

Introducing OpenAQ

An open, real-time air quality data hub for the world

We are OpenAQ, a team of atmospheric scientists, programmers, and open data-lovers who are building an initiative to unleash previously 'hidden' local air quality information. OpenAQ will be the first open, crowd-sourced platform to provide programmatic access to AQ data from stations worldwide. **We firmly believe providing this information to the public, research, and policy communities will be transformational for public health.**

OpenAQ will:

- Seamlessly receive/request data from multiple sources,
- Display real-time AQ to end-users,
- Provide programmatic and historical data access, and
- Operate under an open and permissive license, promoting others to build on the platform and its data.

Why OpenAQ?

Poor air quality is responsible for 1 out of 8 deaths in the world, more than malaria and HIV/AIDS, combined. Access to AQ data can dramatically help communities mitigate exposure and galvanize them to action. For low-cost sensor/citizen science and public health communities to advance, access to rich datasets is critically important. Over 4000 AQ stations throughout the world publicly publish data; however, most people do not have access to this information because it is on obscure websites, programmatically inaccessible, or in data formats that are displayed inconsistently. Today, even analyzing AQ for a megacity like New Delhi or Beijing requires journalists to scrounge and scrape data from multiple sources.

Connecting with communities

We plan to visit cities around the world that have pollution problems and also have access to real-time air quality data from government or other reliable sources – though perhaps not shared in a way that makes the data friendly to the public or provides historical or programmatic access. During these visits, we will host workshops, engaging with the science, tech, and media communities to contribute to and build upon the OpenAQ platform.

