Air Quality Advisory Council Orientation

Welcome and thank you for your commitment to serve on the air quality agency board! More information about the role and agency are included here.

Mission and Purpose

The mission of the Asheville-Buncombe Air Quality Agency is to protect and monitor the area's air quality to safeguard the public health and the environment.

The agency was established as part of an interlocal agreement by Buncombe County and the City of Asheville pursuant to the provisions of North Carolina General Statute Sections 160A-461, 160A-464, and 143-215.112 (c)(3) for the purpose of developing and administering an air quality program in their respective jurisdictions. The agency is one of three local air pollution control programs certified by the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission to implement air quality regulations and programs.

What does the local air agency do?

The Agency is responsible for implementing the delegated provisions of the federal, state and local air quality regulations in Buncombe County. The program operates an air pollution monitoring network that is used to determine whether our area is in compliance with the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). A permitting and inspection program ensures that industrial facilities, gas stations, dry cleaners, grading contractors, and asbestos removal activities comply with all applicable air quality regulations that are put in place to protect the public health and welfare. Additionally, the Agency responds to air quality related complaints (dust, smoke, open burning, odors), offers compliance assistance, education and outreach services, and works with community partners on voluntary pollution prevention programs. The Agency also maintains an indoor air quality webpage for resident inquiries and has partnered with other programs to distribute free radon test kits.

Governing Body

The Agency is overseen by an independent board of five members, of which three are appointed by the Buncombe County Commission, and two by the Asheville City Council. Terms are 6 years.

Board Member Duties

The Buncombe County Air Quality Advisory Council conducts public hearings and reviews and advises on air program actions; advises the Board of Commissioners in developing policies and plans to improve air quality programs; participates in the appeals review process over air quality regulations and ordinances promulgated by the Board of Commissioners; reviews and advises the local air quality program pursuant to the local air quality ordinance, and advises the Board of Commissioners of actions necessary to maintain a certified local air quality program. To accomplish these duties, the Council meets bi-monthly and at other times as needed.

Meeting Schedule

The Air Quality Council meets in person, bi-monthly on the second Tuesday at 3:30 pm and at other times as warranted. The regular meeting location is the board meeting room at 35 Woodfin Street in Asheville. The time commitment is estimated at 2 to 3 hours every other month. This is a volunteer appointment, not a paid position.

More information

For more information, please contact Ashley Featherstone, Division Manager, at 828-250-6778 or ashley.featherstone@buncombenc.gov. More information is also available on our website at www.buncombenc.gov/air, minutes, and live streams of the meetings are on the Engage Buncombe site at https://engage.buncombecounty.org/s8486.

Council members may access the internal board SharePoint site that includes all policies, rules, related links and other useful information at https://buncombecountync.sharepoint.com/sites/SP-AIR-Asheville-BuncombeAirQualityAgencyBoard.