



## Western Regional Air Partnership Strategic Plan

March 9, 2015

This document was prepared and adopted by the members of the Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP) to articulate the Partnership's vision and goals, and to provide strategic direction for the on-going activities of the organization. The WRAP is a [voluntary partnership](#) of states, tribes, federal land managers, local air agencies and the U.S. EPA whose purpose is to understand current and evolving regional air quality issues in the West.

### I. Vision

The vision of the membership of the Western Regional Air Partnership is to be the leading technical and planning information source for air quality management in the western United States. This plan provides the strategic direction to implement the purposes, principles, and operating procedures described in the [WRAP Charter](#).

### II. Goals

The goals of the Western Regional Air Partnership are to:

1. Provide a forum for regional collaboration on technical and planning topics of common interest to the members.
2. Share and act on the current and future priority technical support needs of the members.
3. Provide timely and efficient access to needed technical information that is credible, current, comprehensive, and consistent for air quality management decisions.
4. Deliver technical support, training, products, and other services that meet the priority needs of the members.
5. Advocate and advance western technical issues for resolution.

### III. Approach

The Partnership promotes, supports, and monitors the implementation of air quality management initiatives within and affecting the western U.S. through a process that strives for consensus among its partners and stakeholders. The Partnership strives to explore, better understand, and

address a variety of regional air quality issues including regional haze, ozone, particulate matter, deposition of nitrogen, sulfur, and mercury, and the associated impacts of climate change.

To accomplish this, working groups of representatives from WRAP member agencies will:

- Develop, maintain, and share databases;
- Support, conduct, and evaluate technical studies; and
- Assess and provide access to data and results from various information sources.

Studies and projects planned and directed by the WRAP will produce consistent, comparable, and complete results for use by individual WRAP member jurisdictions and agencies.

To achieve the Partnership's goals, the WRAP membership will establish and operate a Regional Technical Center to provide technical information that is credible, current, consistent, comprehensive, virtual, and accessible in support of air quality management decisions.

## IV. Components of WRAP Technical and Planning Support

The technical and planning support needs and interests of WRAP members will differ depending on a variety of factors, including:

- The Partnership's current technical capacity;
- Resources and requirements associated with implementation of the cooperative federalism concept enshrined in the federal Clean Air Act; and
- The number and complexity of associated planning activities such as non-attainment and maintenance areas, present and future air pollution source mixes, policy imperatives such as the frequency and magnitude of exceptional events, areas protected under the Regional Haze Rule, and other priorities emerging over time.

Whatever the specific needs of each member agency may be, most of their technical support needs for air quality planning can be linked to a common set of foundational components. To achieve the Partnership's goals, each of these foundational components is to be included in the WRAP Regional Technical Center.

1. Source emissions – quantifying rates, trends, control and management programs.

The Partnership specifies that the need for analysis and management of source emissions requires complete and comprehensive high-quality data, knowledge of rates and trends, as well as understanding new and emerging technologies and practices in the form of air quality management strategies. A robust database is necessary, consisting of information across member agencies in accessible formats as further described in other foundational components.

2. Protocols for consistent regional evaluation – collecting and managing data, metadata, and quantifying outcomes of members' associated management programs.

To ensure consistency and comparability, the Partnership will monitor and address assumptions and variations in procedures which can produce results that differ from one jurisdiction to the next, making the evaluation of air quality management strategies difficult or impossible. This is an especially important issue when regional air quality impacts need to be assessed, when differing approaches and assumptions are used by member agencies to make their individual air quality management decisions.

3. Access to databases housing comparable data - delivering transparent and complete data and metadata to efficiently share knowledge among the diverse membership.

In addition to source emission data, the Partnership requires coincident delivery of observational data and modeling results for air quality planning through unified web databases; these are foundational to air quality management. The databases will efficiently serve the membership by integrating transparent and complete data and metadata to reflect the diverse membership needs, in terms of temporal and spatial scale, and regional variation in composition and magnitude of source emissions and air quality impacts.

4. Application of photochemical air quality models and associated protocols for their use – continuous improvement in the quality and ability to simulate present and future air quality conditions for planning.

The Partnership identifies that the evaluation of air quality conditions and options to reduce and manage sources require use of photochemical air quality models with clear and well-documented protocols in applying the science at various scales to simulate present conditions and the range of future outcomes. Continuous improvement in the quality and ability to simulate air quality conditions will utilize protocols, practices, and procedures among the membership for consistent, reproducible modeling.

5. Monitoring data analysis and evaluation of monitoring networks - applying and improving the knowledge of exposure and impacts.

The Partnership affirms the importance of both well-established and emerging sampling methods and systems operated by member agencies and others, to establish better understanding and assess knowledge of air pollution exposure and impacts in the western United States.

## V. Implementation

The Partnership will establish and operate the WRAP Regional Technical Center to provide technical information that is credible, current, consistent, virtual, and accessible based on input from WRAP members. The Center will be advised and supported by working groups of representatives from WRAP member agencies. The Partnership will maintain and implement an Action Plan to achieve the objectives contained in this strategy. The Action Plan will periodically be evaluated for effectiveness and revised as needed to reflect current issues and priorities, budget realities, schedule revisions, and the need for new or revised tasks.