

# Black Carbon Measurement in the European Union



## Navigating the New Air Quality Directive



# Meet the panelists!



**Jeff Blair**

President and CEO,  
AethLabs



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University College Cork



**Ivan Iskra**

Business Development Lead,  
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Regional Account Manager,  
Clarity Movement

# Black Carbon Module





# Black Carbon

## *Impacts and Innovations*

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# Acknowledgements\*



**Jet Propulsion Laboratory**  
California Institute of Technology



 COLUMBIA CLIMATE SCHOOL  
LAMONT-DOHERTY EARTH OBSERVATORY



**W**  
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

# Black Carbon (BC)

Aerosol, component of PM<sub>2.5</sub>

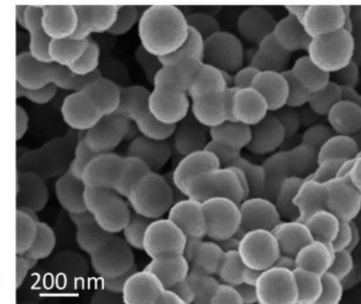
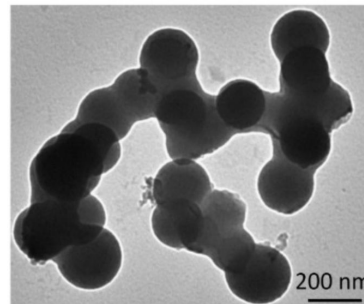
- 5-25% of PM<sub>2.5</sub> is black carbon
- BC: particulates  $\sim < 1 \mu\text{m}$  in diameter
  - 100x smaller than human air

Dark, light absorbing

- Soot

Super Pollutant

- Major health & climate impacts



# Sources

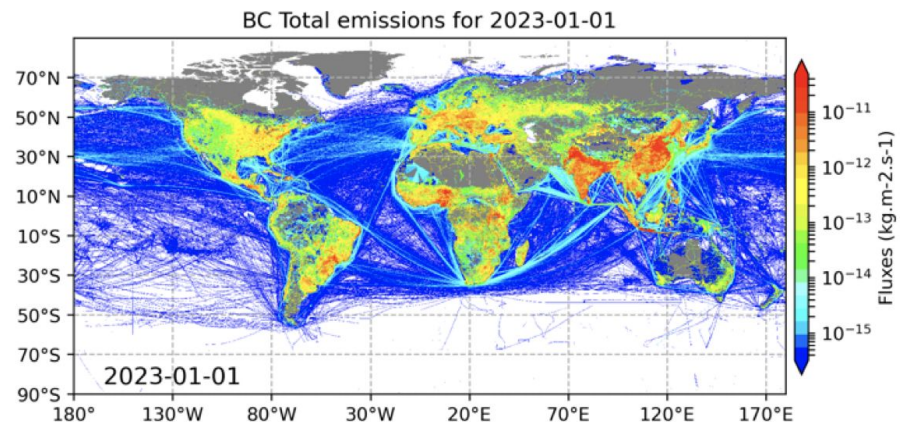
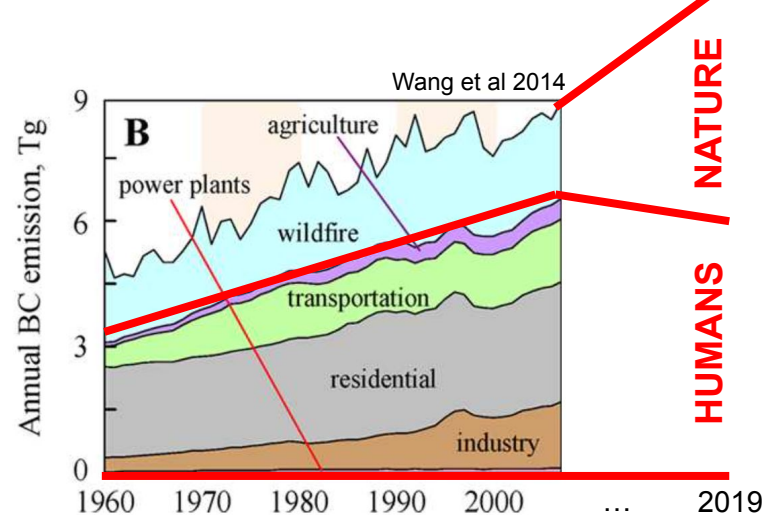
Produced during incomplete combustion

