Outlook

Re: Purple Air Monitoring system

From Joan Parker <chairecc.tog@gmail.com>
Date Thu 3/26/2026 8:12 PM
To Town Supervisor <supervisor@townofgardinerny.gov>
Cc neil.rindlaub@gmail.com <neil.rindlaub@gmail.com>; nlane@rcls.org <nlane@rcls.org>; Brendan Walsh <bwal@ulstercountyny.gov>

1 attachment (50 KB)
HVCAN Invite - Gardiner Library.docx;

External (chairecc.tog@gmail.com)

Graymail Spam Phish More...

Hello Michael,

Below is an email from a UC DEC contact who has invited us to participate in the Hudson Valley Clean Air Network (HVCAN), a program to measure particulate pollution in the air and real time reporting by monitoring units cited at public libraries.

This is a program supported by Bard College and Ulster County. Roberta initially made a connection with Bard and Neil made a linkup with the UC DEC contact.

We would like to talk about this at one of the TB meetings in April. The ECC members all agreed that we would cover the first year's $500 expected cost to provide the public access. If needed, we would cover next year's comparable costs, too.

Best,
Joan

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Brendan Walsh** <bwal@ulstercountyny.gov>
Date: Thu, Mar 26, 2026 at 5:04 PM
Subject: RE: Purple Air Monitoring system
To: neil.rindlaub@gmail.com <neil.rindlaub@gmail.com>, Joan ECC Chair <ChairECCtog@gmail.com>, nlane@rcls.org <nlane@rcls.org>

Good afternoon, all,

Very nice to be introduced to you!

As you may have heard, the County is sponsoring an expansion to the Hudson Valley Community Air Network (HVCAN), where we are installing 17 purple air sensors around the County, and linking them to the JustAir network. We would love for Gardiner Library to participate.

Even better than a reduced cost – we can offer a sensor and connection to JustAir for no cost at all. In return, our host sites would agree to the following:

- the library would provide a 2.4 ghz WiFi connection,
- access to an outdoor power outlet, and
- assistance in case a sensor comes unplugged.

I have included more information about the program in the attached invitation letter.

If this proposal looks good to you and your team, let me know. We will send over a registration form and our partners at Bard College will set up an installation time in the next week or two.

We are so glad you are interested! Please don't hesitate to call or email if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Brendan

ULSTER COUNTY

Brendan Walsh

Environmental Outreach Manager

Ulster County Department of the Environment

17 Pearl St., Kingston, NY 12401

(845) 334-5364

bwal@ulstercountyny.gov

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From: Neil R <neil.rindlaub@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2026 4:34 PM
To: Joan ECC Chair <ChairECCtog@gmail.com>; nlane@rcls.org; Brendan Walsh <bwal@ulstercountyny.gov>; Brendan Walsh <bwal@ulstercountyny.gov>
Subject: Purple Air Monitoring system

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Dear Joan, Nicole, and Brendan

I learned last night that the Ulster County Department of the Environment may be able to help us get the monitor and Just Air subscription at a greatly reduced price as part of the DOE effort to establish a robust air quality monitoring network across the county.

Brendan will fill us all in with the details.

Thanks!

Neil

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Neil Rindlaub
31 Pure Honey Lane

Gardiner, NY 12525

845-304-1573

ULSTER COUNTY
NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
17 Pearl St., P.O. Box 1800
Kingston, New York 12401
(845) 338-7287; environment@ulstercountyny.gov

Nicole Lane
Director
133 Farmer's Turnpike
Gardiner, NY 12525

Dear Ms. Lane,

Ulster County is pleased to invite the Gardiner Library to be a part of our sponsored expansion of the Hudson Valley Community Air Network (HVCAN) x JustAir, the community-based air quality monitoring program. As part of this initiative, we are offering select public libraries and municipal buildings the opportunity to host a PurpleAir air quality monitor at no cost to your institution.

Launched in June 2025 by Bard's Center for Environmental Studies & Humanities (CESH) and its Community Sciences Lab (CSL), HVCAN is the first of its kind in New York State and brings critical real-time, publicly accessible data on fine particulate matter (PM2.5), climate and weather data to the Hudson Valley. HVCAN helps residents better understand local air quality and supports informed decision-making for public health, emergency response, and environmental planning. Because there is currently no federal or state method for providing these data publicly and in real-time, Ulster County has stepped up to ensure its residents are covered.

By hosting a monitor, your library will be joining 18 other Hudson Valley libraries that have worked with Bard to provide real-time data to the public, including Kingston, Phoenicia, and Saugerties, to advance transparency, environmental stewardship, and community science across Ulster County and the Hudson Valley.

Ulster County will coordinate installation, maintenance, and data management in partnership with Bard's CESH and JustAir. In order to participate, hosts provide:

- A secure, outdoor mounting location for the PurpleAir monitor,
- A standard electrical outlet and reliable 2.4 ghz Wi-Fi connection,
- Assistance to the Bard project team when basic issues regarding power, Wifi, and access disruptions, and
- Public visibility of the project, such as basic signage or sharing information with visitors.

We would be honored to discuss this opportunity with you further. Please contact Brendan Walsh, Outreach Manager at the Ulster County Department of the Environment at bwal@ulstercountyny.gov or (845) 334-5364 if you are interested or have questions.

Thank you for your continued service to our community and your leadership in advancing public education, health and environmental stewardship in Ulster County.

Sincerely,

Brendan Walsh
Environmental Outreach Manager
Ulster County Department of the Environment

By Hosting a Monitor on the Ulster County-Sponsored HVCAN x JustAir Network, You...

1. Protect Public Health with Local, Real-Time Data

Hosting a PurpleAir monitor gives libraries and municipalities access to **hyperlocal air quality information** that can inform day-to-day decisions—especially during wildfire smoke events, extreme heat, or poor air quality days. This data helps:

- Protect vulnerable populations (children, seniors, people with asthma)
- Guide public education and decision-making
- Support emergency response and public health planning

2. Advance Transparency, Trust, and Public Service

Libraries and municipal buildings are among the most trusted public institutions. Participating in a community air monitoring network reinforces their role as **neutral, accessible hubs for reliable information**. Making air quality data publicly available:

- Builds trust through transparency
- Empowers residents with understandable, real-time information
- Aligns with core public service and information-access missions—especially for libraries

3. Become a Leader in Environmental Stewardship and Community Science

Joining the HVCAN × JustAir network positions libraries and municipalities as **visible leaders in environmental stewardship** without adding significant cost or burden. Participation:

- Demonstrates climate and environmental leadership
- Supports regional collaboration and research
- Creates opportunities for education, civic engagement, and local partnerships
- Is a low-lift, high-impact way to contribute to a healthier, more resilient Hudson Valley