

annual report

2015



your advocates for

Healthy Air

A message from the Executive Director

While Clean Air Carolina celebrated major clean air victories in 2015, we also saw significant challenges to existing clean air rules that threatened to reverse years of successful advocacy.

To tackle those threats we made collective efforts to strengthen partnerships with community leaders and other organizations working to protect public health and our fragile air quality. **Thanks to a generous gift from Fred and Alice Stanback**, we joined with Duke University and Research Triangle Environmental Health Collaborative in co-sponsoring the inaugural one-day NC BREATHE Conference in Raleigh. Read more later in this report.

Medical Advocates for Healthy Air members spoke at public hearings across the state and through various media outlets calling for strong clean air policies and action to reduce carbon emissions contributing to climate change.

Together, we once again prevented several legislative setbacks on air quality regulations and other environmental protections. Because of our concerted efforts along with actions by supporters like you, we successfully blocked an attempt to eliminate North Carolina's Renewable Energy & Efficiency Portfolio Standard and averted threats to remove most of our state's air quality monitors.

Over the summer, we proudly celebrated a legal victory with our partners when the U.S. Court of Appeals rejected North Carolina's proposal to weaken federal standards for fine particle pollution—a huge win for clean air and public health.

Other legal challenges against toll roads in Gaston and Union Counties resulted in one legal victory and one appeal. Clean Air Carolina is leading the charge against new major toll roads in the growing Charlotte region so that our state's limited transportation dollars will be directed toward expanding public transit and other multi-modal choices.

As you read through our 2015 advocacy and education highlights, one thing is clear. Our strong partnership with you is central to our collective success. Thank you for your continued support. We are proud to be your advocates for healthy air.

June Blotnick
Executive Director

Building partnerships to strengthen our voice for cleaner air



Rev. Rodney Sandler, Rabbi Jonathan Freirich, Clean Air Carolina Executive Director June Blotnick and Rev. Robin Tanner.

CLEAN AIR IN THE NEWS

Clean Air Carolina and Medical Advocates for Healthy Air made the news over 40 times in 2015 speaking out for clean air.



Fighting for clean air laws that protect public health

“When air pollution standards are strict and enforced, North Carolina has shown and will show significant benefits - not only for health and the environment, but also for the economy.” June Blotnick and Bill Schlesinger in op-ed from News & Observer.

CLEAN AIR VICTORIES

Fine Particle Pollution

Clean Air Carolina and partners celebrated the U.S. Court of Appeals' decision to reject North Carolina's proposal to weaken federal standards for fine particle pollution. Our state's attack on fine particle protections would have wiped out substantial progress and pollution reductions that have occurred in the past several decades. NC residents can breathe easier knowing that this setback has been averted.

Ground-level Ozone

Medical Advocates for Healthy Air presented a letter to the EPA signed by over a hundred medical and public health professionals urging the agency to adopt new standards for ground-level ozone pollution that result in the maximum positive impact on public health. Even though the new standard of 70 parts per billion (ppb) in October falls short of the 60 ppb recommended by the EPA's own Scientific Advisory Board, strengthening the standard is a step in the right direction and a win for public health.

Garden Parkway, Gaston County

After a three-year court battle brought by Southern Environmental Law Center on behalf of Clean Air Carolina and Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation, a federal court dealt a major blow to the controversial Garden Parkway, a proposed toll road west of Charlotte that would increase air pollution and degrade water quality in the Catawba River Basin.

Charlotte March for Climate Justice





HEALTH

Medical Advocates for Healthy Air members presented a medical sign-on letter with more than 175 signatures to Governor McCrory in support of a strong Clean Power Plan for North Carolina.

In 2015, Clean Air Carolina's Medical Advocates for Healthy Air (MAHA) worked closely with members of NC Conservation Network to analyze proposed state legislation and strategize on retaining environmental protections. Our efforts helped stave off an attack on the **Renewable Portfolio Standard** and avert a threat to remove most of the state's air quality monitors.

MAHA raised broad awareness across the state regarding the important health benefits of the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan along with our partners at Moms Clean Air Force, Mothers and Others for Clean Air, NC Public Health Association, and the Asthma Alliance of North Carolina. The Plan's

emphasis on environmental justice also paved the way for MAHA to establish new ties with organizations that support and to empower low-income minority communities who often suffer most from the effects of unhealthy air.

