



**CLEAN AIR  
PARTNERS**  
DC-MD-VA

FY 2025 Annual Report  
FY 2026 Work Program and Budget

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## **Acknowledgements**

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**Maryland Department of Transportation**

**Virginia Department of Transportation**

**District Department of Transportation**

**Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments**

**Baltimore Metropolitan Council**

**Attune**

**City of Alexandria**

**District Department of Energy and Environment**

**Fairfax County**

**Leidos**

**Maryland Department of the Environment**

**Pepco**

**Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative**

**Virginia Department of Environmental Quality**

## INTRODUCTION

Millions of people in the Baltimore-Washington region live in areas that experience unhealthy levels of air pollution. Those most susceptible to the health effects of air pollution are people with lung disease (such as asthma), children and older adults, and people who are active outdoors.

Clean Air Partners is a nonprofit organization that seeks to improve the health and quality of life of residents in the Baltimore-Washington region by encouraging individuals and organizations to take voluntary actions to reduce air pollution and the impacts of climate change. The organization serves Northern Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Central Maryland.

This document presents Clean Air Partners' FY 2026 Work Program and Budget to promote voluntary actions that will help protect the public from exposure to ground-level ozone and particle pollution and reduce air pollution, including greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. The FY 2026 Work Program and Budget covers the 12-month period from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026. Adoption by the membership allocates resources to each program area. The Board of Directors will authorize specific projects.

## BACKGROUND

Clean Air Partners began informally in 1994 and was subsequently chartered as a semi-independent formal organization by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) and the Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) in 1997.

Clean Air Partners initially focused on education and outreach related to ground-level ozone. However, concerns regarding the non-attainment status and health effects of particle pollution led the Board of Directors to change the focus of the program in 2004 to include fine particles, in addition to ground-level ozone. With the interest in climate change becoming more important in the region, the Board of Directors expanded the mission of the organization in 2007 to include greenhouse gases and their contribution to climate change.

The organization is governed by a Board of Directors, elected by the organization's membership. Members come from the public and private sectors and from health and environmental advocacy organizations. Clean Air Partners is administered by a Managing Director who provides overall program coordination and implementation.

COG provides technical support, program and meeting support, grants and contracts management, financial services, and legal assistance. Contract consultants are used for the marketing and education program and other initiatives on a project-specific basis.

Sources of funding include grants, sponsorships, and cash contributions. The District Department of Transportation (DDOT), Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), and COG provide much of the overall funding. Sponsorships and grants provide the balance.

In-kind support is provided by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), COG, and BMC. MDE and COG provide forecasting support and BMC coordinates the outreach program for the Baltimore area.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FY 2025

FY 2025 was an incredibly successful year for Clean Air Partners. Clean Air Partners focused on in-person community engagements to reach our audience with public health messages and air quality and climate tips. The organization also launched an electric lawn tool exchange program, which resulted in the removal of gas-powered equipment – directly reducing emissions that contribute to poor air quality.

Funding included \$56,000 in contributions from media campaign sponsors from the following organizations.

- Commuter Connections (\$10,000)
- District Department of Energy and Environment (\$10,000)
- Fairfax County (\$2,500)
- Maryland Department of the Environment (\$15,000)

- Pepco (\$5,000)
- Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (\$1,000)
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (\$12,500)

As a result, the 2024 public awareness campaign generated over 330 million media impressions and nearly 30 thousand engagements across various marketing and media relations efforts at a publicity value of over \$15 million.

Air Quality Awareness Week and Region-Wide Lawn Tool Exchange

Clean Air Partners launched the summer campaign during Air Quality Awareness Week by launching an electric lawn tool exchange initiative. The initiative gave a platform to engage partners, meteorologists, online and in-person audiences with timely air quality messages focused on lawn and garden activities. Through a partnership with Ace Hardware, a series of 5 outreach events were held across the region, including 6 days of lawn tool exchanges resulting in 150 gas-powered tools getting into the hands of our residents.



