



The role of Citizen Science Projects in the context of information provided by the New York City Community Air Survey (NYCCAS)

Dr. Holger M. Eisl and Dr. Ana M.C. Ilie

Barry Commoner Center for Health and the Environment, Queens College, NY

Overview

- **New York City Community Survey (NYCCAS) -- Air surveillance program based on integrated sampling**
- **NYCCAS Real-time PM_{2.5} Monitoring Network**
- **Queens College / DOHMH Citizen Science Initiative**

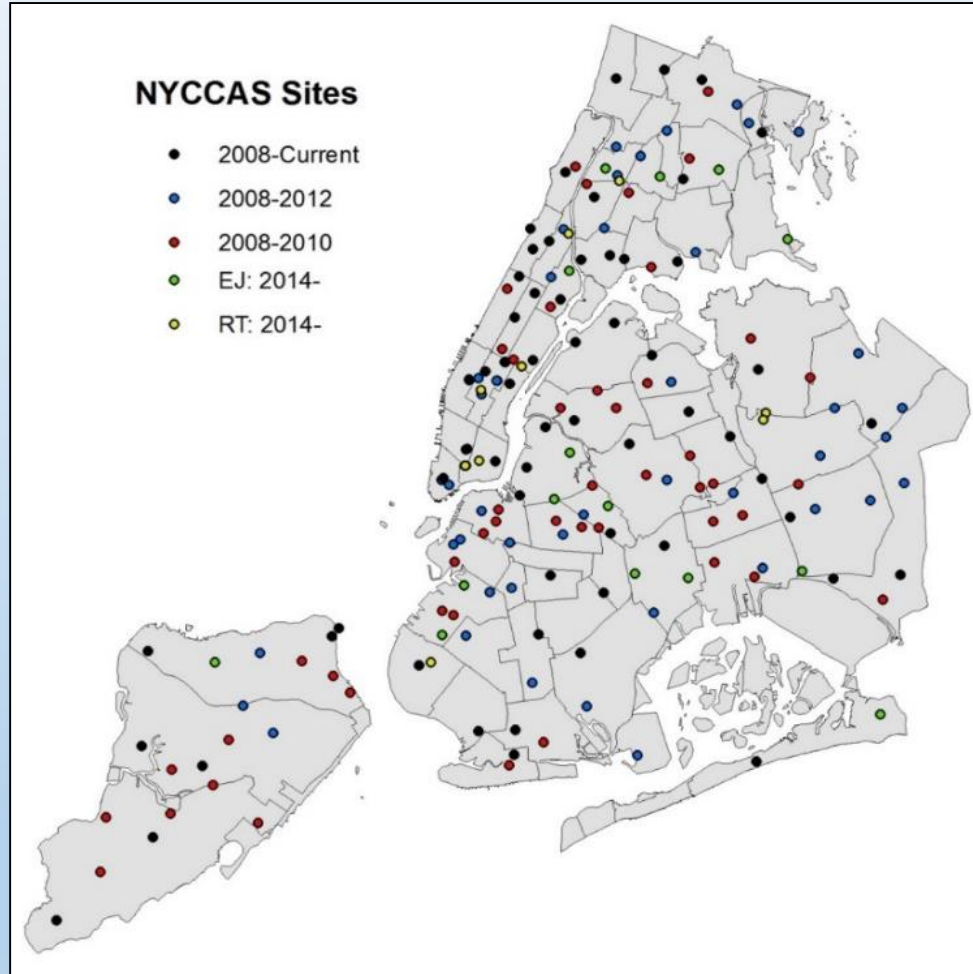
New York City Community Air Survey (NYCCAS)

- Launched in 2007 as part of PlaNYC: first comprehensive NYC survey of street-level AQ
- Assess year-round variation in multiple air pollutants across NYC neighborhoods
- Identify sources contributing to intra-urban pollution patterns
- Inform City efforts to improve air quality and provide data to the public and stakeholders
- Provide air pollution exposure estimates for health surveillance and research

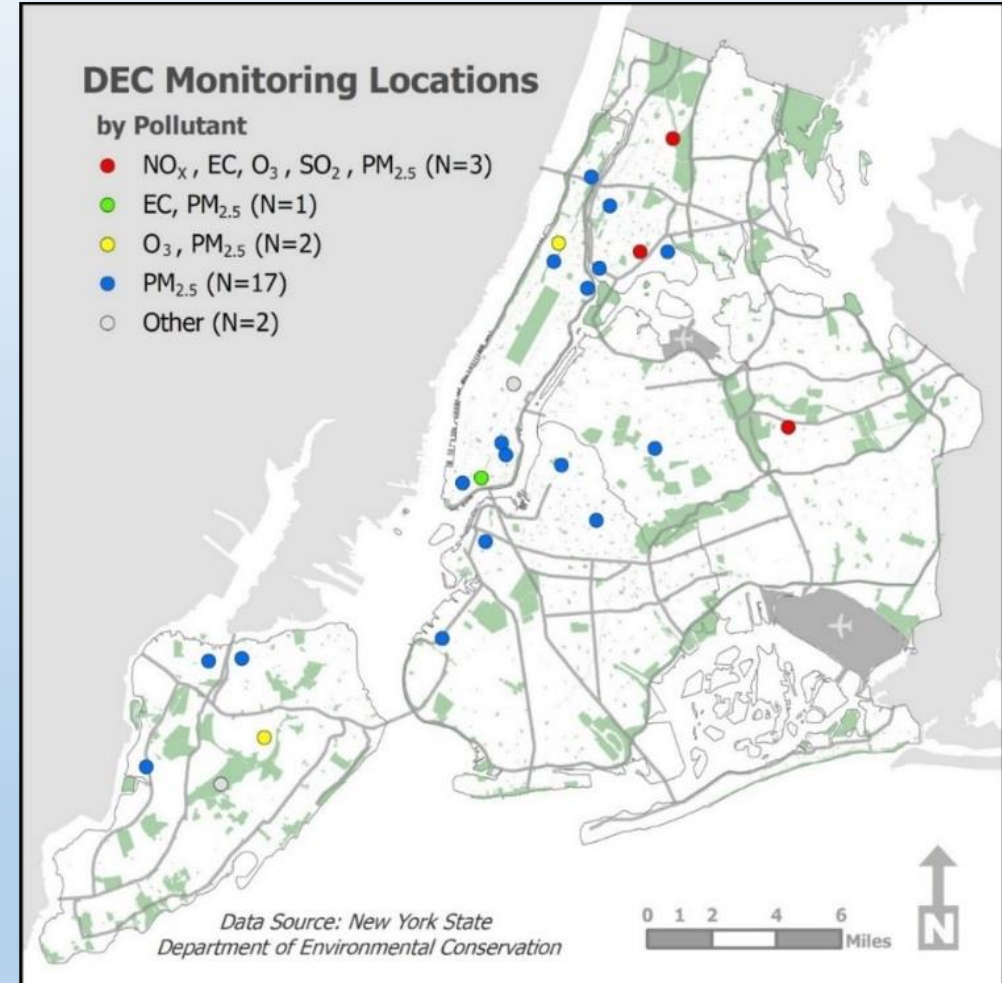
Methods: Site Allocation

- Systematic allocation (120 sites):
 - Divided into 7,595 lattice cells in GIS (300m²)
 - Over-sampled high traffic, high buildings cells
 - Sites are at street-side or in parks
- Purposeful allocation (30 sites)
 - Fill spatial gaps
 - One per Community District
 - Near sites of concern
- Reference sites (one per borough to track and adjust for seasonal variation (n=5))

NYCCAS: Largest Urban Monitoring Program in the U.S.