## Nature

- Wildfires
  - Increasing at twice expected pace due to climate change

## Humans (Energy generation/use)

- Fossil fuels (45%)
- Biomass (44%)
- Regional variation
  - Asia & Africa: 60-80% from solid fuels
  - North America & Europe: 70% diesel



# BC Health Effects

In 2020, exposure to concentrations of fine particulate matter above the 2021 World Health Organization guideline level resulted in **238,000 premature deaths** in the EU-27. (European Environment Agency 2021)

Significant driver of  $PM_{2.5}$  toxicity

- BC ~ 3 – 28x more toxic per unit mass than total  $PM_{2.5}$  (Li et al 2016)

BC comprises ~ 5 – 25% of  $PM_{2.5}$

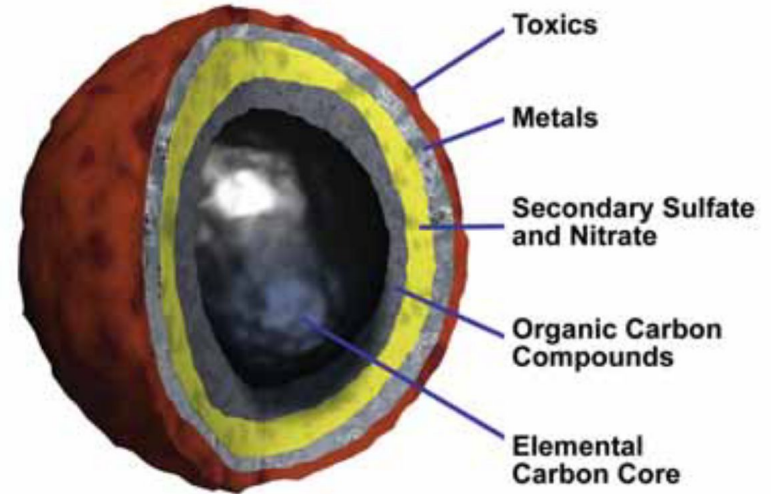
- $PM_{2.5}$  kills ~ 6.4 mil annually

Attracts nasty surface chemicals to its surface

- Toxics, metals, sulfates, nitrates

Biologically relevant size ( $< 1\mu m$ )

14,000 annual deaths from BC in 2010 in US alone (Li et al 2016)



