

Annual Report FY23-24

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR


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 FY 23-24.

Reflecting on this past year, I think about loss and legacy. Houstonians experienced another record year of climate-caused weather disasters, with many of our most vulnerable still recovering. We also mourned the loss of two social justice titans, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee and the Honorable Felix Fraga, both lifelong champions for our work.

More changes and challenges are most certainly coming. What perseveres is our commitment to ensuring clean air for all using all of our levers - many of which are spotlighted in this report: our powerful permit opposition system AirMail, the largest community air monitoring network in the County, freeway fighting in the face of powerful state interests, and our Environmental Justice Leadership Lab, which is amplifying the air pollution and climate concerns of even more diverse communities.

I hope you enjoy reading about these and other AAH successes in this report. None of them would have been possible without you, and we hope you will continue to support and partner with us to honor the legacy of those who paved the way and those still striving for resilience.



Jennifer M. Hadayia, MPA
Executive Director



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
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 and Community Outreach Director
Thelisa Lavergne | Climate Programs Manager

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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 and "backyard" sources



Decrease pollution from mobile sources



Prevent and respond to chemical disasters



Monitor the quality of our air in communities



Expand community capacity for advocacy



Advance true solutions to the climate crisis

AAH by the Numbers



Households reached by AirMail:

39,239

on 15 different permits



Comments or testimony at public meetings and hearings by AAH Staff:

37 verbal and **19** written



(about 4 comments made per month)



Community members educated:

3,969 total



Social media followers:

14,021

across all platforms



We held **26** events solo or with partners



Research products produced:

34



Media interviews:

131

Theory of Change

Our strategy for effecting change in air quality includes (1) applied research, (2) diffusion of information, and (3) collaborative advocacy at all levels. Here are some exciting results of this approach from FY 23-24:

Pushing back on polluters and the state in the Fifth Ward/Kashmere Gardens community

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) recently approved a permit for Texas Coastal Materials, LLC to build a concrete crushing facility directly across from LBJ Hospital, the state's busiest Level III trauma center. This crushing facility presents serious health risks to the surrounding community, including vulnerable hospital patients. Thanks to our AirMail program and advocacy efforts, hundreds of residents spoke out against the permit. The Harris County Attorney's Office, led by Christian Menefee, also took swift action. On behalf of Harris Health System, they filed a lawsuit challenging the TCEQ's decision.

"No Hardy Highway" brought attention to another freeway expansion

AAH has been pushing back on highway expansions for years to reduce tailpipe emissions. In Fall 2023, we learned of a new highway expansion; this time, from the Toll Road Authority for a project called the Hardy Downtown Connector, which would build a four-lane highway directly through the environmental justice community of Near Northside, already bordered by four other freeways. We began organizing the "No Hardy Highway"



AAH's "No Hardy Highway" campaign led residents in block-walking efforts in Near Northside.

campaign with residents and elected officials. Our efforts resulted in additional requirements for the project including an environmental oversight committee and environmental impact assessment.



AAH's Carolyn Smith (right) shows a new Air Quality Ambassador an air monitoring dashboard on her cellphone.

Our Community Air Monitoring Program (CAMP) expands once again

With added capacity to our CAMP team this year, we expanded from five communities to nine to include Baytown, Channelview, Cloverleaf, Deer Park, East Houston/Settegast, Galena Park/Jacinto City, Kashmere Gardens, Near Northside/Northline, and Pasadena. We also trained five new Air Quality Ambassadors from those communities who are now hard at work educating their communities about air pollution using research and tools provided by AAH. For yet another year, AAH's community air monitoring program is the largest in the county. We also added new types of monitoring technology, allowing us to collect data on even more types of air pollutants.



A panel discussion of local LGBTQ+ and climate leaders including AAH's Genesis Granados (far right).

Drawing new connections between climate and the LGBTQ+ community

At the DeLUXE Theater, AAH hosted a screening of Can't Stop Change: Queer Climate Stories from the Florida Frontlines, highlighting the intersection of LGBTQ+ rights and climate justice. The event, hosted at the historically black theater, featured a panel of local queer activists from the Houston area, who shared insights on climate impacts in the Gulf South. Through the film and panel discussions, AAH fostered connections between queer resistance, environmental justice, and community engagement. This event strengthened local advocacy and showcased the power of intersectional activism.



AAH's Crystal Ngo (right) moderates a panel at the AAPI Climate Justice Town Hall.

Giving communities a venue and a voice: Houston's first-ever Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Climate Town Hall

The first-ever AAPI Climate Justice Town Hall in Houston, organized by AAH and Rise AAPI, focused on bridging the gap between climate change and health impacts for the Asian American Pacific Islander community. Featuring panels of advocates and public officials, the event highlighted how AAPI communities are disproportionately affected by climate change. It also emphasized the importance of civic engagement and language justice, with materials provided in multiple AAPI languages to ensure inclusivity. The event sparked critical discussions on environmental justice and community involvement in an often overlooked community.



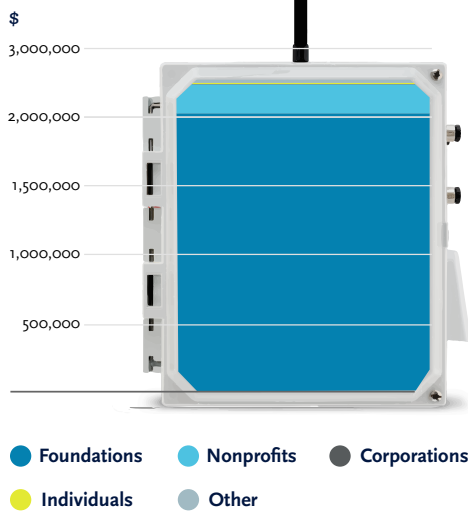
Excessive flaring from one of the many facilities along the 225 freeway in the Pasadena/Deer Park area.

