



Virginians for Healthy Air

Photo Credit: NPCA/Overlook at Shenandoah National Park

Working together for healthy air for Virginia and our parks

Virginians for Healthy Air is a network of Virginia businesses, civic groups, and nonprofit organizations that share the vision of healthy air for the Commonwealth and for our national parks.

Our Issue

Tourists and residents alike enjoy Virginia's breathtaking scenic beauty and high quality of life. However, air pollution is marring Virginia's treasured scenic views and causing our air to be unhealthy to breathe and depositing toxic mercury in our waters.

Views from Shenandoah's famous Skyline Drive that once averaged more than 100 miles now average only 24 miles due to air pollution. Mercury from air pollution contaminates more than 800 miles of Virginia's rivers and 2500 acres of the state's lakes. Shenandoah National Park has among the highest amount of ground level ozone of any national park, harming the health of visitors and wildlife.

Our Members

Air pollution affects the views and wildlife at Shenandoah National Park, marring the scenic vistas and acidifying critical brook trout streams. This pollution threatens the health of park visitors, especially those at high risk including children and older adults. This same air pollution affects Virginia communities and businesses that depend on the tourism economy and value a high quality of life.

The members of Virginians for Healthy Air see the link between a strong economy and clean air. Our members range from bed and breakfasts and wineries to farms and summer camps. All of our members have a story of why clean air is important to them, their business, and their community.

Below are a few of our members and their thoughts on the importance of clean air.



National Parks Conservation Association®
Protecting Our National Parks for Future Generations®



Photo credit: Williamsburg Winery

The Williamsburg Winery
Williamsburg, VA

“In 1983, our family purchased a 300-acre farm fronting College Creek and overlooking the James River. One of our goals was to live in a healthy environment. While the winery has grown and gained recognition, we have also monitored the level of pollution in the air and the increasing amount of particulates in the rain. It is alarming to read the mobile advisory highway signs alerting travelers to dangerous ozone levels. We should all think about the health of future generations.”

-Patrick G. Duffeler, President



Photo credit: Caledonia Farm - 1812

Caledonia Farm – 1812
Flint Hill, VA

“Bed and Breakfast guests view the world’s first mountain top highway through whatever dirty air blows our way. We share all of Shenandoah National Park’s concerns.”

-Phil Irwin, Innkeeper

A Healthier Future for Shenandoah & Virginia

The Clean Air Act set a goal of preventing any future and remedying any existing human-caused visibility impairment in national parks, designated class I areas. As we work to meet this high standard we will also clean the air surrounding communities and across the state. We must act now so that future generations of Virginians can take a deep breath and enjoy pristine views from Shenandoah’s Skyline Drive.



A couple at Shenandoah enjoying the view at an overlook in the 1950’s. Photo credit: National Park Service

Recent Accomplishments

Virginia Air Pollution Control Board tightens pollution permits for Wise County Coal Fired Power Plant

Members of Virginians for Healthy Air sent a letter to the Virginia Air Pollution Control Board stating their opposition to the facility as it was proposed. They asked that the Air Board to protect air quality at Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Virginia. The permit that was issued by the board required significant reductions in the pollutants that form smoggy haze, unhealthy ozone, and toxic mercury.

What you can do?

If you are a Virginia business and would like to join Virginians for Healthy air visit:

http://www.npca.org/mid_atlantic/vha.html

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