Schneider and Hill, 2005



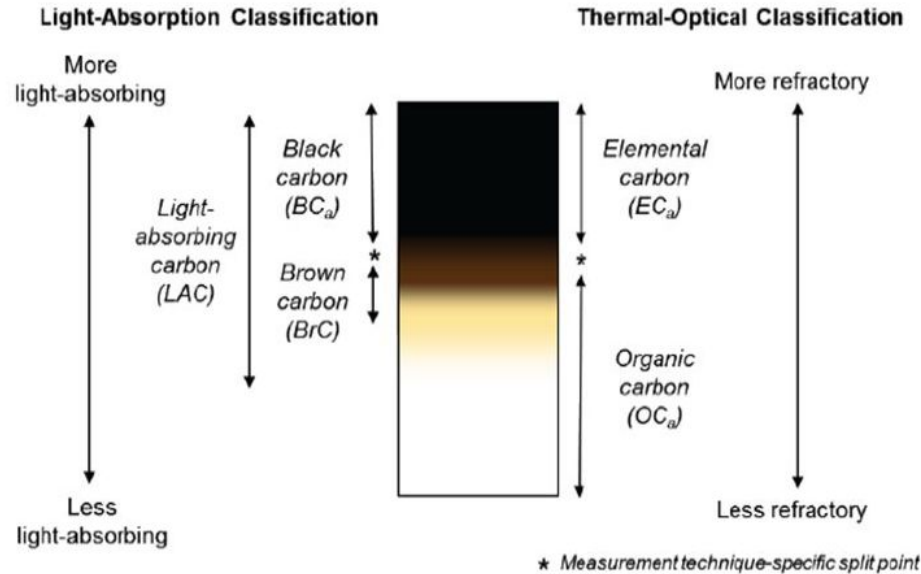
# Climate Effects

## Black carbon is black

- Absorbs IR light (heat) uniquely well in air
  - Heating air, dimming sunlight
- Settles onto plants, snow, ice
  - Surface heating

## #2 most important climate agent

- ~ 65% of the total impact of CO<sub>2</sub>
- Despite ~ 1000x less emissions and 4 - 12 day lifetime
- **460 – 1,500x more potent** than CO<sub>2</sub>



Lack et al. 2013

# Concerning Trends

## North America (and Europe!)

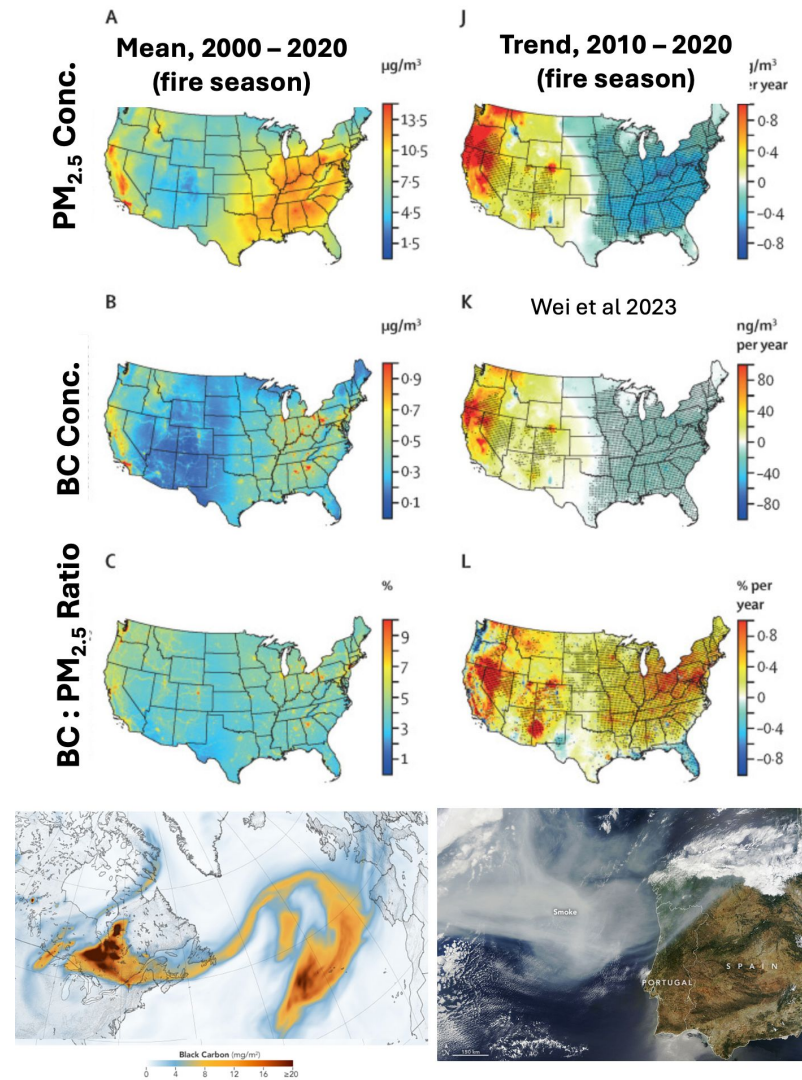
- Increased BC due to wildfires, especially in Western US
  - Increase in exposures, non-attainment
- 2-4% *per year* increase in BC:PM<sub>2.5</sub> ratio
  - Increasing PM<sub>2.5</sub> toxicity
- Transport to Europe