Ozone Action Month

Ozone Action Month is a month all about the small steps we can take to help improve air quality during the hottest time of year when ground-level ozone is greatest. During the month, Clean Air Partners pushed eco-driving and Car Free Day messages out through pop-up and Eco-Driving exhibits, social media, media relations, and partner outreach.

As part of the Eco-Driving messaging, Clean Air Partners utilized its Emissions Demonstration exhibit, an eye-catching display that educates the public about ways to reduce vehicle emissions. The backdrop is a large campaign-branded standing wall that displays Clean Air Partners messaging and real tips on how to reduce mobile-source emissions. Alongside the wall is a head-turning visual – a big, black SUV encased in a clear plastic bubble. A large video screen invites participants to engage with the exhibit via a contactless interactive trivia quiz. The exhibit was featured at the St. Charles Towne Center. An additional community event was held at the Arlington Farmers Market.

Media Relations

Long standing relationships with reporters and meteorologists made Clean Air Partners the go-to source when the region suffered historically poor air quality. Media materials included news releases, fact sheets, and b-roll footage. In addition to pitching media materials around efforts throughout the year, Clean Air Partners conducted media outreach to secure interviews with campaign spokespeople and stories on air quality. Media relations resulted in 186 news stories.



On the Air Education Program

This year, the “On the Air” school program continued to focus on building its train-the-trainer program – focusing on teacher training and professional development. For the 2024-2025 school year, a total of 11 teachers actively participated in the program. The Lead Teachers taught over 400 students and trained over 100 teachers across the Baltimore-Washington region.

“On the Air” was promoted at 16 events and workshops to share opportunities for classroom adoption or network to reach stakeholders, including schools, teachers, and environmental organizations. This resulted in more than 60 hours of public outreach specifically dedicated to “On the Air.”



Corporate sponsorships from Attune (\$1,000) and Leidos (\$10,000) were used to support the Lead Teacher Training Community.

## FY 2026 PRIORITIES

### Priorities for FY 2026 include –

- Communicating the health effects of air pollution and related “calls-to-action” to residents across the region.
- Communicating unhealthy air quality days to enable residents to change behaviors to protect their health and improve the air and impacts related to climate change.
- Using the most recent survey data, develop and conduct initiatives to encourage behavior change.
- Support the Train-the-Trainer education program.
- Track cuts from the federal government and potential impacts on Clean Air Partners. Adjust the work program as needed.

## PROGRAM EXECUTION

The overall program will be managed by the Board of Directors and administered by the Managing Director, with administrative support, financial reporting, auditing, contract management, and legal services provided by COG. In 2013, COG entered a Memorandum of Understanding with Clean Air Partners to provide Managing Director services.

The Clean Air Partners FY 2026 Work Program and Budget is based on four major program areas:

1. **Education and Outreach** – Includes staff support related to coordinating the program, business and community outreach, printing and producing all related program materials, support for website and maintaining or developing new technology, conducting teacher training and professional development, and sponsorship/partnership recruitment.
2. **Marketing and Public Awareness** – Includes overall marketing and public relations support provided by the marketing consultant, to implement the annual marketing and communications plan.
3. **Special Projects** – Includes support for Baltimore’s Bike to Work Week and a reserve fund.
4. **Program Administration** – Includes project management, administrative, and technical support provided by COG staff.

## FY 2026 BUDGET

Projected revenues to support the FY 2026 work program are shown in Table 1 below:

Table 1: FY 2026 Revenue Summary

Revenue Source	Funding Source			Total	Percent of Total Revenues
	Grants	Sponsors	Funders		
MDOT <sup>1</sup>			\$262,500	\$262,500	35%
VDOT			\$238,547	\$238,547	32%
DDOT			\$70,904	\$70,904	10%
MWCOG			\$58,800	\$58,800	8%
Carry Over <sup>2</sup>			\$31,322	\$31,322	4%
Sponsors <sup>3</sup>		\$85,000		\$85,000	11%
Grants				\$0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$85,000</b>	<b>\$662,073</b>	<b>\$747,073</b>	<b>100%</b>

1 - MDOTs contribution includes jurisdictions in the Baltimore and Washington area (Counties of Montgomery, Prince George's, Frederick, Charles, Baltimore, Harford, Carroll, Howard, Anne Arundel, and Queen Anne's and the Cities of Frederick, Gaithersburg, Rockville, Takoma Park, Laurel, Hyattsville, College Park, Greenbelt, Bowie, and Baltimore).