North Carolina state rules on **fracking** developed by the Mining and Energy Commission were submitted to the legislature in January which would have allowed fracking permits. However, as a result of a lawsuit by Governor McCrory, those rules were deemed illegal. Hundreds of Medical Advocates for Healthy Air members participated in our sign-on letter, legislative activity, and public hearings in an effort to establish specific air quality rules in the fracking permitting process.

Elevating the medical voice for cleaner air and healthier lives



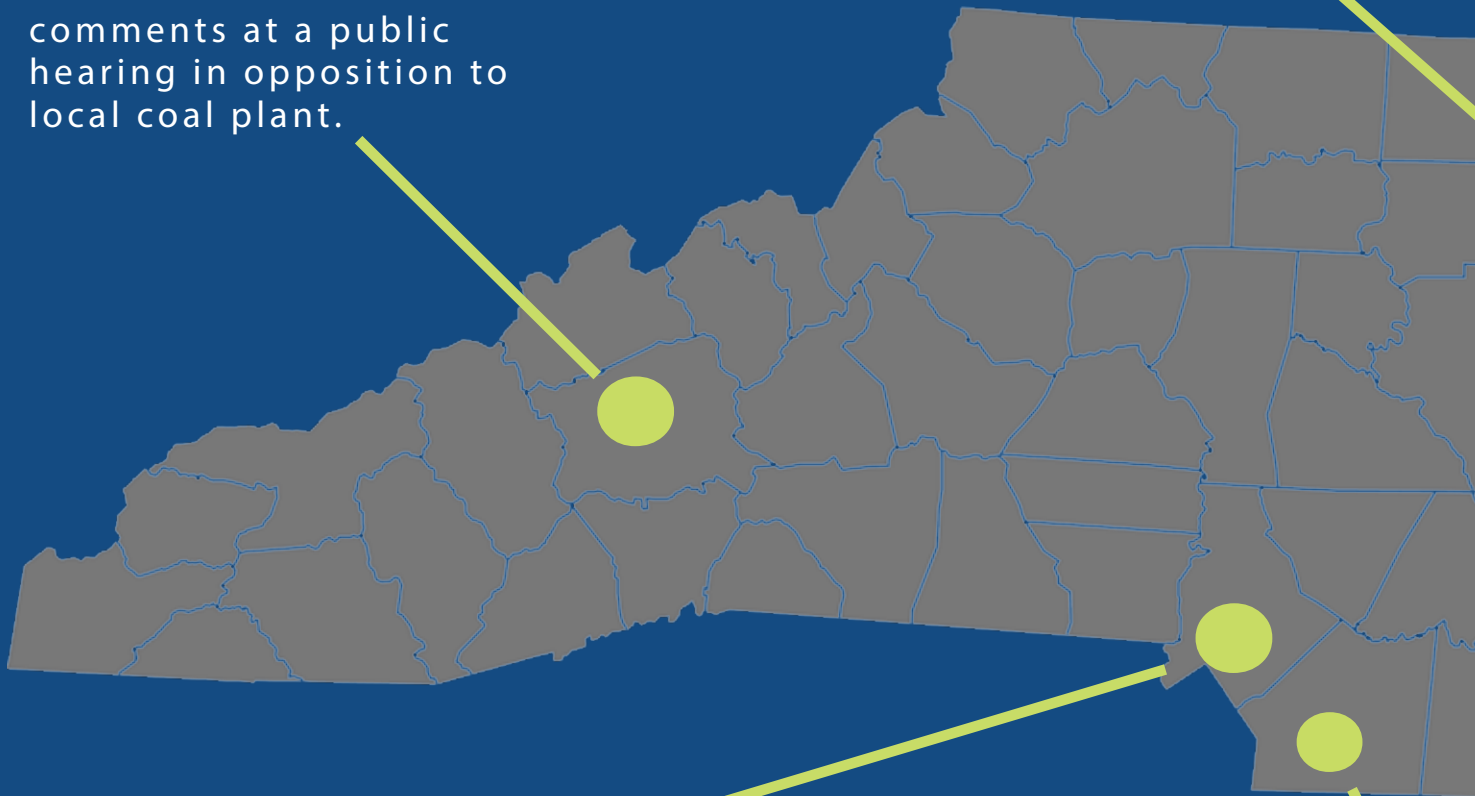
MAHA Manager Laura Wenzel and Dr. Stephen Keener, Medical Director of Mecklenburg County Health Department and member of MAHA Advisory Board.