## South Asia & Himalayas

- Increasing BC → Tibetan Plateau (Asia's water tower)
- Darkening glaciers, reducing rain
- Water scarcity for billion+ people

## Scarcity of binding regulation and related measurement networks

- Measurement-informed control actions could reduce emissions 80% (UNEP & WMO 2011)



# AethLabs



AethLabs revolutionizes black carbon monitoring with our innovative microAeth® technology, empowering researchers, individuals, communities, and industries alike to proactively manage black carbon emissions and drive global health and sustainability.

# AethLabs



Founded in 2011, AethLabs is the manufacturer of microAeth® Aerosol Black Carbon (BC) monitors, based in San Francisco, CA



AethLabs makes portable, network connected instruments



Our devices allow users to quantify BC by its sources (fossil fuel vs. biomass burning)



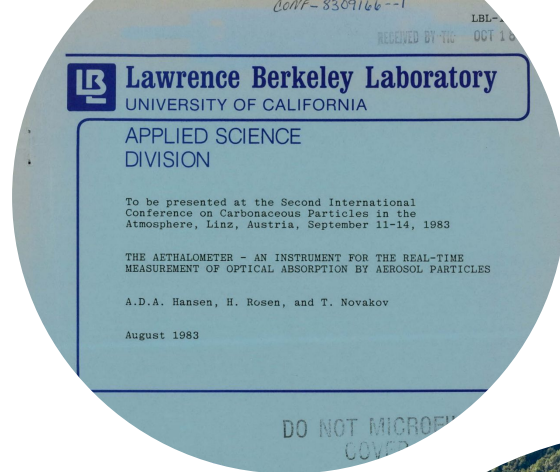
We often work with regulators, scientists, and community groups



# An Introduction to Aethalometer Technology

- The aethalometer was first described in 1980 and later presented at the Second International Conference on Carbonaceous Particles in the Atmosphere, Linz, Austria, September 11-14, 1983 by A.D.A. Hansen, H. Rosen, and T. Novakov. L. Gundel's work made the aethalometer a quantitative instrument.

- Technology and instrumentation was developed by Magee Scientific which produced numerous versions of the Rack Mount Aethalometer.



