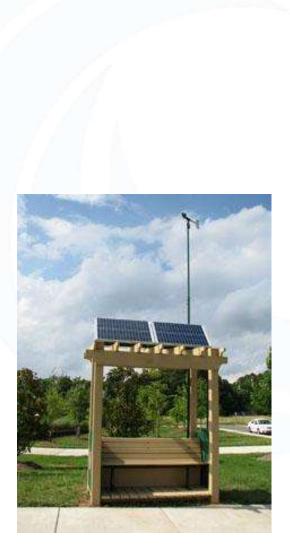


#### **Monitoring Programs Vary in Sophistication**

- Air Quality Egg
  - Community-led sensing network for NO<sub>2</sub> and CO contained in the Air Quality Egg (\$240)
- AirCasting
  - Airbeam (\$250) measures PM<sub>2.5</sub>
- Village Green Project (EPA)
  - Bench (~\$60,000) measures O<sub>3</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, Temperature, Humidity, and Wind Speed with real-time reporting

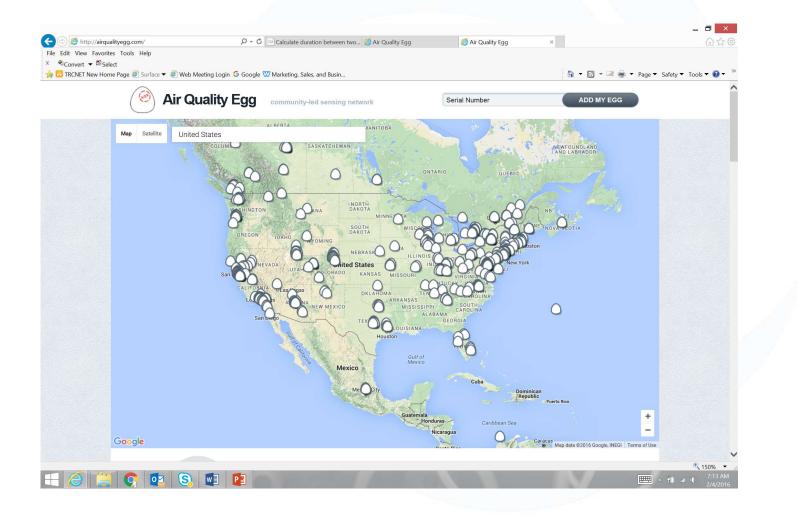
### **Sample Measurement Technologies**







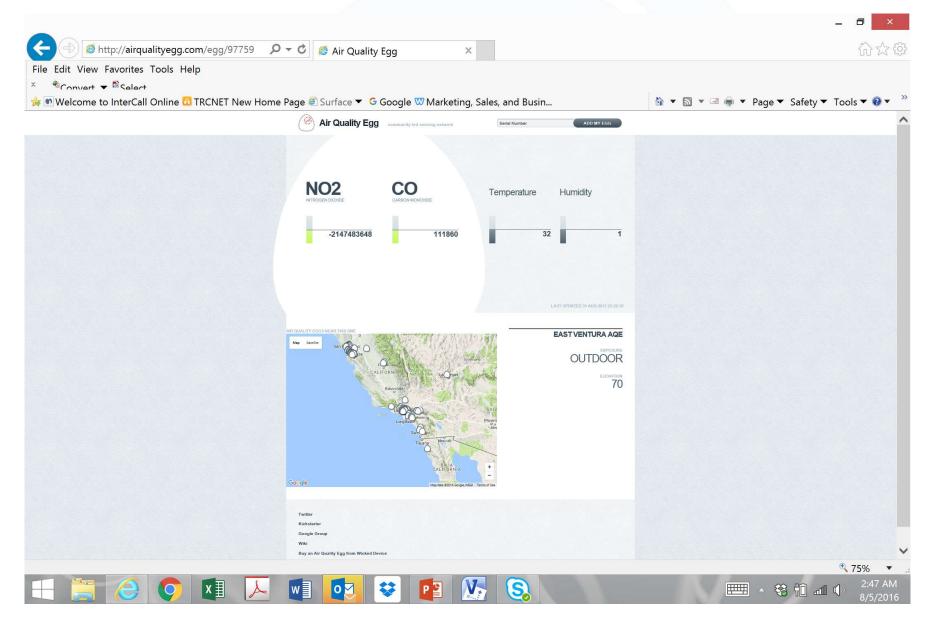
### **Air Quality Egg Network Screenshot**



