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## Message to the Public from the Director

2012 marks the 45<sup>th</sup> year that the Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency has been partnering with you to improve the air quality in Yakima County. Your clean air agency was activated in July, 1967 as the Yakima County Clean Air Authority, per the 1967 Washington Clean Air Act. In 2008, we changed our name to Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency.

It is remarkable just how far we as a community have come in improving the air quality in Yakima County and its surrounding areas. However, this doesn't mean our work is done and we can "rest on our laurels." A more stringent federal standard for fine particles was established in December 2006 to be more protective of public health. The Yakima area is currently not attaining that standard, meaning that the air quality is not as healthy as it should be. The fine particle pollution in the air at certain times during the winter heating season poses a serious health risk. A study conducted by the Washington Department of Ecology estimates that approximately 1,100 people in Washington die every year because of fine particle pollution.

"Nonattainment" can also hinder economic development and tourism in the area. In writing the federal Clean Air Act, Congress decided to provide an incentive to communities to clean their air, by inserting stricter air quality requirements to make areas of high air pollution less attractive to both new and existing industry. For instance, large businesses, seeking to relocate from other areas might purposely overlook areas designated as "non-attainment"; or, some large local businesses could be required to install additional emission control equipment. These factors might prompt businesses to locate their operations elsewhere. Tourism also might be affected by the perception that the area has "dirty" air.

If an EPA approved plan is not created for improving air quality within three years of a nonattainment designation, the Clean Air Act requires EPA to impose its own plan on the area. This plan would not necessarily clean up the problem in the way the community might prefer. Not acting can also endanger federal transportation funding that supports new highway projects, and grant funding for air quality monitoring, planning and control programs. And don't overlook personal and societal costs from the health impacts caused by unhealthy air that would continue to be incurred.

Your agency continues to focus its efforts on customer service through education, outreach, and assistance, rather than enforcement. However, without your help, stricter and more frequent enforcement of burn bans is inevitable. The emissions reduction project aimed at reducing smoke emissions from wood stoves that began in 2009 has been somewhat effective and will continue. Funding has also been secured to remove high-polluting woodstoves and replace them with cleaner, more efficient devices through June 2013.

To continue our progress by securing and maintaining healthful air quality, we will need to work as partners with you, the residents and businesses, making daily decisions to collectively improve the quality of the air we share. We'll be challenged to find effective ways to accomplish that mission. Also, we will be required to do our part to slow and ultimately reverse global climate change. On behalf of our dedicated and hard-working staff, Board of Directors and partners, I remain confident that you will not back down from the present challenges and those the future will bring. After all, you haven't yet. Thank you for all you've done and continue to do to make Yakima County a great place to breathe.

Your Executive Director,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary W. Pruitt".

Gary W. Pruitt

# Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency

## Vision Statement

*“All those who reside in, visit or neighbor Yakima County enjoy continuously improved air quality.”*

## Board of Directors

Tom Gasseling, Chair, Member-at-Large  
Kevin Bouchey, Vice Chair, County Commissioner  
Dick Camp, Yakima County Representative  
Bill Lover, City of Yakima Representative  
Vacant, Small Cities Representative

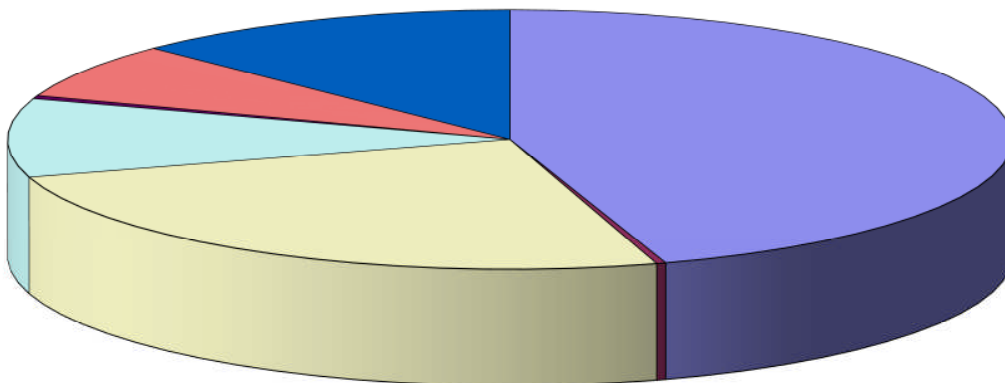
## Agency Staff

Michelle Blanchard, Receptionist and Woodstove Change-out Coordinator  
Carl Brookshire, Information Technology Manager  
Dave Caprile, Public Information Manager  
Teresa Coons, Engineer  
Mark Edler, Emission Reductions Project Manager  
Ron Gray, Enterprise Program Manager  
Dustin Harrington, Complaints Program Manager  
Keith Hurley, Compliance and Air Monitoring Division Supervisor  
Quatandra Jarvis, Engineering and Planning Division Assistant  
Christa Owen, Fiscal Programs Manager  
Hasan Tahat, Engineering and Planning Division Supervisor  
Patty Walker, Office and Human Resource Manager

## Agency Funding

Our funding comes from a variety of sources, most of them local. Yakima County and its cities and towns contribute to the work we do on behalf of their citizens through an annual assessment pursuant to the state’s Clean Air Act. Permit and registration fees from local businesses provide significantly to our funding. We also receive funds through federal and state grants.

### FY2012 REVENUE SUMMARY (\$980,568)



■ Permit Fees, 45.4%	■ Fines & Penalties, 0.3%	■ Grants, 24.2%
■ Supplemental Income, 9.9%	■ Other Income, 0.4%	■ Enterprise Income, 7.0%
■ Prior Year Carry Over, 12.7%		