# microAeth<sup>®</sup> AE51



**Dimensions:** 11.7cm x 6.6cm x 3.8cm



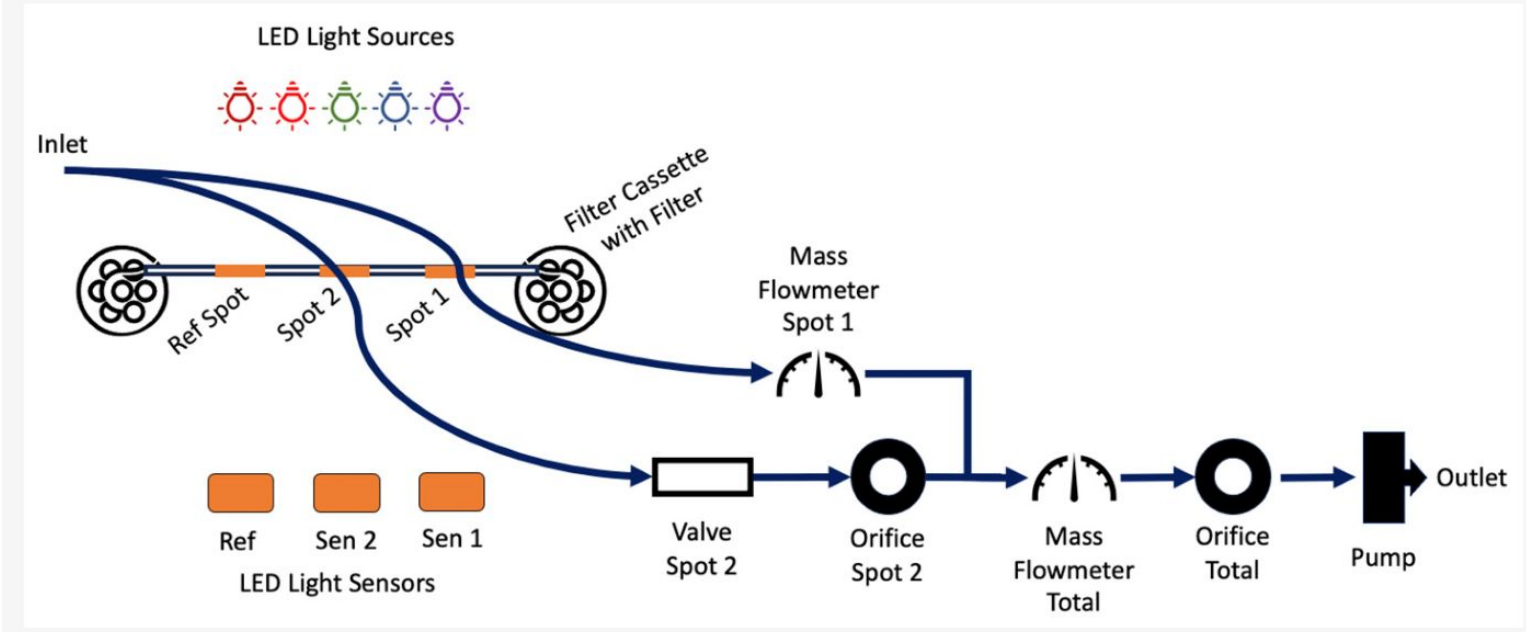
- Released 2008
- Personal Monitoring
- Health studies
- Ultra-portable Aethalometer<sup>®</sup>
- Made new science possible
- Manufactured by AethLabs after 2011