90-150 monitoring sites per year
PM_{2.5}, NO₂, SO₂, EC, O₃



17 PM_{2.5} sites, 3 NO₂ Sites, 1 EC site, 2 O₃ sites and 3 multiple pollutant sites

Methods: Collection of monitoring data and geo-spatial analysis

- 2-Week, street-level, integrated samples taken once per site/season
 - PM_{2.5}-metals constituents, EC, NO_x, O₃, SO₂
- Sampling protocol: 15 min./hr * 336 hrs * 4 LPM = 5040 min (84 hrs.) runtime, yielding 20160 Liters (20.16 m³) sample volume
- Analyze by land use regression (LUR):
 - predict at unmonitored locations
 - assess sources
- Year-round sampling, updated trend/maps issued each year (Local Law 103 of 2015)

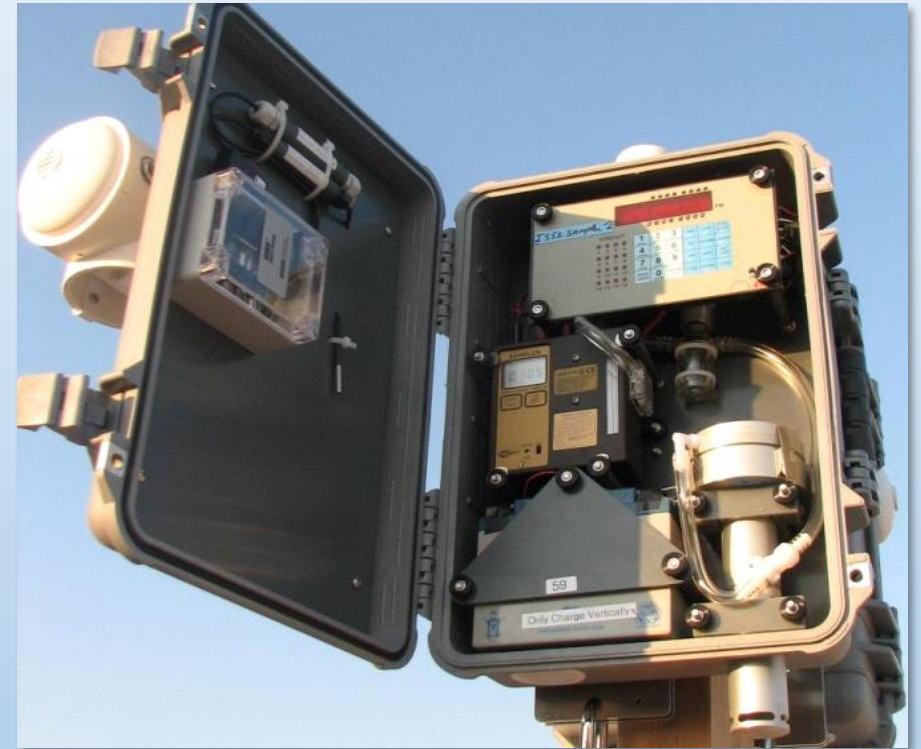
NYCCAS (PAAS-201) Filter-based Sampling Unit



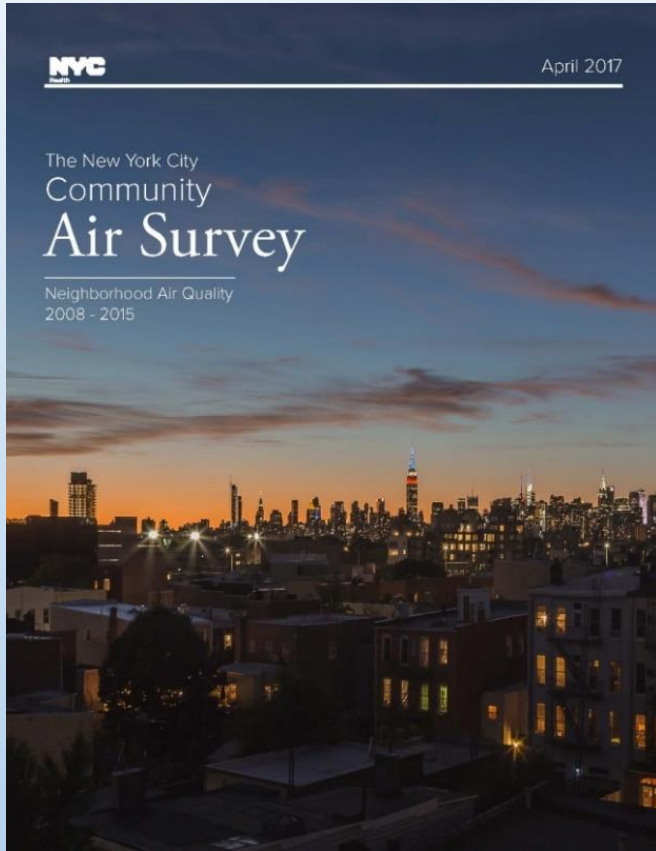
Temperature/RH sensor data logger records temperature and relative humidity

NO_x , NO_2 , SO_2 , and O_3 are collected with passive monitors in a protective housing

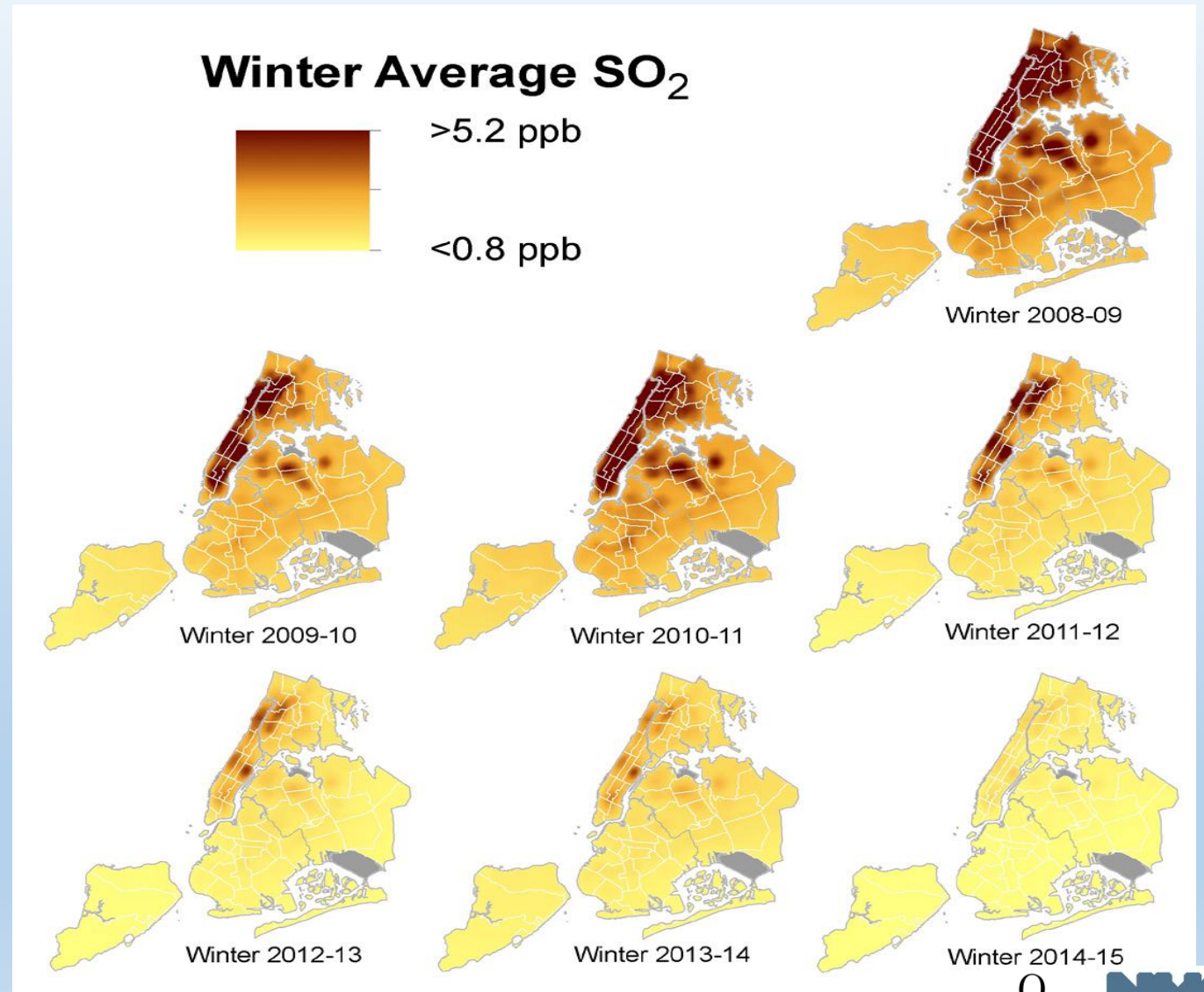
$\text{PM}_{2.5}$ samples are collected with a Harvard Impactor



