Understanding what's in the air should lead to better policies and enforcement. In conjunction with Cultivando, Boulder AIR implemented a complex air quality monitoring system that provided accurate measurements following state and federal guidelines. The data collected over a one-year period (Mar ’22–Mar ’23) demonstrated that people were episodically exposed to multiple chemicals at high concentrations. However, the current standards are not designed to regulate either variation or mixtures of chemicals over the short term.

Although fenceline monitoring of Suncor is now required, the health of the community will not be protected until we understand the harms of the cocktail of chemicals people are exposed to, accurately measure those pollutants, and then truly enforce those limits.

WHAT AIR POLLUTANTS ARE OF GREATEST CONCERN?
Suncor reported over 1,000 emissions exceedances or violations of emissions standards or limitations over a 5-year period (Jan ’19–Dec ’23). Air pollutants of concern include:
- Hazardous air pollutants (HAPs), including cancer-causing chemicals like benzene,
- Nitrogen oxides (NOx), which can irritate airways and worsen lung diseases like asthma,
- Particulates, or fine particles that get lodged in lungs and result in premature death,
- Sulfur dioxide, part of the orange cloud releases that have occurred,
- Hydrogen sulfide (H2S), a highly flammable, explosive gas, and
- Radon, a highly volatile gas and the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S.

HOW DOES AIR POLLUTION AFFECT HEALTH?
Air pollution releases toxins and contaminants into the air that are harmful to children's lungs, human health, and the environment. Air quality has a direct correlation to human health. Poor air quality can harm human health. Air pollution from the Suncor refinery can result in health impacts including:
- Asthma attacks
- Respiratory issues
- Lung cancer
- Birth defects and low birth weight
- Heart attacks and strokes
- Neurological and developmental problems

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

LEARN MORE
about the Suncor permits:
momscleanairforce.org/state-chapters/colorado/

JOIN
Moms Clean Air Force
https://moms-cleanairforce.org
and Cultivando
www.cultivando.org

CONTACT
your elected officials
usa.gov/electedOfficials/
the Air Pollution Control Division
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EPA Region 8
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Regulatory Oversight Continues to Improve
- In 2020, the enforcement package improved community notification.
- In 2021, the Regulate Air Toxics Act (HB21-1189) increased air monitoring.
- In 2022, Public Protection From Air Toxics Contaminants (HB22-1244) increased regulation of some toxic air contaminants.

AQM Funded by Suncor Settlement
In 2020, Cultivando was granted $1.7 million of the Suncor settlement money to continuously monitor pollution from the refinery for one full year. The results of this monitoring demonstrated what residents long suspected. Pollution levels near Suncor were substantially higher than in communities farther away.