

The Chicago Department of Public Health's (CDPH) work is rooted in [Healthy Chicago 2025](#), a citywide plan to close Chicago's racial life expectancy gap by addressing the root causes of health. Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being – and that requires a healthy environment. As a public health agency, we focus on improving environmental conditions, particularly in areas where low-income people of color who also have chronic health issues live.

Protecting the environment requires a whole-of-government approach to issues like industrial development, zoning and transportation, so we work together with other City departments and the Illinois and U.S. Environmental Protection Agencies. And we believe community voice is essential, which is why we often partner with community members and welcome their input on important decisions facing their neighborhoods.

**Here are highlights of our work in 2022 to strengthen regulation on industry, expand public engagement opportunities and drive policy change through innovation.**

### EXPANDING OUR TREE CANOPY

Partnered with the Mayor's Office, Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation, Chicago Department of Transportation and Chicago Park District to train and work with community ambassadors to plant 18,000 new trees as part of [Our Roots Chicago](#), the City's strategy to equitably expand the City's tree canopy by planting 75,000 trees over the next five years.



### PROPOSED NEW RULES FOR ROCK CRUSHERS

With input from community members and industry, developed stronger rules for rock-crushing facilities designed to reduce dust and improve air quality, implement continuous monitoring and enhance CDPH oversight through greater reporting and record-keeping requirements. New rules will go into effect in early 2023, following the final public comment period.



### LAUNCHED CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Convened community partners affected by industrial development to lay the groundwork for a proactive, city-wide Cumulative Impact Assessment that will provide data on community-level vulnerability to pollution based on environmental, health and social stressors. A baseline Assessment will be complete by mid-2023.





## INCREASED TRANSPARENCY

Developed and promoted a way for Chicago residents to easily opt-in to receive updates about environmental news taking place in their community and around the City. Check out our improved website at [Chicago.gov/envcommunityinfo](https://chicago.gov/envcommunityinfo).



## EXPANDED PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We doubled-down on our commitment to community involvement by expanding public engagement on permit decisions for facilities with the greatest potential community impact, including waste transfer facilities, large recycling facilities and rock-crushers.



## USED HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT TO INFORM DECISION-MAKING

Conducted an eight-month Health Impact Assessment, including public meetings to understand neighborhood concerns about a proposed large recycling facility on the Southeast Side. Ultimately, CDPH denied the permit to protect the environment and public health.



## BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCY

Participated in Northwestern University's Buffett Institute for Global Affairs Diffusing Disasters Award to help the City better understand climate change resiliency in Chicago and guide future environmental decision-making.



## COMMUNITY-DRIVEN AIR MONITORING

Community partners and the City worked with Microsoft to deploy over 100 low-cost sensors across Chicago for the Microsoft's Project Eclipse, a local air monitoring network designed to show where targeted action is needed to improve air quality.



**CDPH looks forward to the important work ahead in 2023. We hope you'll join us!**

Sign up to receive updates on environmental news in your community and across Chicago at [chicago.gov/envcommunityinfo](https://chicago.gov/envcommunityinfo).