2 - Estimated carry-over

3 - Included confirmed sponsors for the education program and anticipated media campaign sponsor commitments.

The FY 2026 revenue projections are based on the following:

- Much of the funding is provided by the state transportation departments. Collectively, the states contribute 76% of the total budget. COG provides an additional 8%.
- Contributions from grants and sponsors are projected to reach \$85,000 and are earmarked for the summer campaign and education program, as determined by sponsor commitments.
- Estimated carry-over amount includes \$31,322 in unused cash funds. Carry-over from the previous fiscal year is an estimate. The actual amount will be determined in November/December 2025, after COG closes the books for FY 2025.



Projected expenditures by program area for FY 2026 are shown in Table 2 below:

Table 2: Summary of FY 2025 Program Expenditures

Program Area	Funding Source			Total <sup>3</sup>	Percent
	Grants	Sponsors <sup>1</sup>	Funders <sup>2</sup>		
Education and Outreach		\$10,000	\$315,056	\$325,056	43%
Marketing and Public Awareness		\$75,000	\$249,737	\$324,737	44%
Special Projects			\$32,580	\$32,580	4%
Program Administration			\$64,700	\$64,700	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$85,000</b>	<b>\$662,073</b>	<b>\$747,073</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>1</sup>Contingent on sponsor commitments.

<sup>2</sup>Includes payments from the state transportation departments, COG, and carry over funds from the previous fiscal year.

<sup>3</sup>Total represents the cost of staff, consultant time and direct costs (travel, telephone, copying, etc.). See Appendix A for detailed breakdown of Clean Air Partners staff and direct costs. Staff time is allocated by task.

The projected cost for the FY 2026 work program is based on the following:

- Encouraging the public to take voluntary actions to improve air quality and the effects of climate change, developing sponsorships and partnerships, securing program materials, supporting the school program, and maintaining the website and mobile app account for 43%.
- Public outreach regarding air quality, its health impacts and voluntary actions provided through campaigns and events, meteorologists outreach, and other public relations strategies will continue to be a focus of the annual work program. The projected cost for marketing and public awareness is 44% of the total FY 2026 budget. Funding sources include \$75,000 in sponsorships, which are earmarked for the summer campaign. **Note: Contributions from sponsors are based on goals and not yet confirmed.**
- Financial support for special projects accounts for 4% of the total budget. This includes support for BMC’s Bike to Work Week and a reserve fund.
- Expenditures totaling 9% of the total budget are earmarked for program administration. Funding sources for this program area includes funder contributions.

# FY 2026 WORK PROGRAM

Following is a description of the work to be accomplished and related budget detail for each of the four major program areas.

## 1. Education and Outreach

Education and Outreach	Grants	Sponsors	Funders	Total Budget
Business Development and Fundraising			\$25,000	\$25,000
School and Youth Education Program		\$10,000	\$80,500	\$90,500
Web and Technology			\$75,000	\$75,000
Program Materials			\$25,000	\$25,000
Clean Air Partners Staff Support			\$109,556	\$109,556
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>\$315,056</b>	<b>\$325,056</b>

*Program support for the Baltimore region is provided by BMC.*

In FY 2026, the work program will include a comprehensive Education and Outreach program that will focus on business and community outreach, securing sponsorships and partnerships, training teachers, participating in events, and providing tools and materials to support the program.

The focus of Clean Air Partners is to continue to educate the public, businesses, communities, teachers and youth on air pollution, its health effects, and voluntary actions to improve air quality and the impacts of climate change. In FY 2026, focus will be placed on building sponsorships and partnerships to increase program funding and support. To expand the organization’s presence in the local community, staff will seek out opportunities to educate residents about air quality and health and promote program initiatives. This may be done through community events and promoting partner outreach activities such as Bike to Work Day.

