

2016 Message to the Public from your Executive Director

This year marks the 49th year that the Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency has been partnering with you to improve the air quality in Yakima County. Once again we have maintained compliance with all National Ambient Air Quality Standards by a narrow margin. However, on some winter days, the air quality is still not healthy, posing a serious health risk, especially for the elderly and those with already compromised respiratory systems. More diligence on all our parts could broaden that margin and better ensure more healthful air quality.

Several years ago we coined the phrase, "Clean Air Is Everyone's Business," as a challenge to our regulated community, the community as a whole and to your Agency. I believe we all have begun to meet that challenge. However, more of the same will be required of us as population increases and available clean air does not.

This office is optimistic and encouraged that we're headed in the right direction and you should be proud of the progress in which we've all had a part. Goals for the future, targets by which to measure progress toward them and the strategies to achieve them will be carefully considered. Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats will be identified and measures to address each will be deliberately considered.

Working with dozens of local partners, your agency continues to provide financial incentives for replacing high-polluting wood stoves with extremely low-polluting devices. The emissions reduction program that began in 2009 has been effective and will continue. That program has provided the foundation for a plan for further steps we will take to assure public health protection. Last year a "Clean Air Task Force" was assembled to help guide that plan. Measures and programs have been evaluated by the task force and actions to increase effectiveness have been selected for implementation.

We must all bolster and focus our efforts to work together as a community, addressing air quality issues of community concern and making daily personal decisions to improve the quality of the air we share. We'll also be challenged to find effective ways to apply our vital resources and focus our efforts on programs which provide the greatest air quality benefit for the most people.

This office and your Clean Air staff stand ready to partner with the general public, industry and science to most effectively pursue our mission to secure and maintain healthful air quality for everyone, all the time. With the valuable contributions from all our partners, more progress is certain. Thanks to all who have contributed to the progress thus far and thanks in advance for your future contributions.

Best Regards,

Gary W. Pruitt

Your Executive Director

Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency

Mission Statement

"Work collaboratively with residents, businesses and municipalities to enhance air quality and protect our climate."

Vision Statement

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

Board of Directors

Vacant, Small Cities Representative Jon DeVaney, Member-at-Large Rand Elliott, County Commissioner TBD, City of Yakima Representative Steven Jones, PhD, County Representative

Agency Staff

Michelle Blanchard, Receptionist and Woodstove Change-out Coordinator Carl Brookshire, Information Technology Manager Mark Edler, Executive Division Supervisor Dustin Harrington, Inspection Program Manager Keith Hurley, Compliance and Air Monitoring Division Supervisor Quatandra Jarvis, Office and Human Resource Manager Ketsiri Leelasakultum, Air Quality Engineer Christa Owen, Fiscal Programs Manager Kelsey Sanford, Air Monitoring Technician Hasan Tahat, Engineering and Planning Division Supervisor

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 Clean Air Act. Permit and registration fees from local businesses provide significantly to our funding. We also receive funds through federal and state grants, an enterprise program, penalties and other income.

FY2016 REVENUE SUMMARY \$1,179,354