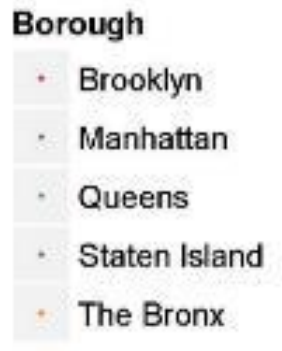
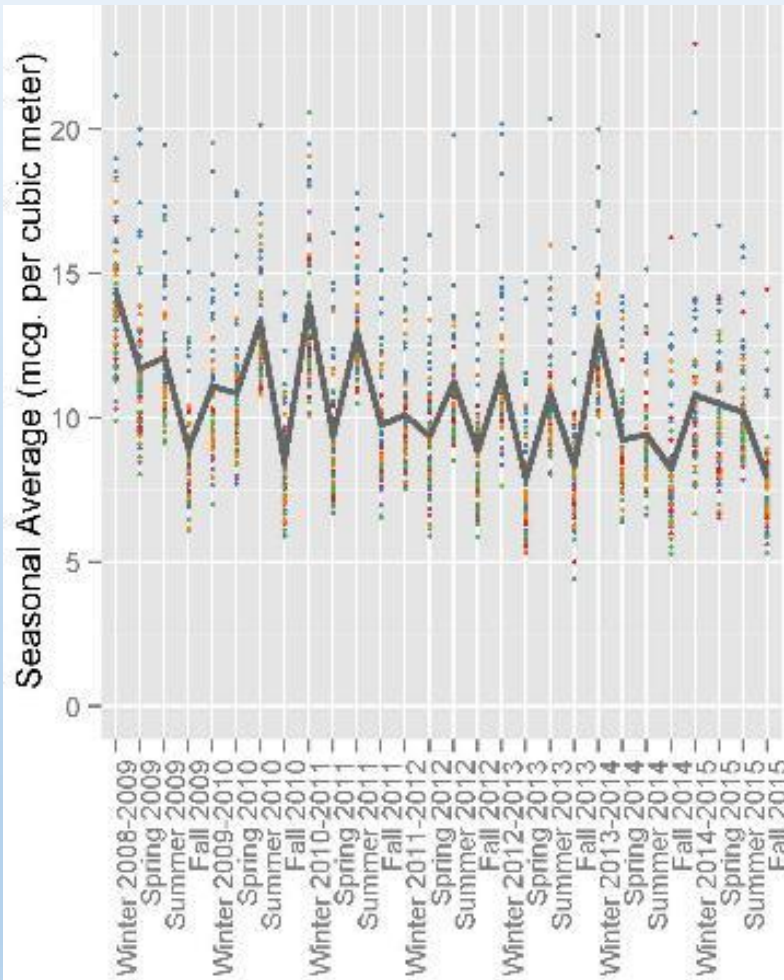
Air Pollution in New York City



