

WHO WE ARE

The mission of the Greater Roanoke Valley Asthma and Air Quality Coalition is to improve air quality and respiratory health for the Greater Roanoke Valley through education and partnerships with other organizations with similar goals.

Formed in March 2000, our coalition is comprised of members ranging from Valley respiratory health professionals to interested individuals including people with asthma, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, respiratory care practitioners, allergists, pulmonologists, representatives of the Virginia Department of Health, Virginia Society of Respiratory Care, Ride Solutions, American Lung Association of Virginia, and environmental groups.

Air quality affects all of us. Pollution can be found both indoors and outdoors. People with asthma and other lung disorders are especially affected by air pollution. We benefit from the experience of experts who help educate the public about asthma and the hazards that contribute to attacks, as well as experts specializing in environmental issues related to air quality.

We operate as a special committee of the American Lung Association of Virginia.

JOIN US

The Greater Roanoke Valley Asthma and Air Quality Coalition meets monthly. Our meetings are open to anyone interested in addressing air quality and lung health issues. We invite you to use the contact information below to find out more about our coalition, meeting times and places, and ways you can help.

Read about our action committees:

- ★ The **Air Quality Committee** seeks to improve air quality in the Greater Roanoke Valley by focusing on lung health issues through environmental and policy change.
- ★ The **Asthma Committee** looks at environmental and policy changes related to reducing asthma mortality and morbidity within the Greater Roanoke Valley.
- ★ The **Medical Pathways Committee** focuses on the medical communities of the Greater Roanoke Valley, working toward promoting and impacting lung health related environmental and policy changes.



**Greater Roanoke Valley Asthma
and Air Quality Coalition**

102 Highland Ave Suite 203

Roanoke, VA 24013

phone: 540-985-4041

email: breatheroanoke@yahoo.com

website: www.breatheroanoke.org

Greater Roanoke Valley Asthma and Air Quality Coalition



Roanoke Valley Good Air Quality Day



Roanoke Valley Bad Air Quality Day

*Working to improve lung
health and air quality in the
Greater Roanoke Valley
through education and action.*

WHAT WE ARE DOING

Partnerships

The coalition partners with the following statewide organizations:

Virginia Asthma Coalition

- ★ Working to reduce illness and death due to asthma, the VAC implements a statewide School Asthma Manual and Virginia Asthma Action Plan.

Virginia Society of Respiratory Care

- ★ Educating the public on pulmonary health and disease prevention.

Virginia Department of Health/ Virginia Tobacco Use Control Project

- ★ Preventing tobacco use among our youth and adults.

American Lung Association of Virginia

- ★ Promoting lung health and preventing lung disease.

Lung Health

The coalition holds training workshops, health screenings, and disseminates information on smoking cessation and asthma. We also track and support policies to further tobacco control measures. Our activities include:

- ★ distributing tee shirts and tobacco control literature at area schools,

- ★ initiating a tobacco control campaign providing education and incentives targeting new mothers in the area,
- ★ sponsoring local asthma camps for children,
- ★ holding spirometry screenings,



Coalition Spirometry Screening

Spirometry is a simple noninvasive test that measures how much air you can blow out of your lungs and how fast you can blow it out.

- ★ conducting asthma essential skills workshops for healthcare professionals, increasing knowledge and understanding of patient asthma management,
- ★ volunteering at Coaches Clinics, which provide area recreational coaches and teachers with information to assess health problems among their players.

Air Quality

The coalition regularly expresses concerns regarding air pollution issues and provides input to regulatory agencies about pollution from mobile and stationary sources harmful to public health. We also track and support policies to improve air quality. These efforts include:

- ★ participating on the ozone task force formed to combat ozone pollution in the Roanoke area. The task force has developed an Early Action Plan for the Roanoke Valley to meet the ozone health standard by 2007,
- ★ working with area media outlets to encourage use of air quality forecasts,
- ★ monitoring and tracking air emissions and data.

The coalition engages in continuing self-education on asthma and air quality issues through attendance at seminars, additional training courses, participation in other similar coalitions and organizations, and hosting expert speakers at our meetings.

Ozone smog triggers more than 6 million asthma attacks across the eastern U.S. and 220,000 asthma attacks in Virginia each year.

Fine particulate matter pollution from coal-fired power plants contributes to the premature deaths of an estimated 30,000 Americans each year, 1,200 of them in Virginia and over 27,000 asthma attacks annually in Virginia.

Source: October 1999 & October 2000 Reports by Abt Associates, a research consultant for government, industry and organizations