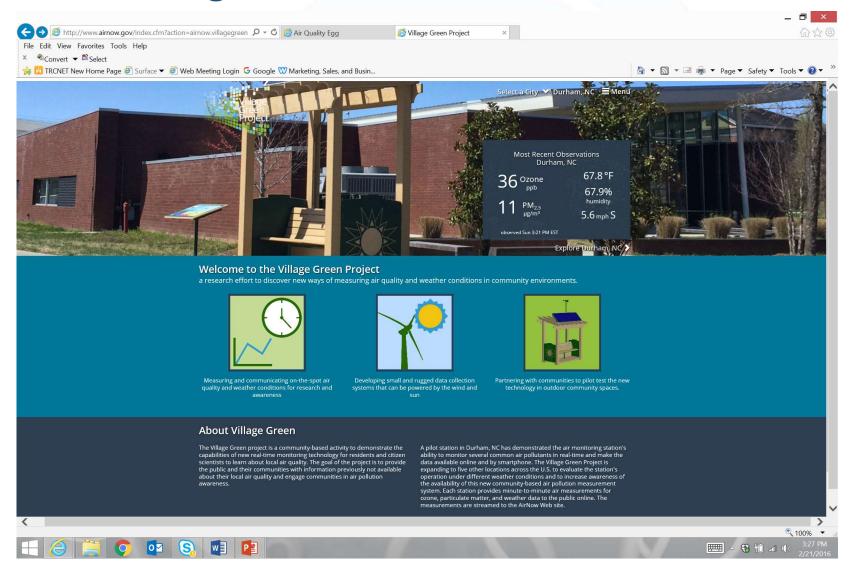
#### Los Angeles Area Air Quality Egg Data