GREENSBORO

Opposed the state's plan to exempt small polluters from permits in an op-ed by Greensboro MAHA physicians published in the *News & Observer*.

ASHEVILLE

Provided medical comments at a public hearing in opposition to local coal plant.



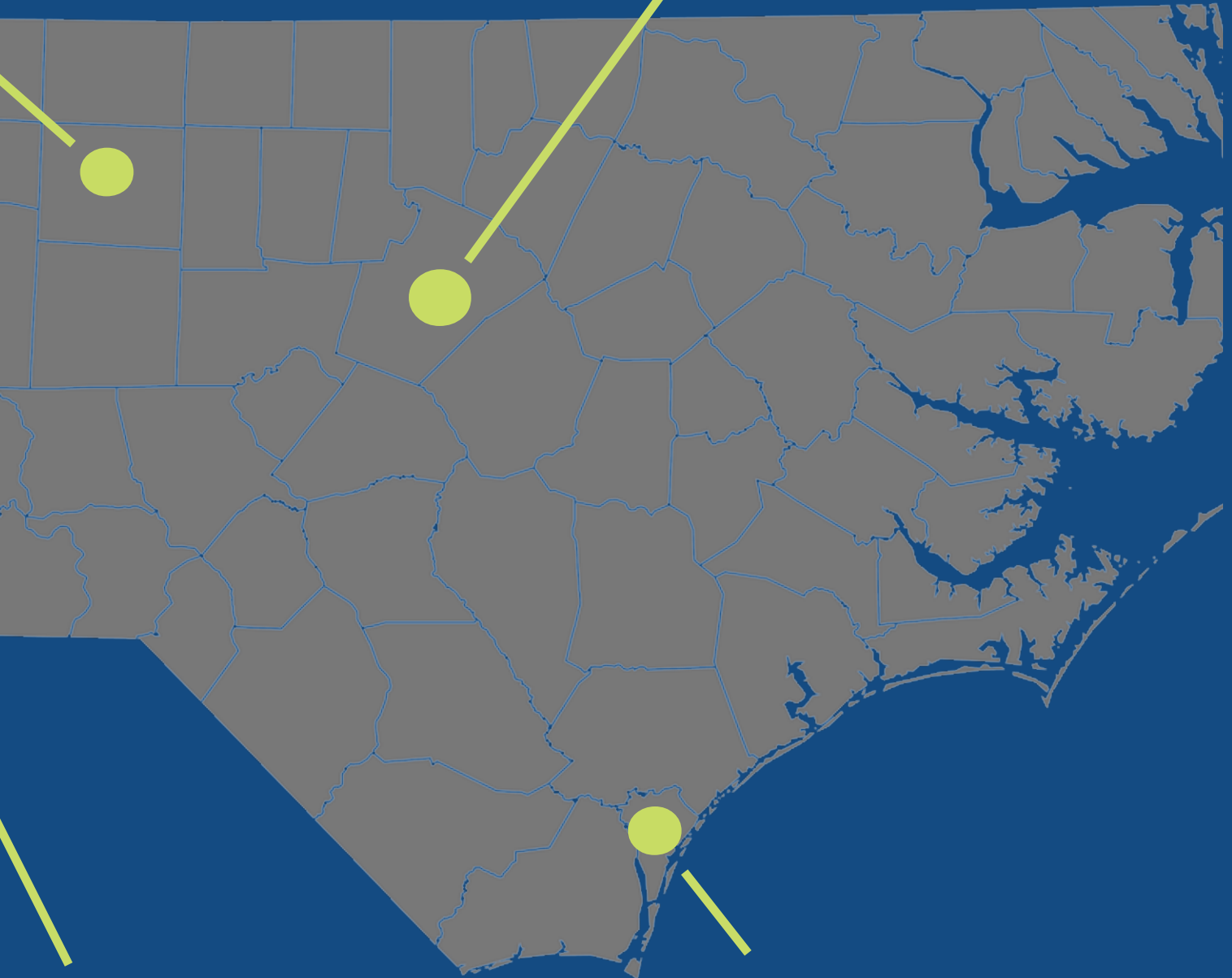
CHARLOTTE

Expanded partnerships with City of Charlotte and Novant Health to reduce diesel emissions from construction projects • Continued clean air education and advocacy programs with Northwest Corridor neighborhoods • Sponsored 6th Annual 5K Run & Walk for Clean Air and hosted 2nd Annual Clean Air/Clean Water Film Festival.

