

School of Earth and Environmental Sciences Spring 2024 Colloquium Series

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

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12:15 PM -1:30 PM

Science Building C-207

Eric Kutter, PhD

Research Scientist, The Barry Commoner Center for Health and the Environment, Queens College, CUNY

New York City Community Air Survey

In 2014, the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that 3.7 million premature deaths occur each year around the world due to outdoor air pollution. The city government found that approximately 2,000 premature deaths occurred per year in NYC due to particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) exposure (2013 estimate). The Barry Commoner Center for Health and the Environment (BCCHE) established the NYC Community Air Survey (NYCCAS) to monitor and continue to address this serious public health issue. The NYCCAS program places air monitoring equipment at nearly 150 different locations – representing neighborhoods in all five boroughs of NYC. The sensors test the air we breathe for the most common components of air pollution, including PM_{2.5}. Critically, the collected data are made available publicly, accessible by anyone with an Internet connection, whether they are scientists, public officials, tourists, or unaffiliated community members. If you are interested in air pollution, local air quality, and/or how to design a long-running city-wide scientific study, come to this talk! Dr. Kutter will discuss the origins of the program, initial design considerations, and some results obtained over the years. He will also provide a sneak preview of future initiatives planned to modernize the NYCCAS program into the next decade.