http://airqualityegg.com/egg/97759

#### Los Angeles Area Air Quality Egg Data



#### Durham Village Green Park Bench Data (1/2)

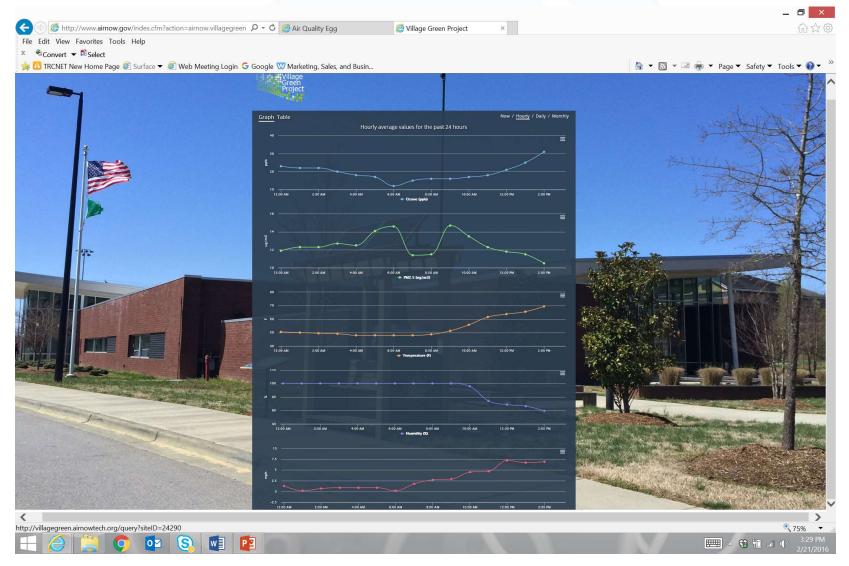


#### Durham Village Green Park Bench Data (2/2)

- Live Feed:
- https://villagegreen.airnowtech.org/welcome?siteID=24290



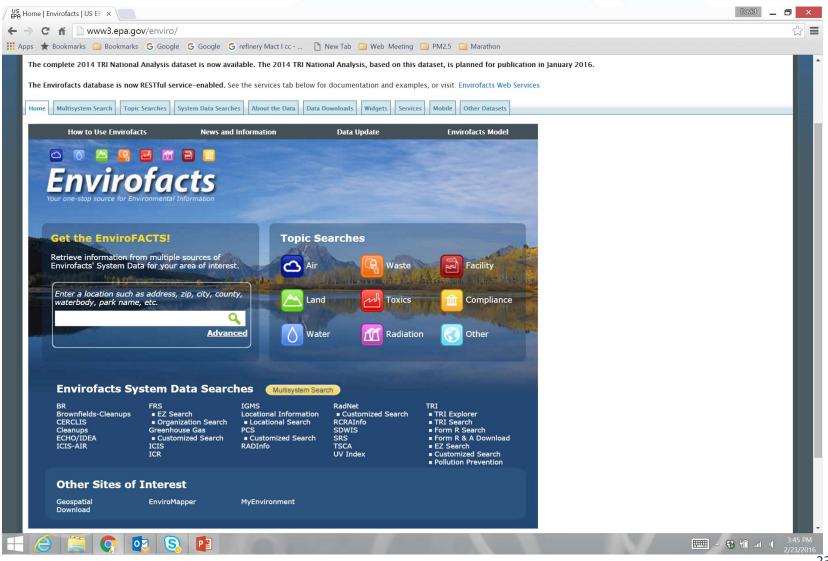
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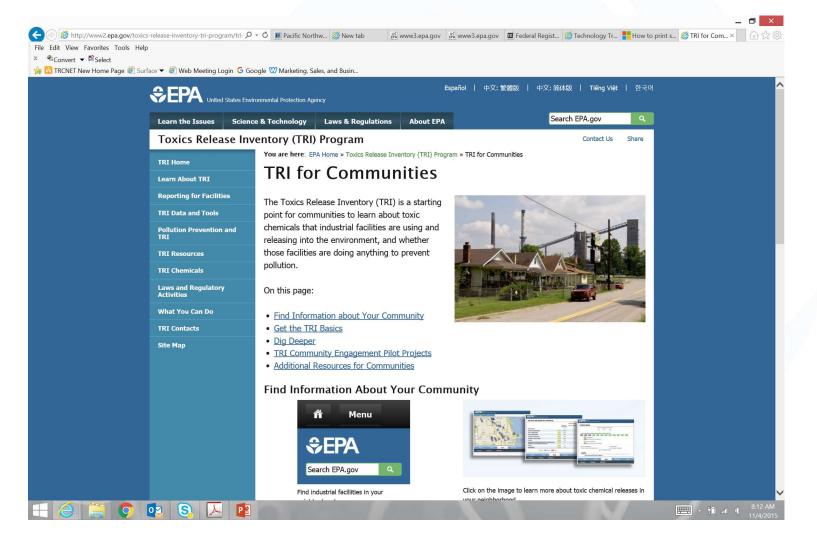
### Several CDX Systems Provide Public Access to Reported Information

- CEDRI: Compliance and Emissions Data Reporting Interface
- NeT: NPDES eReporting Tool
- TRIMEweb: Toxic Release Inventory Made Easy Web
- ENVIROFACTS: Portal for Several Databases
- ECHO: Enforcement & Compliance History Online
- EJSCREEN: Environmental Justice Screening Tool

#### **Envirofacts Provides Easy Access to Multiple** Databases



#### **TRI Reporting Is Designed to Empower Citizen** Scientists



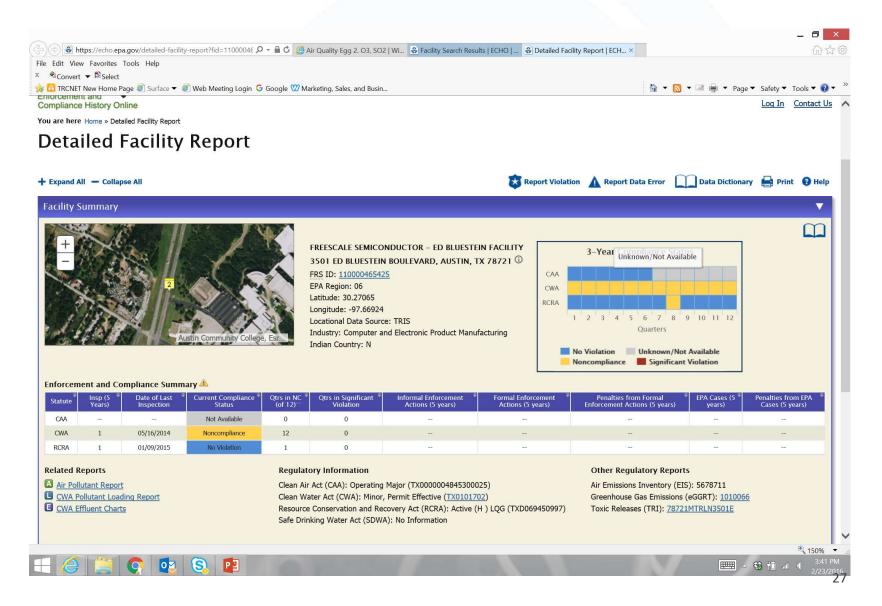
#### ERT Data Are Available and Ready for Citizen Scientist Analysis

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#### ECHO Provides an Easy Entry Point for the Citizen Scientist

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#### **Selecting a Facility Returns an ECHO Dashboard**



# **Guidelines for Successful Engagement with the Citizen Science Community**

- 1. Don't dismiss the citizen science community.
- 2. Promote effective citizen science models.
- 3. Understand the government resources that engage the citizen science community.
- 4. Work with the citizen science community and enabling organizations to help advance foundational concepts regarding program design, data quality, and data analysis. *"Data quality is a key issue since data of poor or unknown*

quality is less useful than no data since it can lead to wrong decisions."

- 5. Understand the broader implications of monitoring plans, electronic reporting, and databases.
- 6. Prepare for increased electronic reporting and public review.

# Thank you

# Questions?

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