CLEAN AIR ACTIONS AROUND THE STATE

RALEIGH

Worked with partners to support clean energy policies and opposed legislation which weakened clean air rules and programs • Provided comments at the Clean Power Plan hearing • Sponsored first statewide NC BREATHE Conference.



MONROE

Rallied over 100 residents to attend a public hearing on the Monroe Bypass and provided comments • Organized FIX 74 FIRST! Lobby Day with NC legislators.

WILMINGTON

Filed amicus brief in NC Court of Appeals regarding citizens' right to petition for a hearing in air quality cases in support of the Stop Titan Action Network.



ENVIRONMENT

We are planting Ozone Gardens around Charlotte to raise awareness about ground-level ozone pollution and demonstrate its effect on delicate plants and human health.

Similar to its effect on humans, air pollution can harm plants and animals directly. Poor air quality can also harm the habitat, food, or water that plants, animals, and people need to survive. One of the ways we successfully make the connection between air quality and its impact on the natural environment is through our Ozone Garden project. Ozone gardens serve as bio-monitoring outdoor laboratories for people to see air pollution's effects on the leaves of sensitive plants.

Master Gardener and former science teacher, Mary Stauble, led our *Clear the Air for Kids!* program in 2015. Mary worked closely with six Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools and expanded the Ozone Garden initiative to the public by strengthening our county and corporate partnerships.

We celebrated the official opening of our first ozone garden installation in a nature preserve with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at McDowell Nature Center in south Charlotte. Park staff began using the garden as an educational tool in July. More than 25,000 visitors are expected to visit the garden each year.

Our first corporate ozone garden was created at the Belk Corporate Campus in Charlotte. Named the "Clean Air Garden" the company uses it to raise awareness about air quality among their 1300+ employees.

Clean Air Carolina developed an Ozone Garden toolkit that will guide communities in the installation of their own bio-monitoring garden with lessons on how to monitor plant damage from air pollution. The 50-page booklet will be available online in 2016.

Planting seeds of air quality awareness and change



Belk's Clean Air Garden is used to raise awareness about air quality among their 1,300+ employees.



ECONOMY

We are urging local governments to embrace a common vision – to make us less car-dependent and provide a full range of mobility options, including bike lanes, city-wide greenways, light rail, and low-emission buses.

Smart growth creates walkable communities with a variety of transportation options that offer economic advantages and a better quality of life for residents. As the Charlotte region continues to grow, we advocate for stronger regional land use and transportation planning and against development of new highways that promote sprawl.

An appeal was filed in Fourth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals on behalf of Clean Air Carolina and its partners after a district court judge failed to properly scrutinize the NC Department of Transportation's review of the \$838 million Monroe Bypass. Earlier in the year, Clean Air Carolina organized more than 130 people to attend a public hearing in Monroe on the proposed 20-mile

Monroe Bypass. Union County residents also visited the state legislature to urge that targeted low-cost solutions be explored in place of the Bypass. A court decision on this case is expected in May 2016.

Our partnership with the City of Charlotte to accelerate the transition of the city's off-road diesel fleet to low-emission equipment and promote clean construction practices made significant progress in 2015. A new partnership with Novant Health resulted in diesel equipment tracking for two construction projects in Mint Hill and Matthews and anti-idling education. Preliminary findings indicate most equipment is newer and less polluting.

Advocating for strong regional land use and transportation planning to reduce sprawl



New construction equipment on site of future hospital.

Inaugural NC BREATHE Conference

The NC BREATHE Conference was established to inform policy makers of the latest research on the role air pollution plays in multiple health-related illnesses and diseases carrying both human and economic costs. Held at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, the

conference attracted over 100 of our state's top scientists, air quality researchers, physicians, policy experts, and advocates to consider how to use the most recent science and the overwhelming economic evidence to advance clean air policymaking in the state.

