Dear clean air advocates, partners, and supporters:

On behalf of Air Alliance Houston (AAH), I am pleased to present this report of our activities for FY22-23.

This year was marked by growth and expansion. On one hand, we saw substantial investments in climate and environmental justice. On the other, we witnessed a troubling increase in the number of backyard and industrial polluters across Houston/Harris County. We saw false solutions like CCS and chemical recycling becoming household names.

I am proud to say that AAH met these moments...and more. As you will read in this report, we have established ourselves as leaders on the pressing air quality and climate issues of the day, such as carbon management, the petrochemical build-out along the Ship Channel, and highway expansions across the state, and we are continuing to reach larger and more diverse communities with our outreach and media.

None of this would have been possible without you, our partners, and supporters. I look forward to all we will accomplish together in the years to come so that everyone has the right to breathe clean air.

Jennifer M. Hadayia, MPA
Executive Director

Vision
We envision healthy communities with clean air every day, for everyone.

Mission
To reduce the public health impacts from air pollution through applied research, education and advocacy.

Campaigns
- Decrease pollution from industrial sources of air pollution
- Decrease pollution from mobile sources of air pollution
- Prevent chemical disasters
- Expand community air monitoring
- Expand community capacity for advocacy
- Advance climate justice

Everyone has a right to breathe clean air.

OUR TEAM
- Alexander Spike | Climate Justice Coordinator
- Alondra Torres | Climate Justice Coordinator
- Anthony D’Souza | Research and Policy Coordinator
- Brandy Deason | Climate Justice Coordinator
- Brenda Franco | Social Media Manager
- Carolyn Smith | Outreach Coordinator
- Cassandra Casados-Klein | Communications Coordinator
- Crystal Ngo | Environmental Justice Outreach Coordinator
- Diamond Pham | Outreach Coordinator
- Genesis Granados, MA | Environmental Justice Programs Manager
- Harrison Humphreys | Research and Policy Coordinator
- Ingrid Fenton | Director of Finance and Operations
- Inyang Uwak, MD, MPH, DrPH | Director of Research and Policy
- Jennifer Hadayia, MPA | Executive Director
- Juan Flores | Community Air Monitoring Program Manager
- Leticia Gutierrez | Government Relations & Community Outreach Director
- Naquanza Alfred | Operations Manager
- Riikka Pohjankoski, MSc | Communications Director
- Thelisa Lavergne | Climate Programs Manager

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Theory of Change

Our strategy for effecting change in air quality and environmental justice includes: (1) applied research, (2) diffusion of information, and (3) collaborative advocacy at all levels. Here are some exciting results of this strategy from FY22-23:

**AirMail filled rooms at TCEQ permit meetings**
Since its launch in August 2022, AirMail, our permit tracking and community awareness tool, has been filling the gap in the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)’s less than adequate public participation process. This year, we have mailed postcards to over 85,000 households to raise awareness about more than 20 problematic industrial facilities seeking air permits near predominantly working-class communities of color. Reporters, researchers, legislative officials, community partners and advocacy organizations have shown interest and benefited from the tool’s data metrics and linkages to historically inaccessible platforms and databases (like those maintained by TCEQ). In addition to shedding light on active permit-seeking facilities and facilitating public engagement, AirMail is an accessible springboard to introduce individuals to Texas’ complex industrial permitting landscape.

**CAMP turned 1 and became the largest community air monitoring network in Houston**
In April of 2023, we celebrated one full year of a connected and live Community Air Monitoring Program (CAMP). This citizen-science initiative was created to give residents better access to air quality data that shows others what residents already know – air pollution is harming their health. We strategically placed a network of air monitors in Galena Park/Jacinto City, Gulfton, Kashmere Gardens, Near Northside, and Pasadena. Throughout these communities we found harmful levels of monitored pollutants – Particulate Matter 2.5, Volatile Organic Compounds, Ozone, and Nitrogen Oxides. Today, we have over 50 low-cost community sensors throughout Houston/Harris County. Our CAMP team is growing and is now expanding the program to Baytown, Channelview, and Northeast Houston.