New York Community Air Survey
2008 - ongoing

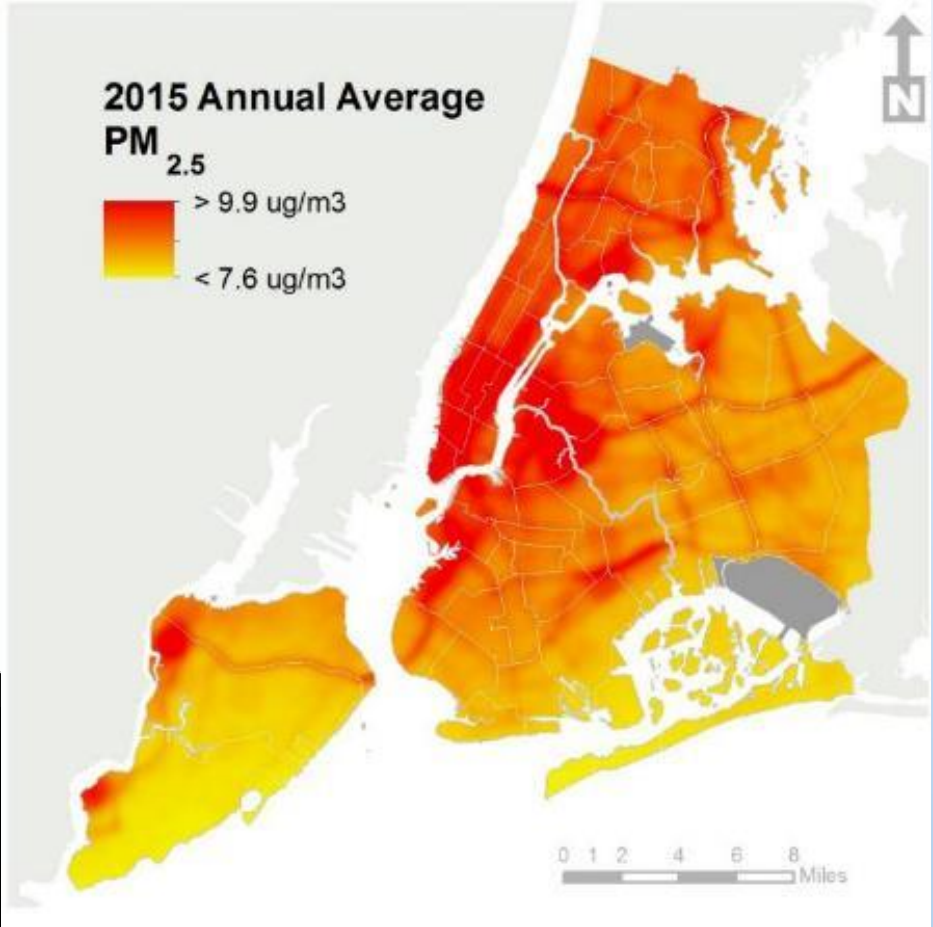


Results: PM_{2.5}



Δ-18%

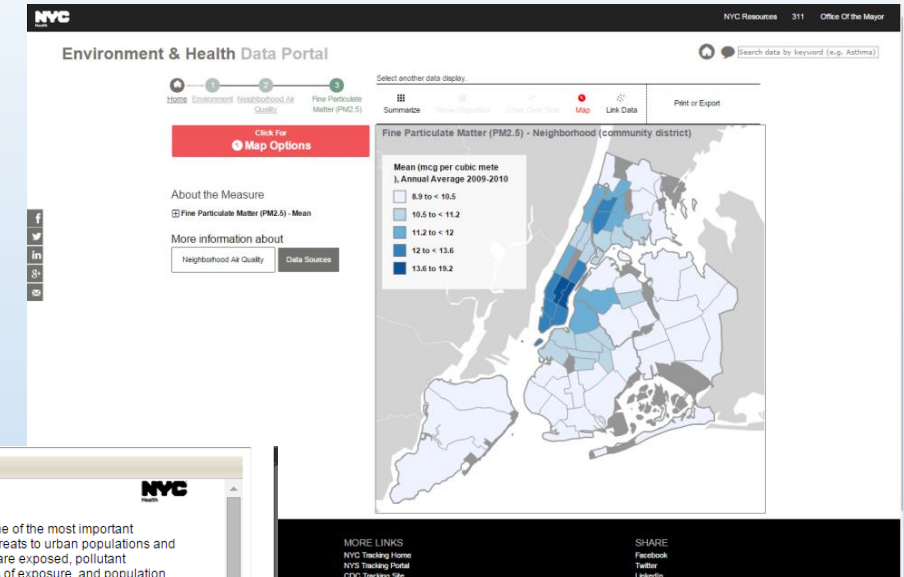
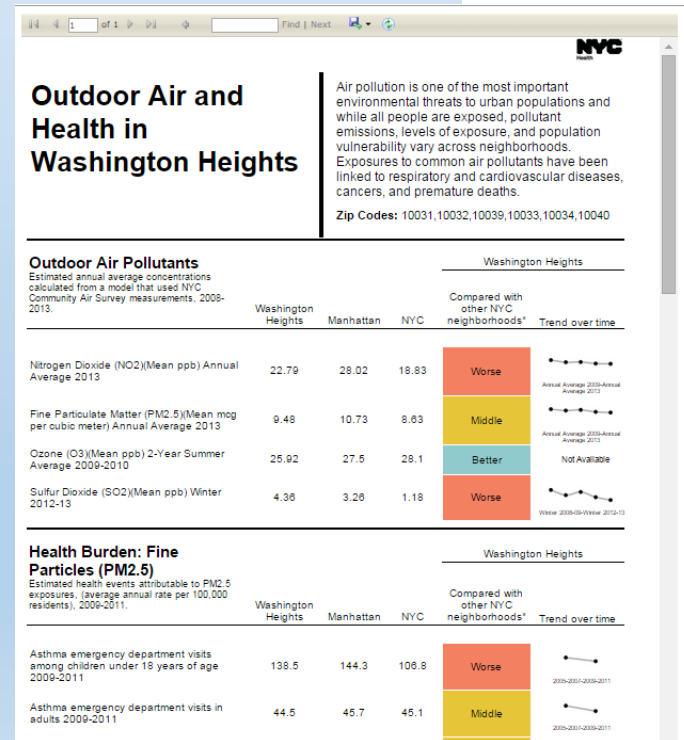
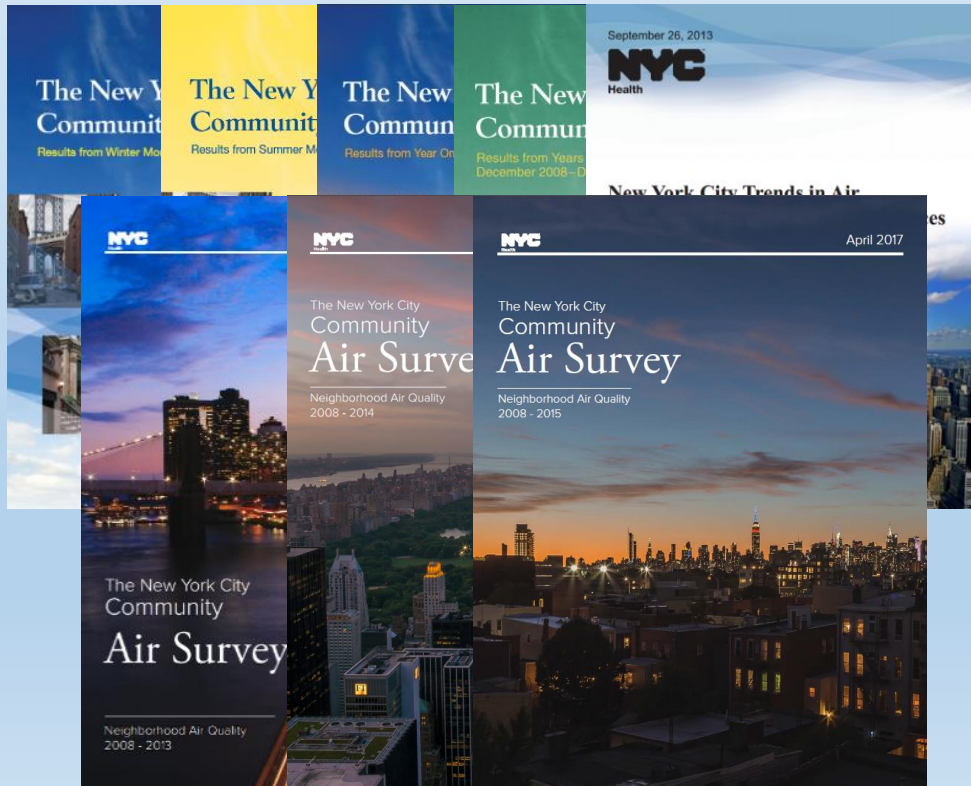
Source	Spatial Indicator
Buildings-related emissions	PM _{2.5} emissions from buildings heat and hot water boilers within 1000 m
Traffic-related emissions	Area of industrial land use within 1000 m
	Traffic density, weighted by relative PM _{2.5} emissions rates by vehicle type (car, truck, bus) within 250 m



- Seasonal average range in monitoring sites in 2015: 5.3 – 23.0 mg/m³

Public Reporting of Results

- Periodic public reports
- Scientific manuscripts
- Publically available data on web portal
- Research datasets



NYCCAS: Street-level, Real-time PM_{2.5} Monitoring Network



**15 units will be deployed
in NYC neighborhoods by
Spring 2019**





Citizen Science Project

- Air Quality in New York City

OneNYC

Originally released in 2007 under the name “PlaNYC,” One New York: The Plan for a Strong and Just City (OneNYC) is a groundbreaking effort to address New York City’s long-term challenges.

