

Air Quality Forum for the Four Corners and San Juan Mountains: Summary of Group Question Seminar

1) What are the priority air quality issues?

- Toxics
- Mercury
- Ozone, human health
- NO_x
- Ammonia
- VOCs
- Climate change/ greenhouse gases/ fossil fuels use
- PM_{2.5}, Visibility
- Nitrogen deposition
- Nuclear/hazardous waste
- Global transport of air pollution
- Movement of goods

2) What is your organization/agency/etc. doing in terms of air quality (special studies, long-term monitoring, mitigation, education, etc.)

SUIT: Monitoring for PM_{2.5}, improvements in O₃ monitoring, new environmental commission, tribal air quality program

USFS/BLM: fuels management, air quality and atmospheric deposition monitoring (ozone, nitrogen, visibility, funding for new mercury deposition sampler approved)

NPS: Developing cheaper monitoring, CLIP tool for greenhouse gas inventories

League of Women Voters: Keeping a focus on relevant issues, suggesting a need for monitoring

La Plata County: Signed on to Mayor's Climate Agreement, building energy study, energy conservation, visibility study at DMR, funded Pine River Watershed Grps's Vallecito mercury study

Montezuma Climate Action Network: Education

MSI: Mercury and nitrogen monitoring and air quality outreach

Four Corners Air Quality Task Force: EI, mitigation options, modeling

General: Conservation (low carbon clubs), considering symbiotic relations w/in organizations

3) What would you like to see happen? What are the goals?

- Contact political representatives
- Fight against non-clean development (NIMBY)
- Alternative energy
 - concentrated thermal-solar
 - wind
 - water-gas
 - radiant energy
 - solar photo-voltaic
- Regional transit systems
- Move away from fossil fuel-based transportation
- Voluntary best management practices
- Education
- Continue long-term monitoring
 - review
 - look for decreases in pollutants
 - add monitors
- Reduce/eliminate high levels of mercury that caused fish advisories
- Implement controls on existing polluters
- Provide incentive for emitters to implement controls
- Provide incentives for emitters to fund monitoring
- Strive for improvements well beyond minimum air quality standards

4) What are the main obstacles?

- Funding
- Population Growth
- Consumer habits
- Economic development
- Industry
- Recession
- Time
- Legislative Process
- Litigation
- Cultural habits
- Lack of transportation infrastructure
- Lack of flexibility
- Political Lobbying
- Self Interest, Habit, Ignorance, Tradition

- TABOR amendment
- Short-term/initial costs
- Difficulty in collaborating across many groups and agencies
- Lack of focused will
- Jurisdiction

5) How can we move forward strategically and collaboratively?

- “Be the squeaky wheel”
- Stay positive
- Be responsible individually
- Make sure everyone is at the table
- Remember why we are doing this
- Local representation that is favorable to protection of the environment
- Celebrate the accomplishments
- Implement renewable energy
- Implement systems that ENCOURAGE Environmental ethics
- Be a good example as an individual
- Increase the number of agency-funded task forces
- Collaborative efforts (sharing solutions/responsibility)
 - need to be dynamic
 - focus on specific issues
- Improve interaction between science/implementation/policy
- Public education
- Increase public exposure & keep them informed (newspaper column on Air Quality?)
- Data sharing and collaborative monitoring projects (including budget sharing)
- Intergovernmental agreements and cooperation
- Make the Air Quality Forum an Annual Event
- Apply for funding collaboratively
- Pool resources
- Mercury Advisory Committee?