![Clean Air Carolina — Your advocates for healthy air]

Contact: June Blotnick
Executive Director, Clean Air Carolina
704-877-6405 or june@cleanaircarolina.org

National Speakers Highlight Partnership to Make Air Visible

Charlotte, NC – On your morning bike ride or daily walk with the dog, it's hard to know exactly how clean the air is you're breathing. On December 6, Clean Air Carolina will host two national speakers to discuss their partnership to "make air visible" at a special event designed to call attention to hyper-local street level pollution. The event, which is free and open to the public, will be held at the main campus of Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte starting with a reception at 6:00 pm and the program at 7:00 pm.

Melissa Lunden, Chief Scientist at Aclima, a San Francisco company specializing in the design and deployment of sensor networks that deliver 'Environmental Intelligence' to improve human health and planetary health, and Dan Costa, National Director of the EPA's Air, Climate, and Energy Research Program, will describe their exciting partnership using the latest cutting-edge air sensor technology in Denver and San Francisco. This quickly expanding field of research using portable sensors changes the way pollution can be detected and allows researchers to identify the dirtiest intersections and pollution hotspots, enabling city planners to design healthier, smarter cities.

According to Dan Costa, "EPA is advancing the next generation of air monitoring technology by working with innovators like Aclima, conducting research and engaging communities in monitoring studies. The lower-cost air sensors now available commercially enable citizens and community groups to conduct their own science projects to learn about local air quality."

Aclima is measuring and mapping air quality in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Central Valley communities through its partnership with Google. Melissa Lunden will share some of their findings. She noted that, "We have a profound opportunity to understand how cities live and breathe in an entirely new way by integrating Aclima's environmental intelligence platform with Google Street View cars. With more than half of the world's population now living in cities, environmental health data will be increasingly important to everyday decisions that affect our quality of life."

Clean Air Carolina will report on their new local AirKeepers program to monitor invisible fine particle pollution in certain neighborhoods and around schools in Charlotte's Northwest Corridor, an area surrounded by interstates and freeways, which are major sources of air pollution. Fine particle pollution has been linked to a variety of health effects including heart and lung disease, reduced lung function, and premature death.

Clean Air Carolina will also announce a new partnership between the organization and the EPA to train community groups in Charlotte to test portable ozone air sensors next spring. Researchers will develop a user guide and data evaluation tool to improve the accuracy of data collected by citizen scientists.

For more information or to RSVP for "Making Air Visible", visit www.cleanaircarolina.org.

# # #

Clean Air Carolina is a nonprofit organization based in Charlotte, NC with a satellite office in Chapel Hill. Our mission is to ensure cleaner air quality for all North Carolinians through education and advocacy and by working with our partners to reduce sources of pollution.