Vision 3: Our Sustainable City

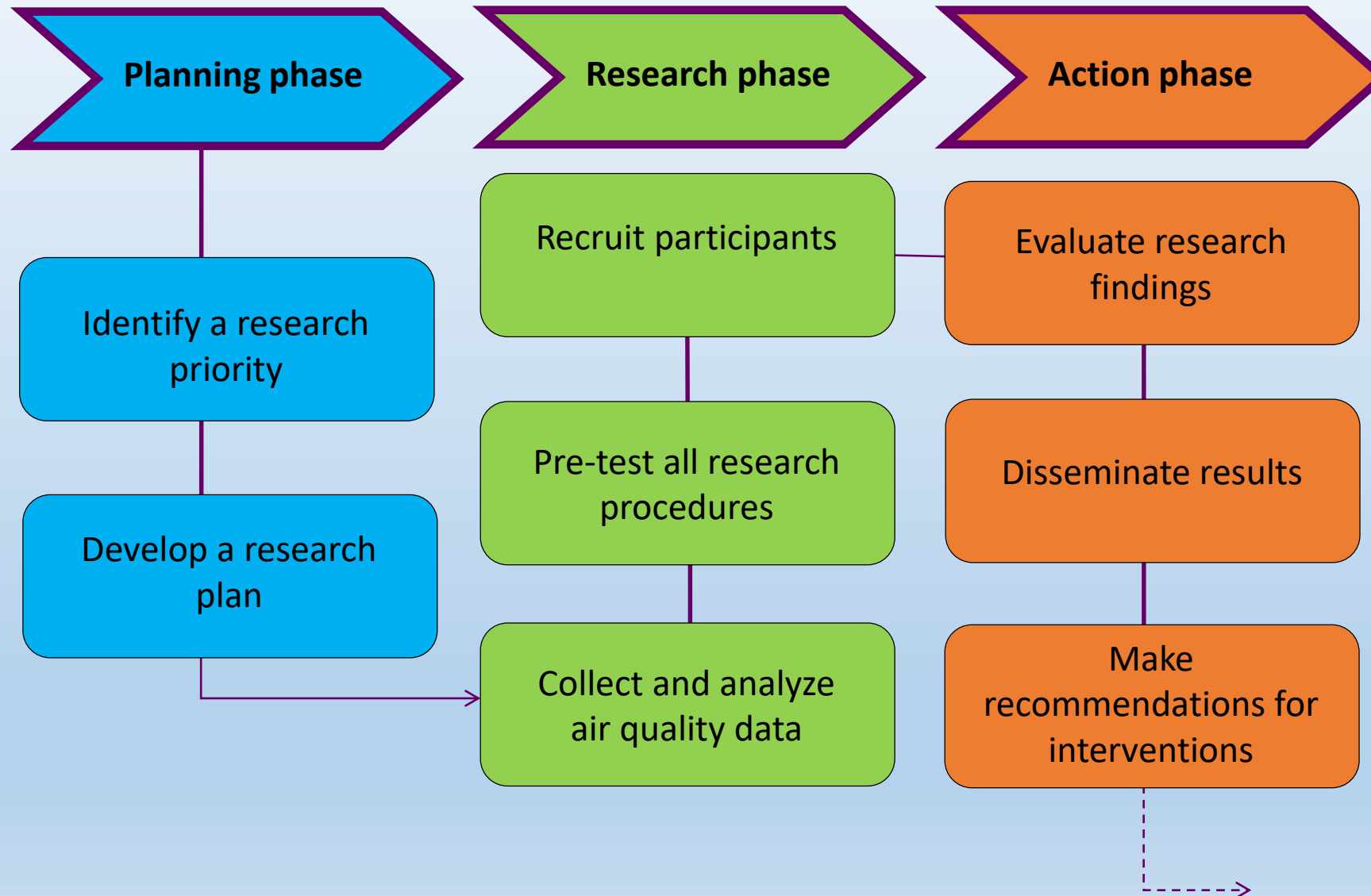
Air Quality

Initiative 2: Identify additional targeted air-quality improvements through data analysis and community engagement

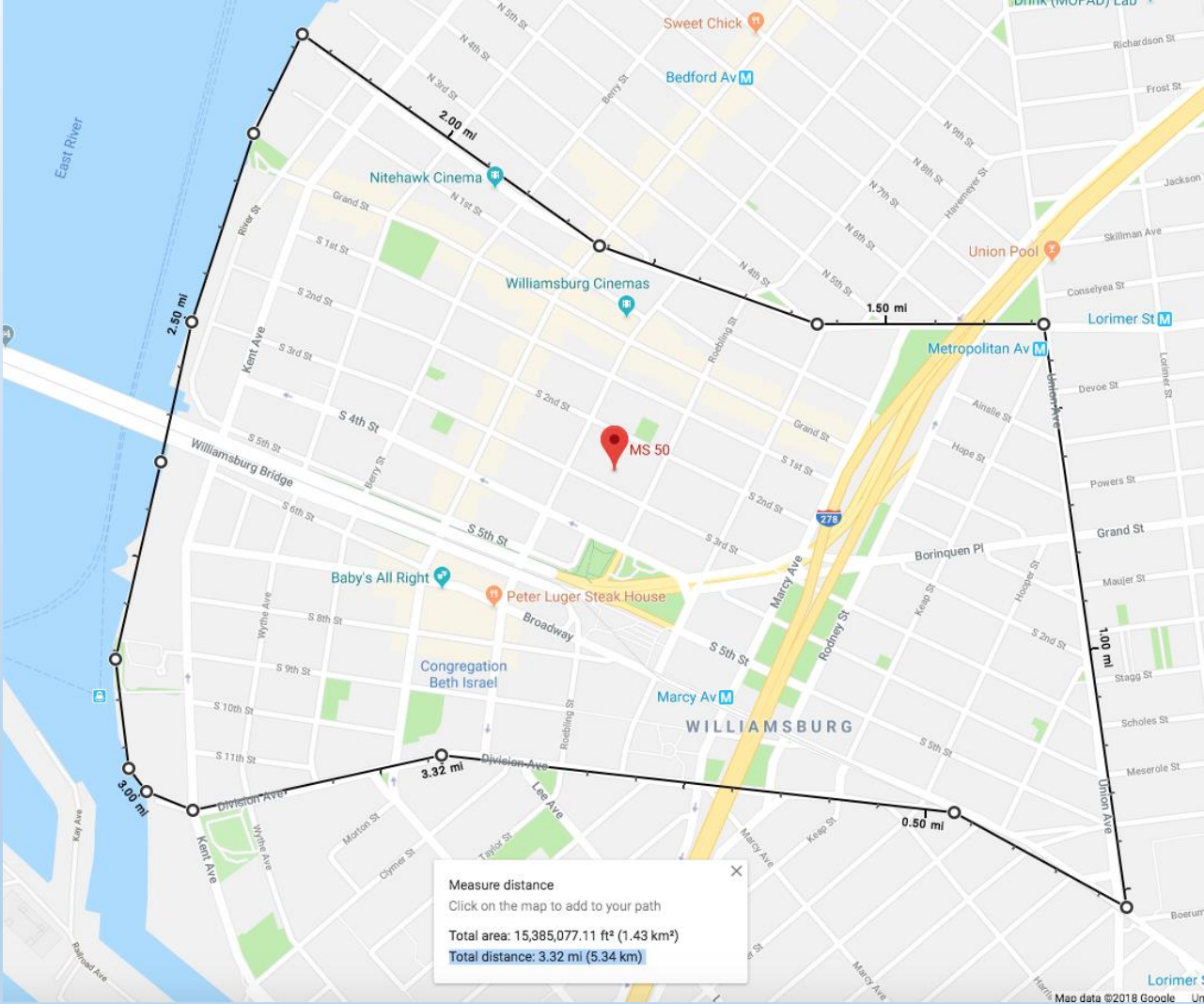
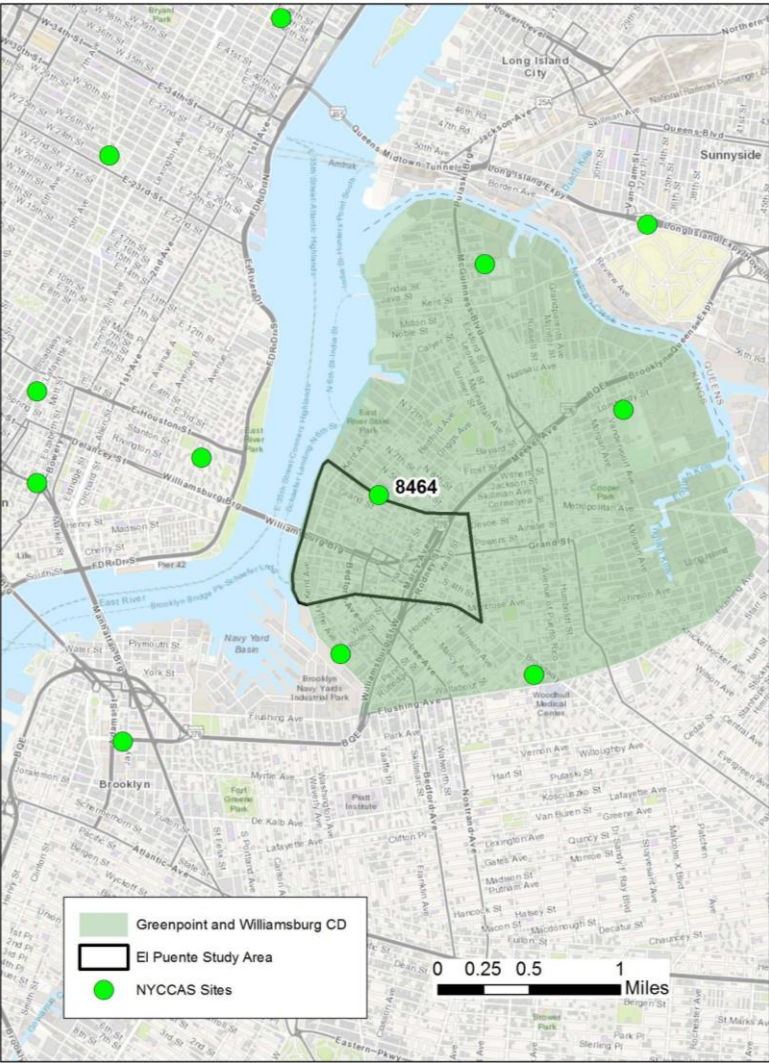


