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<http://www.beyondtoxics.org/resources/press-kit/>



News Release – January 13, 2020

Beyond Toxics organizes West Eugene Clean Air Community Meeting for Jan. 25th

Results from 2019 Environmental Health Community Survey Show High Level of Concern about Air Toxics and Health Impacts

Beyond Toxics welcomes residents of West Eugene neighborhoods to a community gathering on the subject of air quality issues for West Eugene. The Clean Air Community Meeting is Saturday, January 25th from 5 pm - 7 pm at Petersen Barn Community Center. A free dinner and free raffle tickets for Winco gift cards are part of the event.

Beyond Toxics has been knocking on doors for many weekends in 2019 asking community members to take an Environmental Health Community Survey and the results of that survey will be shared during the meeting. This will include what area neighbors have said about their health challenges in relation to the air pollution in the neighborhood.

The American Lung Association ranked Eugene in the top 24 worst U.S. cities most polluted by short-term particle pollution in their 2018 State of the Air Report. The report states that “particle pollution can be very dangerous to breathe” and can trigger illness, hospitalization and premature death, especially for the youngest and the elderly, or anyone with existing respiratory or cardiac diseases. Small pollution particles can also worsen the effects of breathing air toxics because chemicals from industrial emissions adhere to the particles and are subsequently deposited inside the lungs.

The [Register-Guard recently reported](#) that different zip codes in Eugene have different ages for life expectancy, with West Eugene having the lowest life expectancy by 18 years.

Those statistics speak to the need for neighbors living in the 97402 zip code to have a say in upcoming decisions about air quality regulations. The Lane Regional Air Protection Agency announced that they will be reviewing air pollution permits for five of the counties biggest polluters. Four out of the five facilities are located in West Eugene. The factories emit fine particulate matter and a number of hazardous air pollutants, all of which are considered highly dangerous to human health.

In public complaints and in survey results West Eugene residents have expressed concerns about their experience with high rates of children’s asthma, cancer and heart disease. The community meeting is an important opportunity for neighbors to learn about the problems and give input into solutions.

WHAT: West Eugene Clean Air Community Meeting to discuss air pollution concerns of residents of West Eugene neighborhoods.

WHEN: Saturday, January 25, 2020 from 5 -7 pm

WHERE: Petersen Barn Community Center – 870 Berntzen Rd., Eugene, OR 97402 ([google map](#))

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Beyond Toxics is a statewide non-profit based in Eugene using environmental justice engagement and community-based environmental grassroots organizing to ensure environmental protection and health for all communities.