Collects particulates on filterstrip with single sampling spot

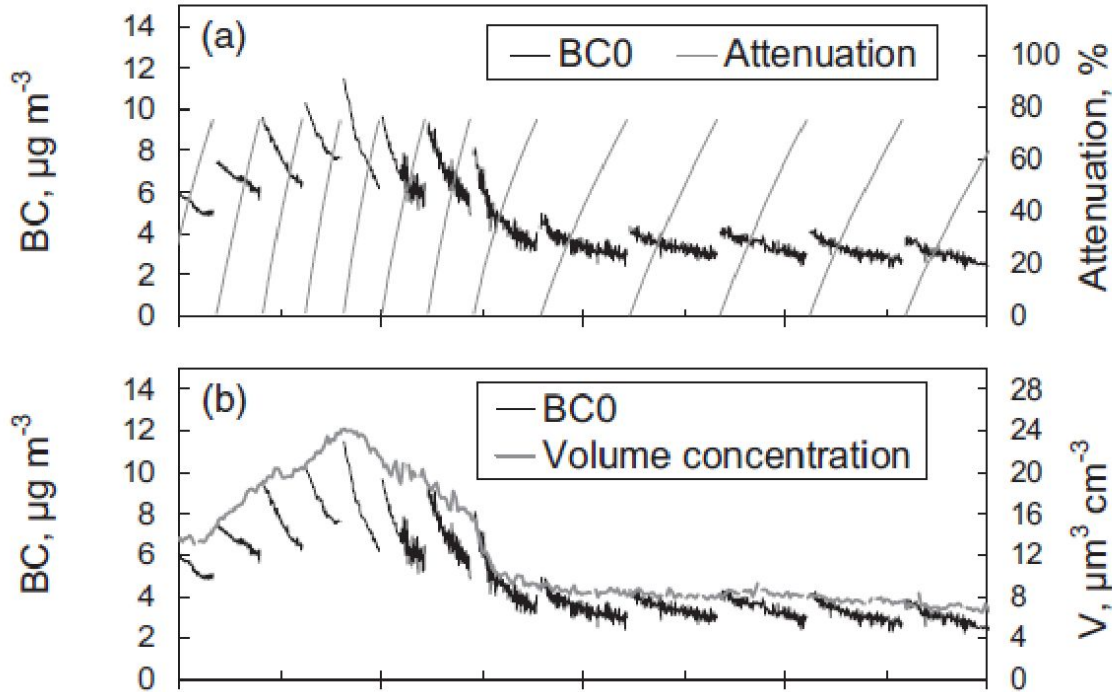


# Principle of Operation: DualSpot™

**Figure 1.** Diagrammatic representation of the path that sample air takes through the MA350, showing high-level components.



# Principle of Operation: DualSpot™



Virkkula et al. JA&WMA 2007 57:10, 1214-1222



# BC Standardization Effort in Europe

## StanBC project

1. Traceable in situ reference methods for aerosol light absorption coefficient
  - a. calibration chain
  - b. uncertainties for the reference methods  $\leq 10\%$ .
  - c. Use intercomparisons to establish the relationship between eBC mass, rBC mass and EC mass (EN 16909:2017).
2. Develop methods for calibrating filter-based light absorption photometers
3. Develop a new CEN standard on reference and calibration methods
4. Encourage adoption of developed technology and reference infrastructure in laboratories, monitoring networks, by manufacturers etc.

European Partnership



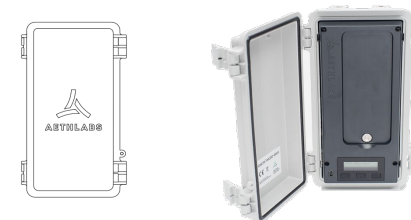
Co-funded by  
the European Union

METROLOGY  
PARTNERSHIP



# AethLabs microAeth® MA350 vs. Magee Scientific AE33

	MA350	AE33
$\lambda$	5 $\lambda$ (375 – 880 nm)	7 $\lambda$ (370 – 950 nm)
Size	7 x 10 x 20 cm, 1 kg	28 x 43 x 33 cm, 21 kg
Resolution	0.001 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	0.001 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$
Detection Limit	0.030 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ 5 minutes, 150 mL/min SingleSpot™	< 0.005 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ 60 minutes
Tech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DualSpot® or SingleSpot™</li> <li>Filter cassette (months to year+)</li> <li>Source apportionment</li> <li>Serial data output, onboard storage</li> <li>GPS &amp; accelerometer</li> <li>WiFi &amp; online data management</li> <li>Outputs raw optical data (S, R, ATN)</li> <li>Battery (~ 56 hours)</li> <li>Timebase: 1s, 5s, 60s, 300s</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DualSpot®</li> <li>Filter tape</li> <li>Source apportionment</li> <li>Serial data output, onboard storage</li> <li>Timebase: 1s, 60s</li> </ul>



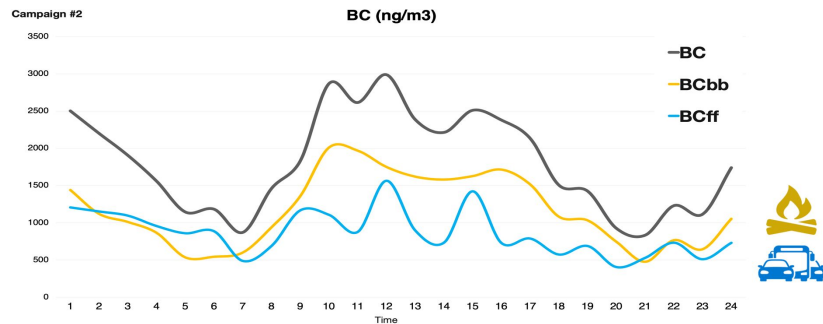
Magee Scientific  
Pictures approximately to relative scale

