



September 3, 2024

TITLE

Air Quality Project Co-Manager

COMPENSATION

Hourly rate: \$18.50/hour

20 hours/week

This position is not eligible for paid holidays or paid vacation time.

Paid Sick Leave accrual up to 20 hours/year

POSITION DURATION

Approximately 18 months, grant funded. Ends in approximately March 2026.

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

BEAT has a strong anti-discrimination policy. We believe that everyone, no matter the color of your skin, your income, the language you speak at home, or who you love should work together to protect the environment for wildlife in support of the natural world that sustains us all. We work with a broad variety of people and it is essential that everyone we work with is comfortable working with people of widely varying backgrounds, abilities, and situations.

Pittsfield Air Quality Monitoring Project

Using ten stationary continuous air monitors and five mobile monitors, BEAT is monitoring for PM2.5, PM10 and NO2 throughout key locations in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, including environmental justice neighborhoods, city schools, near point sources of pollution and in “control” locations away from these centers. We compile neighborhood-level air quality data to compare with location and weather data. We will also conduct an informal public health survey in which community members note any existing or new health concerns and increases and decreases in severity, chronologically pairing this data with air quality monitoring results to look for any correlation. This data will be shared with local, regional and state agencies as well as environmental and community action organizations to advocate for changes in policy to lower environmental pollution with the goal of addressing climate impacts and public health, especially in vulnerable environmental justice neighborhoods.

Pittsfield Air Quality Monitoring Public Health and Community Engagement Liaison

BEAT is seeking a public health and community engagement liaison for a grant-funded position within BEAT’s Breathe Easy air quality monitoring program. This candidate will work closely with the air quality monitoring manager as their counterpart.

This role involves communicating about BEAT’s air quality monitoring project with city officials, partner organizations, and the community at large. It will involve making community presentations, speaking on the radio, and other forms of communication. They will also design and implement a neighborhood health study to collect information about community members’ health concerns with regard to air quality. They will seek out and work with data from local health providers and public health officials about the environmental determinants of health in Pittsfield neighborhoods.

Ultimately, this role culminates in the production of a report on air quality-related public health concerns about local pollutants. This report will link quantitative data and qualitative data from interview subjects and provide the basis for suggesting future directions for a more in-depth public health/sociological analysis of air quality pollution issues in Environmental Justice neighborhoods.

This is a part-time, hourly, 20 hours/week position for during the August 2024 - approximately March 2026 timeline of our Pittsfield Air Quality Monitoring project.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

The primary responsibilities of this position will be to work with the No Fracked Gas in Mass Program Director and the Air Quality Monitoring program manager to

1. Assist in ensuring No Fracked Gas in Mass’ and BEAT’s smooth operations
2. Collaborate with multiple organizations on air quality initiatives - for example: Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Westside Legends, Central Berkshire Habitat for Humanity, West Side Initiative, and the Berkshire Dream Center, among others.
3. Work with the Air Quality Monitoring program manager to interpret readings from mobile and stationary air quality monitors. Contextualize and investigate possible sources of pollution indicated by abnormal sensor readings.
4. Develop an informal public health study and train air quality monitoring staff on administering a community survey. Do outreach to the community to gather qualitative data about their air quality concerns.
5. In collaboration with co-manager, do public education and outreach through communication with community groups, interviews with local media, social media outreach.
6. Seek datasets from local hospital/medical systems and public health authorities and perform data analysis to track ongoing changes in health over time from city residents.
7. Coordinate with a Spanish translator and interpreter to ensure public-facing information is presented in both English and Spanish.
8. Coordinate with other BEAT staff.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Please note that roles and responsibilities change with the season and will change over time. % of time is approximate and will vary over time. Until the Air Quality Monitoring Program is up and running, more time will be devoted to assisting with general BEAT work as needed.
Community engagement - tabling, connecting with community partners and city officials, making public presentations
Designing and conducting an informal public health survey (to be administered by BEAT’s team of mobile monitoring staff)
Seek out quantitative data sources to complement qualitative interviews with community members and community partners. These data sources might include summary respiratory illness data from Berkshire Medical Center, local public health authorities, etc. Perform data analysis using these data sets and communicate findings to the general public.
Collaborate with the Air Quality Monitoring project manager to produce quarterly reports to EPA
Write a final report which incorporates quantitative and qualitative data analysis about air quality and pollution in Pittsfield

SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITY

This role co-supervises several part-time staff (mobile monitoring staff).

SKILLS

Social sciences and qualitative data collection skills, excellent written communication skills, Google Drive (sheets, docs, etc.), STATA/R (preferred but not required), ability to talk comfortably with all sorts of people and enthusiasm for tabling and engaging with people in the Environmental Justice neighborhoods in Pittsfield.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Some of our work will take place outside in the elements. This position is expected to know how to deal with heat, cold, rain, and full sun. Additionally, this person will often be out alone or supervising volunteers.

Some of the position includes a willingness to pitch in wherever needed - entering constituent and financial data, giving presentations to funders. Also, housekeeping chores such as sweeping floors and emptying the trash are the responsibility of all of our staff members.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested applicants may submit a resume, writing sample of any length, and cover letter to brittany@thebeatnews.org. Applications will be reviewed until the position is filled.