- Commoner Center received funding to set up two pilot Community Air Quality Monitoring Networks in NYC
- Solicit project proposals from Community groups interested in participating in the pilot Community Air Quality Monitoring Network initiative
- Two proposals were accepted (El Puente, Brooklyn; Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice, Bronx)
- El Puente project design and implementation will start October 1, 2018
- Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice project is scheduled to start in Spring 2019
- Duration of each project ~6 months

Community-engaged air quality science

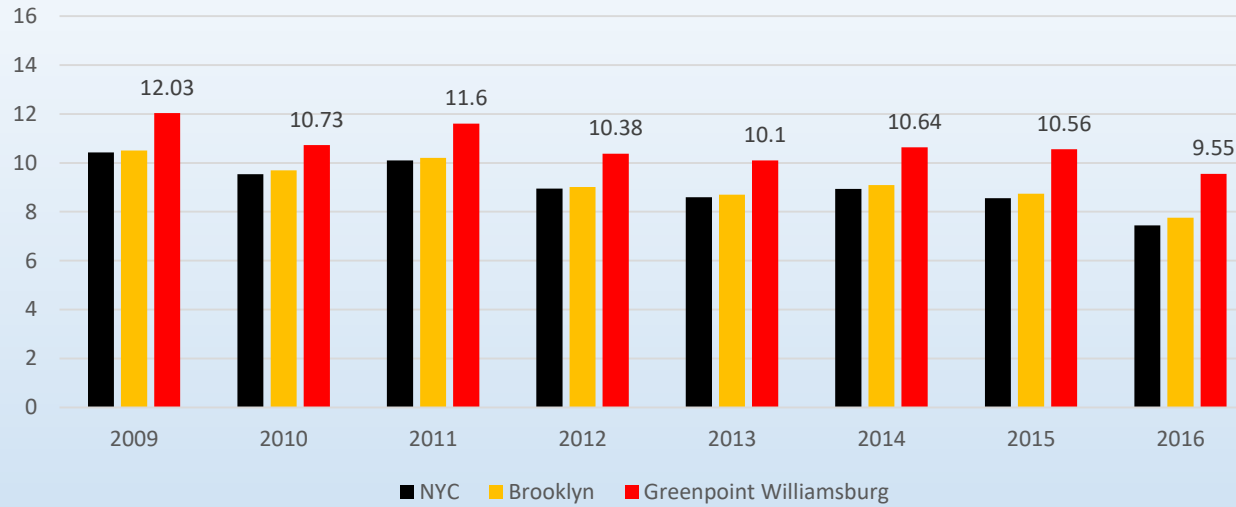


El Puente neighborhood in Brooklyn, NY

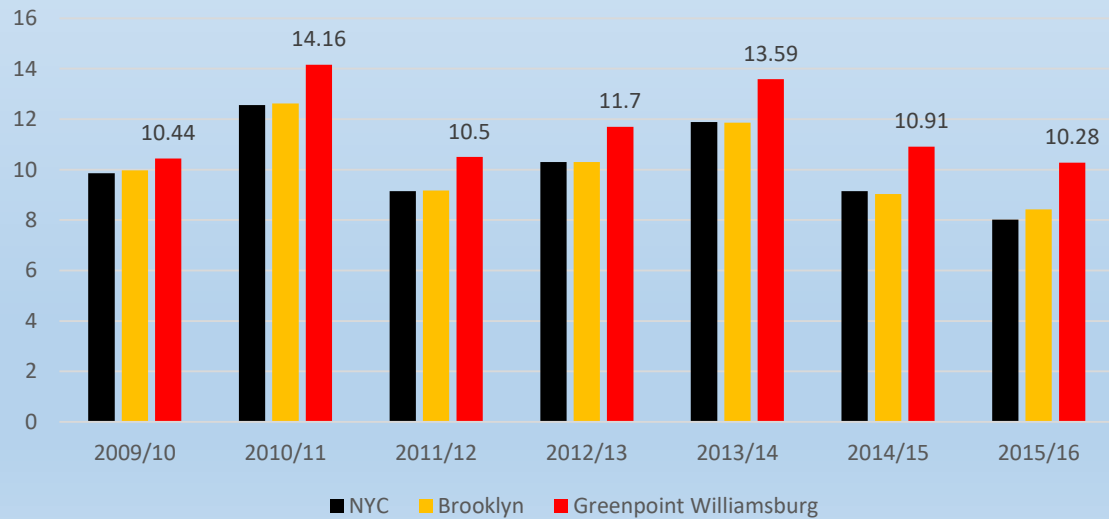


NYCCAS monitoring sites in proximity to the project area

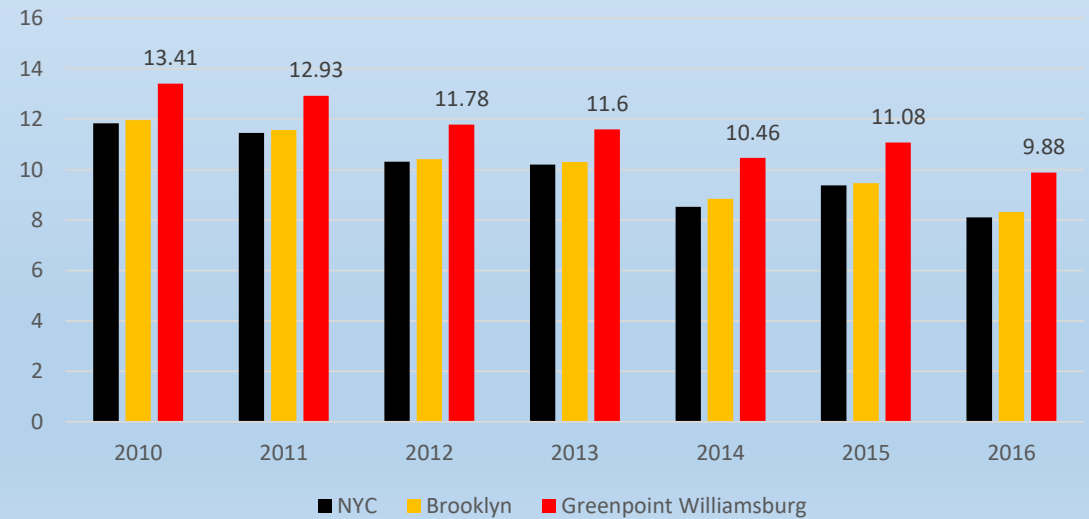
Average Ambient Annual PM_{2.5} Concentrations (µg/m³)