Forecasting and real-time air quality information is an integral part of the Education and Outreach program. Daily air quality forecasts (which cover a three-day period) are provided by COG, MDE, the District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) staff. Forecasts are provided as an “in-kind” service and hence is not reflected in this budget. Real-time air quality data is provided through EPA AirNow.

For the past 18 years, a formal education curriculum (“On the Air”) has been used to educate elementary, middle, and high school students and teachers. “On the Air” has been used to educate thousands of local students. In 2020, a redesigned curriculum was launched and includes units that address the air quality index, ozone pollution, particle pollution, health effects, community pollution and solutions, the Chesapeake Bay, and climate change. In FY 2024, “On the Air” moved towards a train-the-trainer approach – focusing on teacher training and professional development. This model will continue to be further developed in FY 2026.

Clean Air Partners’ website continues to be the primary tool used to communicate information and engage the public. The website contains real-time and historical air quality data, air quality forecasts, and the EnviroFlash notification system. Clean Air Partners also provides a free mobile app for iOS and Android users to allow residents living in the metropolitan Baltimore-Washington region an alternate way to get daily air quality forecasts and current air quality information.

The Education and Outreach component includes business, community, and school outreach, web and

technology, program materials, and staff support. These activities and related costs are described as follows:

**Business Development and Fundraising (\$25,000)** – This reflects the cost for a consultant to assist the Board with implementation of a fundraising strategy, strengthen existing and building sponsorships and partnerships, and developing sponsorship proposals.

**School and Youth Outreach (“On the Air”) (\$90,500)** – This reflects the cost for a consultant to promote the education curriculum, conduct teacher training and professional development, and maintain the curriculum materials. This also includes funds to provide a stipend for teachers participating in the Lead Teacher Training program.

Specific objectives related to the implementation of the school and youth program include:

- Promote the “On the Air” curriculum. Recruit Lead teachers and conduct teacher training in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Northern Virginia.
- Establish, maintain, and facilitate partnerships with education organizations.
- Develop feedback tools to survey teachers on trainings, as well as “On the Air” topics and effectiveness of the curriculum/activities.

**Web and Technology (\$75,000)** – The cost for this activity includes an annual maintenance fee for the Clean Air Partners’ website and mobile application, including contractor costs for the maintenance of the web and database servers, daily backups, automated and manual monitoring, virus protection, and monitoring and performing quality-control checks of air quality data being presented to the public.

Ongoing development related to the website includes:

- Updating the website as needed to provide accurate air quality information – forecasts, current, and historical data.
- Maintaining web tools to provide forecasts to the local media, partners, and the public.
- Maintaining the mobile app.
- Redeveloping the site to modernize the content management system.

**Program Materials (\$25,000)** – This cost includes the development, printing, and reproducing all Clean Air Partners materials such as digital graphics, event materials, and other promotional items.

## 2. Marketing and Public Awareness

Marketing and Public Awareness	Grants	Sponsors	Funders	Total Budget
Marketing Support			\$164,000	\$164,000
Media Campaign(s)*		\$75,000	\$50,000	\$125,000
Clean Air Partners Staff Support			\$35,737	\$35,737
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>	<b>\$249,737</b>	<b>\$324,737</b>

\*Contingent on sponsor contributions.

This program area includes overall support provided by the marketing consultant, direct costs related to the campaigns and events, and staff support:

**Marketing Support (\$164,000)** – This cost includes support provided by the marketing consultant to implement the marketing plan.

Tasks related to marketing support include:

- Revise existing and develop new program materials.
- Plan and conduct campaigns and events.
- Coordinate outreach through Clean Air Partners' social media channels (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram).
- Conduct outreach to meteorologists.
- Develop and pitch stories to the media.
- Develop and implement strategies to increase participation in program initiatives.
- Prepare the campaign recap.
- Track media placement.

Support provided by the marketing consultant is done in coordination with the Managing Director and the Marketing Committee.