Bridging Research on Economics & Air Quality for The Health of Everyone



2015 Airkeeper Award Winners

Four North Carolinians were recognized for their work to improve air quality at a special Airkeeper Awards reception on the eve of the NC BREATHE Conference in Raleigh. Clean Air Carolina's annual tradition of honoring those who show exceptional leadership in air quality protection highlighted the contributions of:

William G. Ross, Jr., JD, Brooks Pierce Attorney; Former Director of NC Department of the Environment and Natural Resources from 2001-2009

Lisa Johnson, RRT, RCP, BAS, AEC, Vidant Health's Pediatric Asthma Program Coordinator; Asthma Alliance of NC Co-chair; Medical Advocates for Healthy Air Advisory Board Member

Rep. Verla Insko, Dist. 56, North Carolina legislator since 1997 representing Chapel Hill, Carrboro, and parts of Orange County

Jason West, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, UNC at Chapel Hill whose research focuses on air quality, climate change and related health impacts

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Mary Joyce Consulting

Ericka-Ellis Stewart, Vice-chair

Mental Health Association of Central Carolinas, Inc

Libby Cable, Secretary

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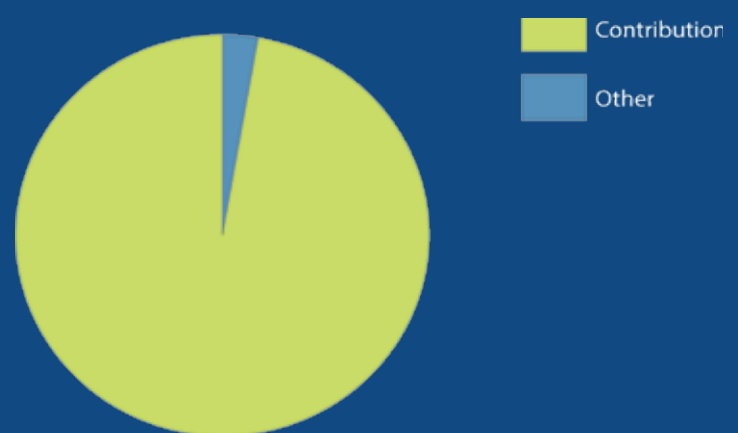
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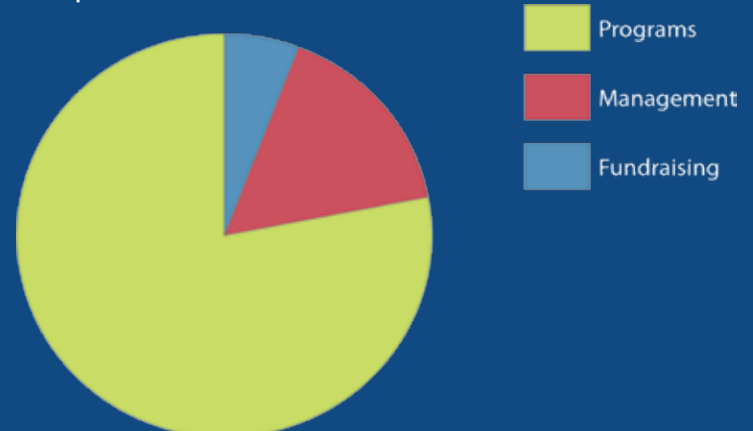
Manager
Medical Advocates for Healthy Air

2015 Financials

Revenue



Expenses



Thank You

The board and staff of Clean Air Carolina have significant plans for 2016 to raise awareness about the threats to clean air and the practical solutions. Clean Air Carolina will sponsor along with UNC Charlotte the NC BREATHE conference on April 8 in conjunction with Keeping Watch on Air.

We will also bring Particle Falls, a major outdoor art installation by artist Andrea Polli, to Charlotte in the spring which will make invisible air pollution visible in a stunning display. Additional special events between March 5 and April 23 leading up to the next legislative session will call attention to the need for strong air quality protections. We have a moral obligation to ensure that our children, whose lungs are still developing, have clean, healthy air.

Your financial support is crucial as we sponsor these types of high profile events. Please visit our websites to make your contribution and learn how you can get involved:

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MedicalAdvocatesforHealthyAir.org

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