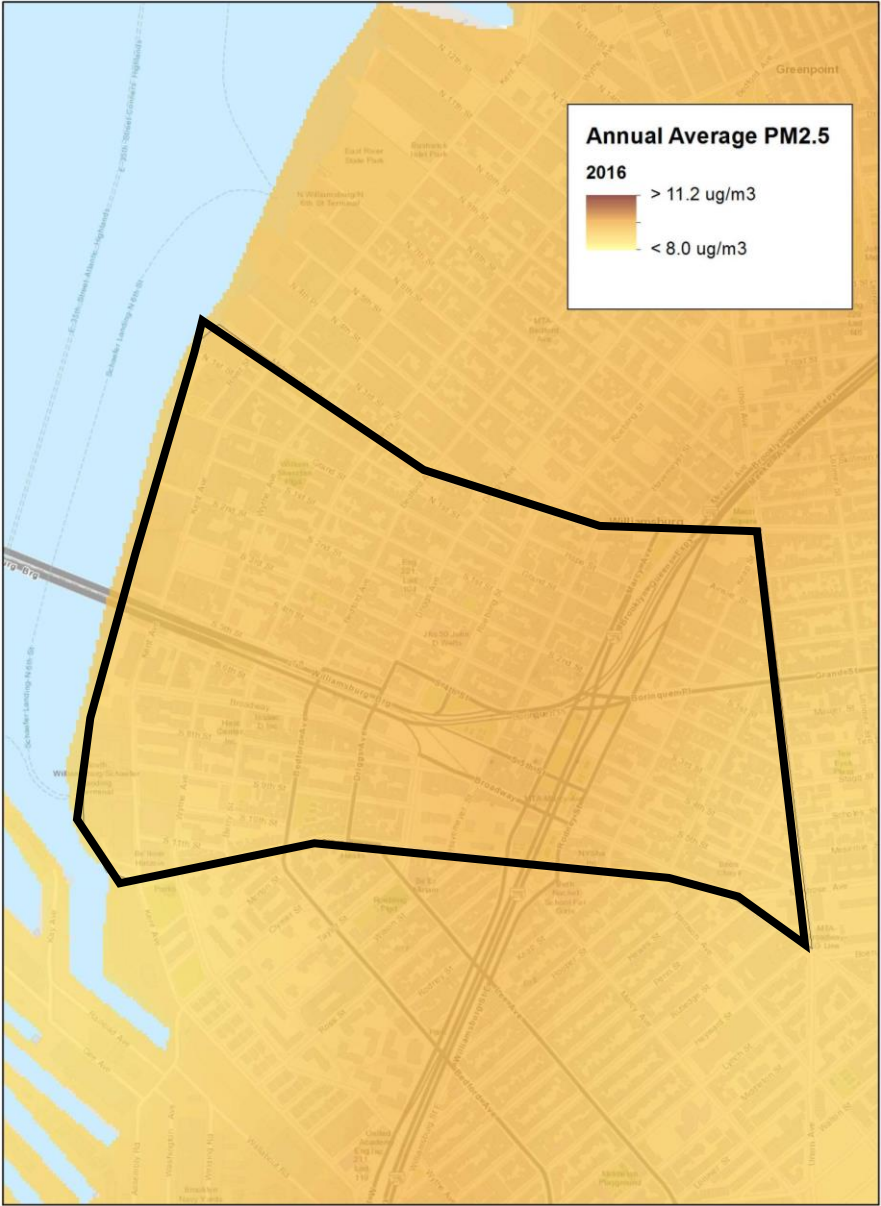
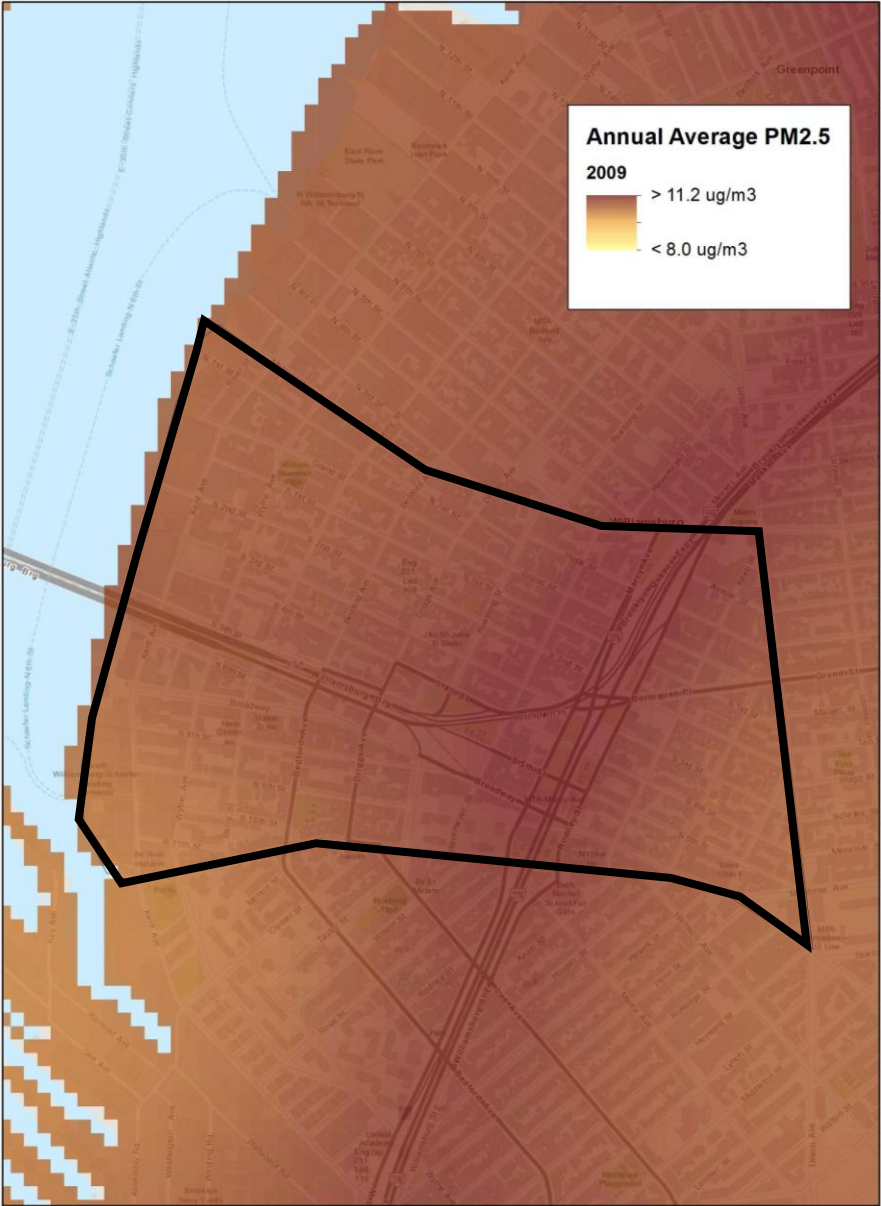
Average Ambient Winter PM_{2.5} Concentrations (µg/m³)



Average Ambient Summer PM_{2.5} Concentrations (µg/m³)



NYCCAS PM_{2.5} Air Pollution Maps for Greenpoint Williamsburg: Comparison between 2009 and 2016



Key concerns of the El Puente community:

- Air pollution exposure at play grounds / open space areas
- Exposure to diesel exhaust from truck traffic
- Exposure from a nearby bus depot
- Need for assessment of fine scale spatial and temporal gradients not captured by NYCCAS

➔ El Puente: Development of study objective

Scope of project support provided by Commoner Center/DOHMH

- Educational, instrument training (Airbeam, Dylos and Purpleair) and data management workshops
- Assisting in site selection process for fixed site real-time PM2.5 monitoring network
- Access to city infrastructure (using lamp post as platform for real-time instruments)
- Integrating low cost sensor into battery-powered (2 week power supply) sampling unit suitable to be mounted on lamp posts (sampling height 10-12 feet)
- Instrument deployment, maintenance and repair
- Data management, QA/QC, data analysis and visualization

Conclusion/Expectations

- Increasing community awareness: making air pollution visible
- Education, e.g. providing support for student citizen-science projects
- Assessing possibilities for air-quality improvements based on targeted intervention strategies (e.g. traffic calming measures, relocation of playgrounds)
- Assessment of NYCCAS model output based on data derived from low cost sensor networks
- . . .

