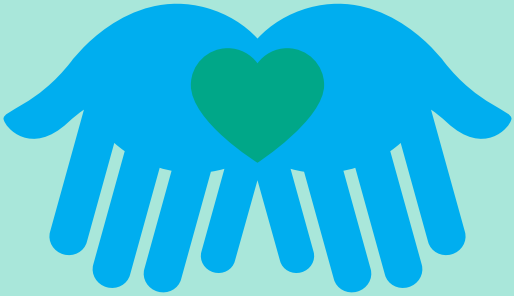
FACT #10

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN CO-DESIGNING AND CO-CREATING SCIENTIFIC AIR QUALITY INITIATIVES HAS SHOWN TO IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING OF HOW AIR POLLUTION AFFECTS HUMAN HEALTH AND HELP INDIVIDUALS TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS FOR EVERYDAY EXPOSURE MITIGATION.



Schools and local residents should not merely be participants in citizen science studies but should be active partners with researchers, following a three-pronged approach of: (i) inclusion (e.g. introducing seminars and workshops to involve people from diverse socio-demographics); (ii) collaboration (i.e. continuous interaction between researchers, communities and policymakers); and (iii) reciprocation (e.g. debate between citizen scientists regarding their research findings).

CHILDREN

- Children can participate in data collection activities for hands-on experience.
- They can share their experiences with their friends and families to organise their thinking and reinforce good practices.

SCHOOL

- Schools can participate in the design of studies, such as by co-developing research objectives and co-identifying sampling locations.
- Schools should support data collection, share findings with parents/guardians and children, and adopt good practice (both in terms of scientific rigour and any identified exposure control measures) to lead by example.

COMMUNITY

- Communities can participate by co-creating and co-implementing studies, thereby ensuring that these studies and their findings have a broad public impact.
- They can facilitate access to local schools, venues, and other environments for workshops, data collection, etc, and can take part as individuals.

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