**Our port coalition built bridges between communities and federal decision-makers**
AAH was an integral part of the Healthy Port Communities Coalition’s (HPCC) historic convening of all federal parties involved in the channel’s 11th expansion - Project 11. This meeting, tour, and town hall took community leaders and stakeholders, EPA Region 6, Port of Houston and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to the sites and communities that will be directly impacted by the project’s dredging construction - both from the contaminated soil and construction air pollution. More meetings and events are in the works to hold these groups accountable to protecting port-side communities’ health. HPCC is glad to maintain these relationships to create a more equitable Project 11.
We held TCEQ and TXDOT accountable during the legislative session, achieving a legislative victory for stronger enforcement

During the 88th legislative session this Spring, AAH and partners pushed hard for better environmental laws and policies, including a reform of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), which was undergoing a ‘Sunset Review’ and of the State Highway Fund, which directs what the Texas Department of Transportation (TXDOT) spends our tax dollars on. The passed Sunset Bill gave the TCEQ more tools to hold polluters accountable, including the authority to impose stiffer penalties on non-compliant polluters and more time for the public to weigh in on industry permits. While our priority transportation bills didn’t make it to the finish line, our newly-formed Texas Streets Coalition made their presence known by demanding TXDOT “stop paving over us” with more and more highways in cities across the state. In addition, our four environmental justice legislative action days brought close to 400 Houston-area advocates to the Capitol to tell their stories in front of their representatives and demand clean air for them and their communities.

#CloseParishCoal was launched to fight deadly coal plant pollution

The Close Parish Coal coalition (CPC) came together in the aftermath of a chemical disaster at the W.A. Parish facility in September 2022 that hospitalized six employees and exposed 100 more to a harmful chemical. The coalition works to bring awareness to Fort Bend residents about the W.A. Parish coal plant and the bureaucratic agencies regulating it. This year, our canvassing, tabling and other actions successfully advocated for a strong Regional Haze Rule to minimize deadly Parish pollution. CPC also hosted a well-attended town hall for the release of our report, Close Parish Coal: How the Dirtiest Coal Plant in Texas Harms Public Health and the Environment; and the Alternatives for Fort Bend. With the facility up for its Federal Operating Permit, the CPC continues its work in the community to close this source of hazardous pollution.

New justice initiatives helped us better meet the needs of fenceline communities

Fenceline communities who are suffering unfairly from air pollution are rarely facing only this one barrier to good health. Other structural determinants of health, such as lack of access to health care and language barriers, exacerbate the impact of air pollution. AAH worked hard this year to deepen our understanding of these interconnections and adjust our approach. This resulted in three new organizational initiatives designed to better address the challenges faced by our communities as well as our staff. Our Healing Justice Initiative (HJI) centered on wellness for our team and partners. Our Language Justice Initiative (LJI) transformed our communications so that we now offer education and advocacy in all three of Houston’s most commonly spoken languages. Lastly, we launched a first-of-its kind local convening series, called Encuentro, to highlight the intersections between air toxics and reproductive health.

We bolstered advocacy with increased research and social media presence

This year, we collected one entire year’s worth of community air monitoring data across five different communities and also published five original research reports addressing highway expansions, carbon capture, and industry emissions trends. We shared our research and invited further discussions from a variety of stakeholders through webinars, town halls, and on our social media platforms. In fact, our social media metrics had a significant boost this year, with post engagements increasing by 7%. We also saw our audience grow by 67% to over 10,000 followers. These metrics unveil a compelling story about our online presence – that social media is producing lasting connections as our online communities actively embrace our content through likes, shares, and saves.
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Net Income Over Time

Chart of expenses reflects numbers from functional analysis from audited financials. Chart of income is from audited GL income report. Specific questions about this statement should be sent to info@airalliancehouston.org. AAH does not share information about individual donors.

AAH continues to renew grant funding, which is reflected in our increased cash balance of $400K at the end of FY22-23. This is with increased salaries as a result of the need for more staff to build our capacity for new work.

MAJOR DONORS ($100,000+)
FOR FY22-23
Beyond Petrochemicals
Carbon180
David Rockefeller Fund
Environmental Defense Fund
Fidelity Investments
Hive Fund
MacArthur Foundation
Pisces Foundation
U.S. Energy Foundation

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Take part in local activism opportunities by following our Event Calendar at airalliancehouston.org/events

SUPPORT OUR WORK
Donate through our website or send paypal funds to: info@airalliancehouston.org
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Make an outsized impact by donating stock, using your IRA funds or recommending AAH as a recipient of a Donor Advised Fund. Learn more at airalliancehouston.org/donate

For more ways to support and take action for clean air, go to: AirAllianceHouston.org/act-now