



Sunnyside Community  
Redevelopment Organization  
April 28, 2022  
Debra Walker, President

## SCRO MISSION STATEMENT

- ▶ Sunnyside Community Redevelopment Organization seeks to create healthy clean air sustainable community by advocating, educating and empowering the Sunnyside Community Residents.

# SCRO Community Background Information

- ▶ The Sunnyside community, established in 1912, is located in Southern Houston, Texas. Sunnyside is outside the 610 Loop and inside Beltway 8 off State 288 south of Downtown Houston. Sunnyside, a historically African American community is known for its rich heritage, pride, and neighborly compassion. The population is approximately 22,000, comprising over 7,500 households. Sunnyside has been historically more than 95% African American, but recently that percentage has declined to 87% Hispanic and fewer White residents.
- ▶ Like other predominantly low income African American and Hispanic neighborhoods in Houston. Sunnyside faces a number of challenges as a result of decades of injustice and government neglect. Sunnyside is a community which thrive without support of government when it was first annexed into Houston has one of the highest poverty rates in the Houston metropolitan area, inadequate city services, high crime rates, underperformed schools, deteriorating housing and infrastructure, loss of community businesses, high unemployment rates, historical and current environmental hazards, high rates of health diseases, and considered a food dessert and food swamp.

# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- ▶ Environmental injustice happens when people are disproportionately impacted by environmental factors because of discrimination. Environmental justice (EJ) is the concept that all people and communities, regardless of their race and socioeconomic status, are entitled to enjoy an equally clean environment and resources. Communities where residents face environmental injustice and a higher risk of being exposed to environmental hazards due to their race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status are called EJ communities.

# Air Pollution

- ▶ Air is to protect human health from the Environment
- ▶ Air pollution is one of the top yet silent global killers it has the world by storm and attributes almost 7 million deaths worldwide annually
- ▶ Air pollution is hard to see and that's why it's often hard to pinpoint sources and trends to develop effective solutions
- ▶ Air pollution in cities like Houston is a major threat to public health with serious social and economic consequences. Citizens increasingly find this unacceptable. Cities are fighting back by reducing transport emissions, transitioning to renewable energy,, and implementing clean air zones and other measures.

# Data To Action

- ▶ Why Clean Air is Vital For Your City's Health and Prosperity?
- ▶ **Getting Started:** Understanding your city's air quality challenges and opportunities.
- ▶ Exploring tools to measure and map hyperlocal air pollution
- ▶ Understanding the issues that need to be considered the types of problems to target, the technology options available, the costs, and how to translate data into policies that improve local air quality.
- ▶ **Nuts and Bolts:** Designing a hyperlocal air monitoring network
- ▶ Ready, set, go: Turning on and maintaining our network
- ▶ Making sense of the data
- ▶ **DATA TO ACTION:** Using air pollution data to develop and implement clean air solutions
- ▶ Building awareness and encouraging community engagement and support
- ▶ Measuring success and maintaining momentum

# Making The Invisible Visible

- ▶ Air Pollutants
- ▶ Sulfur Dioxide
- ▶ Respirable Particulate Matter
- ▶ Ground Level Ozone
- ▶ Lead
- ▶ Toxic Air Pollutants (TAPs)
- ▶ Benzene
- ▶ Ethylene Oxide
- ▶ 1,3-Butadiene

## SCRO DATA TO ACTION EJ MAJOR CONCERNS

- ▶ 1) To be able to improve the environment in Sunnyside
- ▶ 2) To be able to address public safety in Sunnyside
- ▶ 3) To be able to increase accessibility to health care services
- ▶ The objectives of the Sunnyside Community Air Monitoring Network are to disseminate information to the community, gather and analyze data on air pollution concentrations that will aid in identification of points sources, and reduce resident exposures. SCRO will use the data collected by air monitors to share current and historical trends in air quality with residents and increase collaboration with City and County agencies to conduct reference grade air monitoring in response to citizens concerns.

Purchase air monitors; develop asset maps to assist in identification of locations for air monitor deployment; install air monitors including co-location with a regulatory air monitor; maintain air monitors,



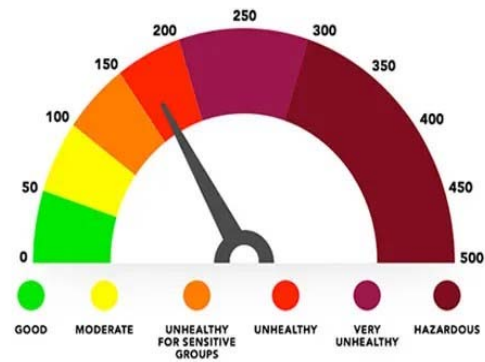
## Health Impacts Of Air Pollution

- ▶ The healthcare cost of air pollution is vast. It contributed to between 3,500 and 9,400 deaths, and over 3.7 billion in healthcare costs in 2010.
- ▶ Indoor and outdoor air pollution kills around 7 million people each year. And many more suffer from related conditions such as premature birth, low birth weight and asthma.
- ▶ 29% of deaths from lung cancer
- ▶ 24% of deaths from stroke
- ▶ 25% of deaths from heart disease
- ▶ 43% of deaths from lung disease
- ▶ Dementia
- ▶ COPD
- ▶ Covid-19

# POLLUTANTS SOURCES VENDORS

- Major Roads
- Recycling Facilities
- Rock Quarry
- Concrete Batch Companies
- I-610 East
- Barbara Jordan Memorial Parkway/H-288
- Toxic Release Facilities (23)
- Dry Cleaners
- Auto Paint Body Collision Shops
- Southern Crusher Concrete

# AIR QUALITY INDEX



Understanding  
Air Quality Index

# AIR QUALITY INDEX

- ▶ **But what is air quality and why is it important?**
- ▶ The Air Quality Index is used to report the daily air quality in any given location. This report will tell you how clean or unclean the air you're breathing is and what to be wary of. The Air Quality index's main role is to determine if there are any health-related effects you might experience should you spend significant time breathing unclean air. The Air Quality Index, or AQI, calculates the following four major air pollutants: ground-level ozone, particle pollution, carbon monoxide, and sulfur dioxide. Each of these pollutants has a national standard that protects the public's health.
- ▶ **Why is this important?**
- ▶ The air around you, that you breathe each day, affects how you live your life. Similar to the weather, air quality can change by the hour and you may have noticed news outlets indicating "Code Red for Ozone," "poor air quality today," and even in some states requests to carpool for the day. Several groups of people are at risk for poor air quality, especially if they are active outdoors. Those at risk include people with lung diseases, children, older adults, active people, and even select healthy individuals.

# Air Monitoring & Data Analyst



# PARTNERSHIPS

- ▶ Environmental Defense Fund
- ▶ UT Law Environmental Clinic
- ▶ TSU/Robert Bullard Environmental Justice Center
- ▶ Rice University
- ▶ City Of Houston Pollution Control Center
- ▶ Lone Star Legal Aid
- ▶ Texas A&M University
- ▶ Dr. Grace Lewis, EDF
- ▶ Dr. Denaë King, TSU
- ▶ University of Houston
- ▶ Sunnyside Stakeholders
- ▶ Faith-Based Churches
- ▶ SunnySide Civic Leaders
- ▶ Sunnyside Business Owners
- ▶ Sunnyside Complete Communities
- ▶ Data2Action Groups
- ▶ Harris County Pollution Control SVS
- ▶ Harris County Public Health/Vaccination /Covid-19
- ▶ Harris County Health Department Asthma Prevention Control Program