Job Done: EPA releases the new Risk Management Plan Rule

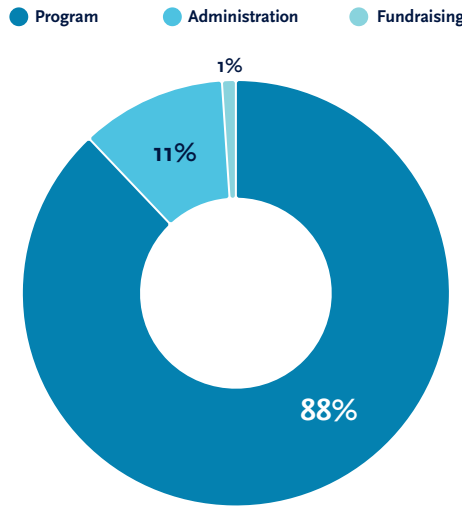
Five years ago, when AAH released its last Strategic Plan, we identified chemical disaster prevention as a top priority. Five years of advocacy later, including meetings with multiple federal agencies, testimony, and comment letters, we can declare "Job Done" with the passage of the new and notably improved 2024 "Safer Communities by Chemical Accident Prevention Rule" by the EPA. This is the strongest chemical disaster rule ever issued. So strong that if this rule had been in place in 2019, the ITC Deer Park disaster would not have happened. This is a major win for air quality advocates and communities alike.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

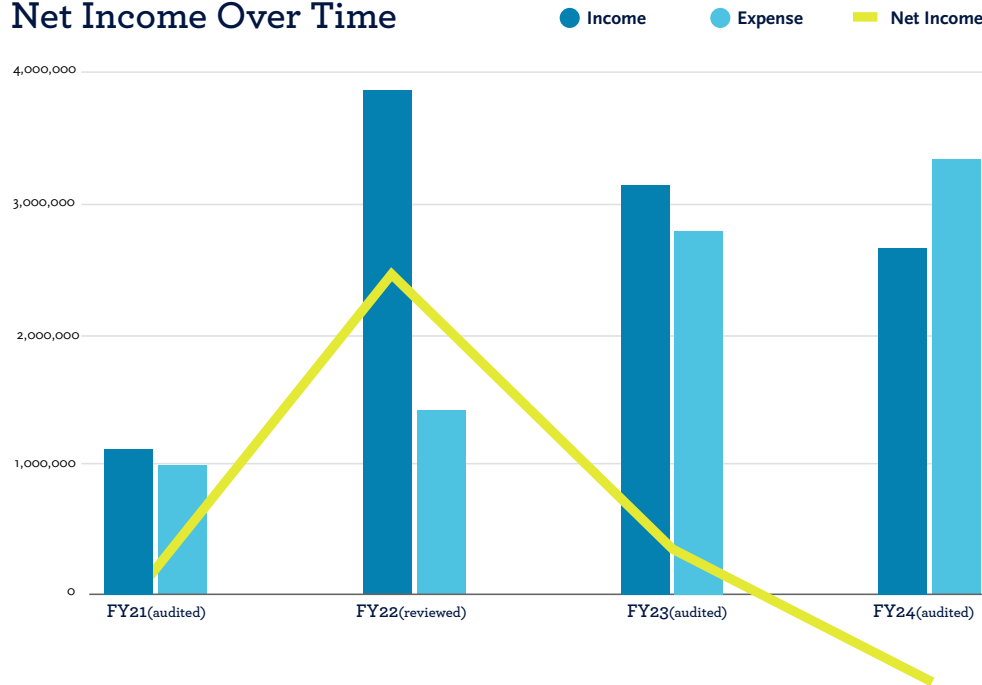
Income (FY24)



Expenses (FY24)



Net Income Over Time



MAJOR DONORS (\$100,000+) FOR FY 23-24

- Beyond Petrochemicals
- Carbon 180
- David Rockefeller Fund
- HIVE Fund
- MacArthur Foundation
- Pisces Foundation
- Public Citizen Foundation Inc.
- U.S. Energy Foundation

GET INVOLVED

- Sign up to our email list at tinyurl.com/subscribeaah
- We're social! Follow us @AirAllianceHOU
- 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
- Checks can be mailed to:
Air Alliance Houston
2520 Caroline Street Suite 100
Houston, TX 77004
- 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

AAH SUSTAINER CIRCLE

We extend our deepest appreciation to our longest running individual donor, Ryan Gorczycki. He has been an Air Alliance Houston supporter since 2018. Thank you Ryan!



Start donating today to be a part of the AAH Sustainer Circle for a chance to be highlighted in our Annual Report.

The chart of expenses reflects data from the functional analysis of expenses in the AAH FY24 audited financial statement. The chart of income is from the audited GL income report in the same document. Specific questions about this statement should be sent to info@airalliancehouston.org. AAH does not share information about individual donors. AAH continues to fundraise and increase our programs and campaigns towards our mission to reduce the health impacts of air pollution through research, education, and advocacy. We also continue to expand our outreach area according to our five-year strategic plan.

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