**Media Campaign(s) (\$125,000)** – In FY 2026, Clean Air Partners will develop and implement a campaign to meet both Clean Air Partners' goals, as well as the program's sponsors. Marketing benefits will be tracked and may come from both sponsors and partners who provide visibility, overall reach, brand value, media impressions, value, and level of engagement in specified call-to-actions (e.g. event participation, website visits, social media activity, etc.). Measurements of success will be determined by evaluators included in the marketing plan.

Campaigns will be focused on the program's priorities, informing the public about the links between poor air quality, climate change, and everyday behaviors. Campaigns will be data driven using the most recent program survey results, will be based on the ability to deliver Clean Air Partners' messaging, impact behavior change, and provide quality engagements.

Specific objectives related to the marketing and public relations component include:

1. Provide the public with the tools to stay healthy during poor air quality days.
2. Heighten public awareness around the impact of everyday actions on air quality, climate change, public health, and the environment.
3. Increase participation in Clean Air Partners' initiatives.

### 3. Special Projects

Special Projects	Grants	Sponsors	Funders	Total Budget
Bike to Work Week - Baltimore			\$2,500	\$2,500
Reserve Fund			\$30,080	\$30,080
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$32,580</b>	<b>\$32,580</b>

**Bike to Work Week (\$2,500)** – Funding will support Baltimore's Bike to Work Week which is held annually during the month of May. Funding will be provided to the Baltimore Metropolitan Council and used for general expenses. In return for our contribution, Clean Air Partners will be mentioned as a sponsor in event materials.

**Reserve Fund (\$30,080)** – Reserve funds will be used to for implement initiatives or unanticipated projects as approved by the Board. The funds are currently being held for website redevelopment.

#### 4. Program Administration

Program Administration	Grants	Sponsors	Funders	Total Budget
Finance, Budget, and Work Program			\$22,795	\$22,795
Contract and Grant Management			\$21,008	\$21,008
Meeting Administration			\$20,897	\$20,897
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$64,700</b>	<b>\$64,700</b>

The program administration component includes the following staff support, which includes the Managing Director and COG support staff. BMC provides staff support for the metropolitan Baltimore region.

- Program and logistical support provided by staff.
- Grants and contracts management.
- Accounting, auditing, billing, and financial services.
- Legal assistance.
- Other administrative services (photocopying, scheduling, meeting space, etc.).
- Preparing for and participating in meetings of the Board of Directors, Executive Committee, and other subcommittees, as well as the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee, Commuter Connections Subcommittee, and the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board.
- Preparing monthly and quarterly reports.
- Preparing the annual report and the development of the annual work program and budget.
- Travel-related expenses.

The objectives for this component include:

- Providing leadership, technical support, and administrative support to Clean Air Partners.
- Executing the FY 2026 Work Program.
- Developing the FY 2027 Work Program.

## APPENDIX A

### Breakdown of Clean Air Partners Staff Time and Direct Costs

EXPENDITURES		Clean Air Partners Staff	Direct Cost	Total Cost
<b>Education and Outreach</b>				
	Business Development and Fundraising		\$25,000	\$25,000
	School and Youth Education Program		\$90,500	\$90,500
	Web and Technology		\$75,000	\$75,000
	Program Materials		\$25,000	\$25,000
	Staff Support	\$99,556	\$10,000	\$109,556
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$325,056</b>
<b>Marketing and Public Awareness</b>				
	Marketing Support		\$164,000	\$164,000
	Media Campaign(s)**		\$125,000	\$125,000
	Staff Support	\$35,737	\$0	\$35,737
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$324,737</b>
<b>Special Projects</b>				
	Bike to Work Week - Baltimore		\$2,500	\$2,500
	Reserve Fund		\$30,080	\$30,080
	Sponsor Projects		\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$32,580</b>
<b>Program Administration</b>				
	Finance, Budget and Work Program Mgt	\$22,795	\$0	\$22,795
	Contract and Grant Management	\$21,008	\$0	\$21,008
	Meeting Administration	\$15,897	\$5,000	\$20,897
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$64,700</b>
	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$194,993</b>	<b>\$552,080</b>	<b>\$747,073</b>

\*\* Contingent on sponsorship funding.