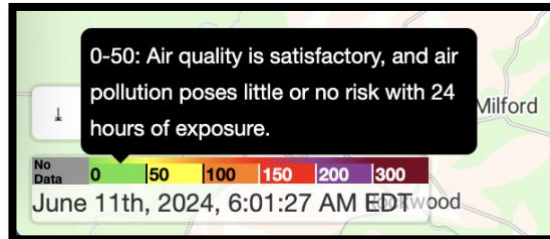
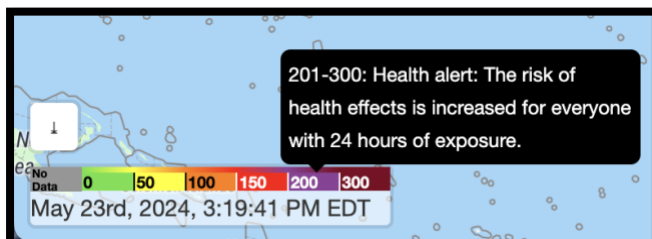
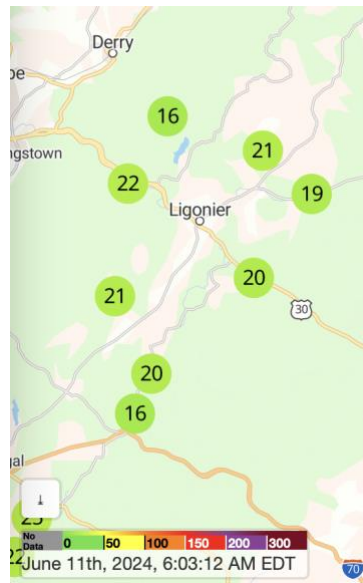
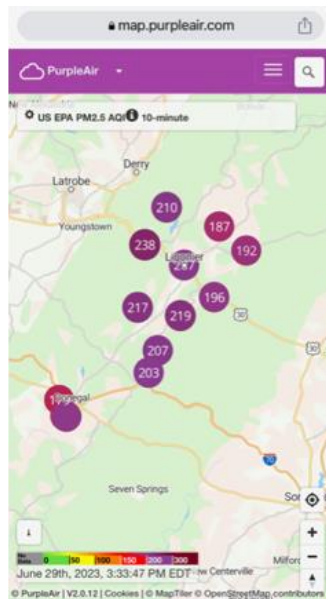


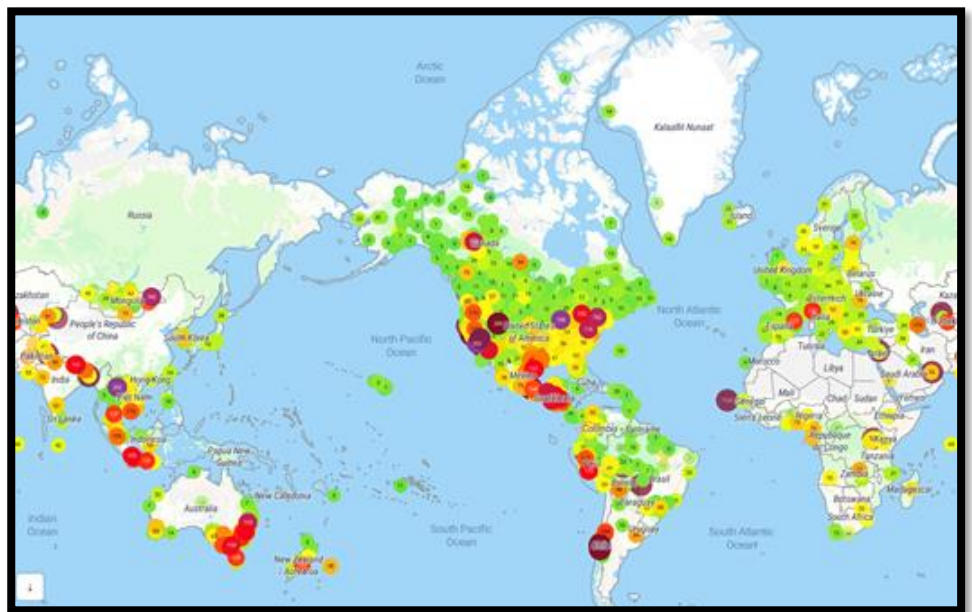
## THE LIGONIER AIR QUALITY PROGRAM IMPACT

The Ligonier Valley Air Quality program has touched many sectors of the community. Today people are paying more attention to air quality and understanding why it is so important. Locally we have been able to involve Ligonier and Cook Township Supervisors, Fire Halls, and communities throughout the valley. The purpose of the Ligonier Valley Air Quality Program is to benefit the health and welfare of the residents living in the Ligonier Valley and to encourage tourism. Sustainable Tourism is the wave of the future, and Ligonier Valley is an ideal destination because of its natural beauty.

Through the air quality program, we found out that Ligonier Valley is especially susceptible to air pollution due to its topography and location down wind of Pittsburgh. Many of Ligonier Valley residents live in the valley; schools and community centers are in the valley; and most tourism sites are in the valley. Since pollution accumulates in low-lying areas, we have found it is important for those with breathing problems and the public at large to take note and stay inside when the air quality is poor.

For example, when the Canadian Wildfires smoke from last summer's fires made its way into our valley, the air quality spiked into the unhealthy zone. Below are air monitor readings in mid-June 2023 versus healthy green readings from June 2024 on PurpleAir. Also pictured are Purpleair monitors in the USA and around the world. <https://www2.purpleair.com/> go to maps – real time.





By engaging local leaders on the importance of maintaining good air quality for community health, new air quality zoning ordinances were ushered in that prohibit the burning of tires and plastics that can cause harmful VOC's (Volatile Organic Compounds). The Base line air quality information can also be helpful in identifying and comparing impacts of future industrial activities that could potentially diminish air quality. The good news is today, overall, our air quality is good.