Thank you

NYCCAS Team

COMMONER CENTER: Holger Eisl, John Gorczynski, Jung Kim, Christian Meyers, Malcome Meyers, Paul McFarlane, Jonah Haviland-Markowitz, Laura Ruiz-Olivo, Brett Siegel, Morgan Lohmann, Steven Markowitz

DOHMH: Carolyn Olson, Sarah Johnson, Kazuhiko Ito, Christopher Huskey, Margaret Rice

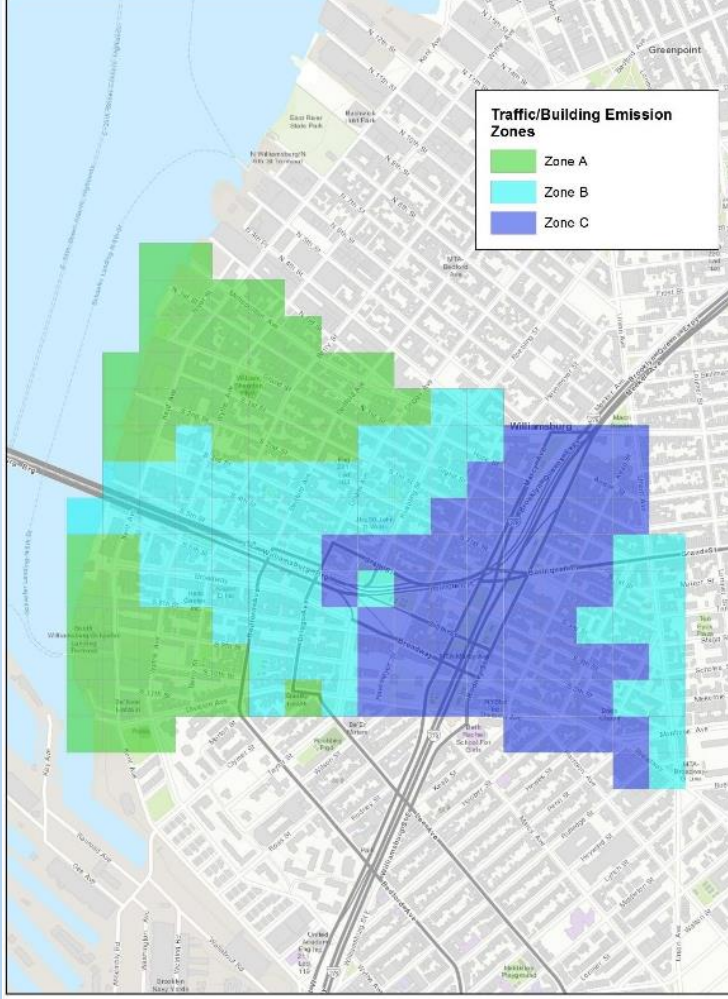
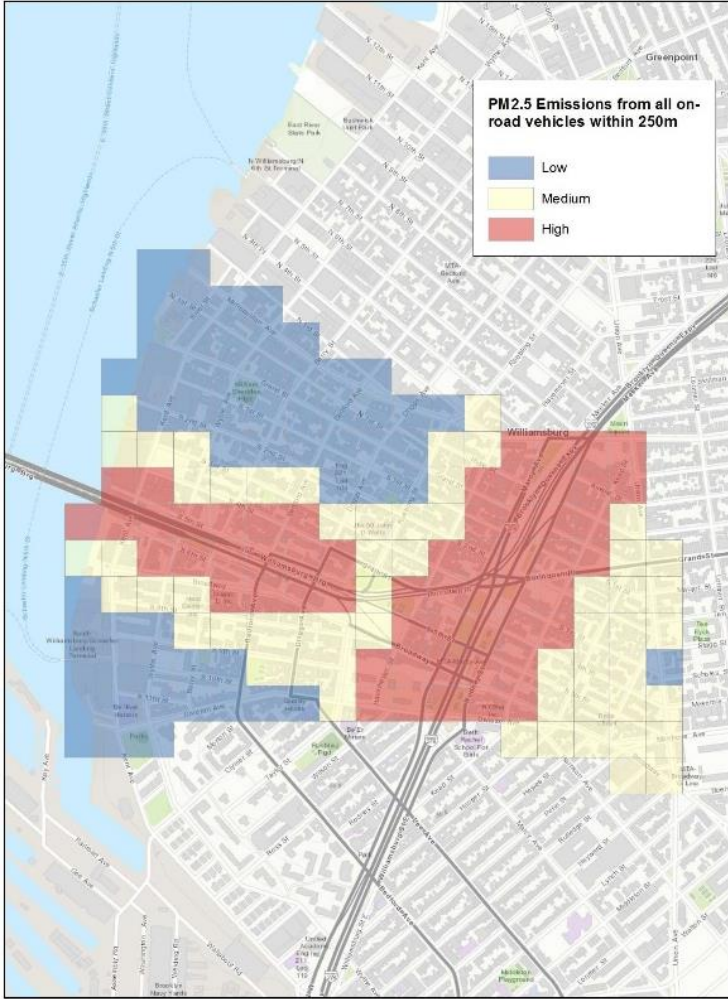
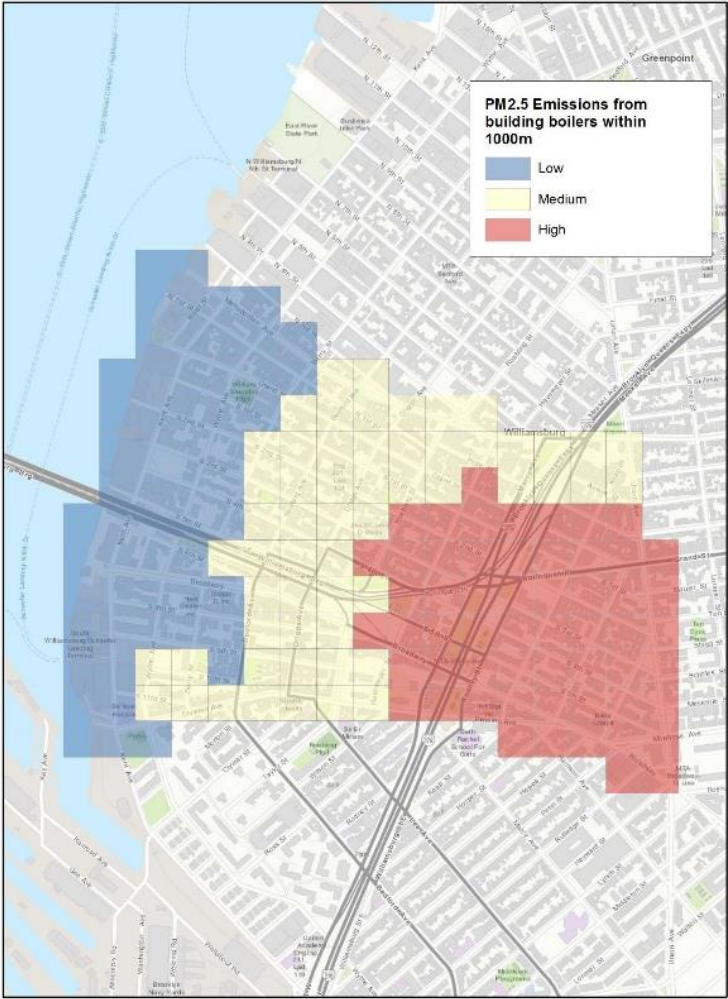
C40 Cities: Iyad Kheirbek

CONSULTANT: Zev Ross Spatial Analysis

For more information about NYCCAS, visit:
<http://www.nyc.gov/health/nyccas>

To download air quality and other environmental health data visit:
<http://www.nyc.gov/health/tracking>

NYCCAS-based Emissions Inventory



Zone A = Low
Zone B = Medium
Zone C = High