# microAeth<sup>®</sup> MA350 with Source Apportionment



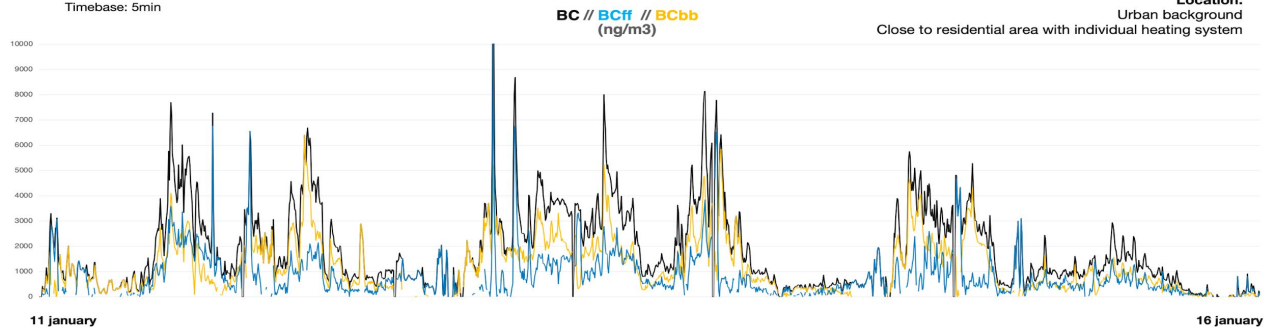
MA350

## microAeth<sup>®</sup> MA350



Start: Jan 11 2023  
End: Jan 16 2023

Total days: 6  
Total data points: 1607  
Timebase: 5min



# MA350 Early Validation

- Experiments Conducted:
- Evaluation of BC emissions from wood stove and crude oil burn.
- Assessment of ambient monitoring at the AIRS site in RTP, NC.
- Comparison of MA350 and AE33 measurements across multiple wavelengths.
- Testing for correlation with PASS 3 instrument.

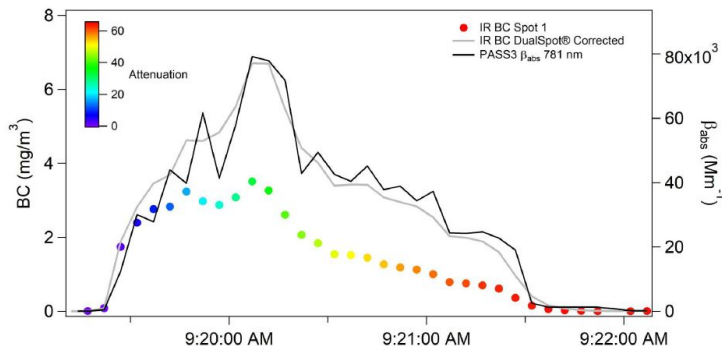


Figure 2. Time series of oil burning emissions

## Evaluation of a Multiwavelength Black Carbon (BC) Sensor

Amara Holder<sup>1</sup>, Brannon Seay<sup>2</sup>, Alina Brashear<sup>2</sup>, Tiffany Yelverton<sup>1</sup>, Jeff Blair<sup>2</sup>, Steven Blair<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Air Quality Research Laboratory, Research Triangle Park, NC; <sup>2</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development, Research Triangle Park, NC

### Abstract

Black carbon (BC) emitted from incomplete combustion processes is often used as a marker for diesel-related air-borne carcinogens, and is associated with adverse health effects in exposed communities. Although multiple instruments exist to measure BC, they vary in multi-life source applications, range, weight, size, power, and response to ambient conditions. A flow of operators in the field using instruments encountered during the initial testing was a major challenge. This paper describes the challenges faced by the U.S. EPA. Understanding these challenges, Aethlabs (San Francisco, CA) designed the MA350/MA350 multi-wavelength BC instrument.

### BC measurement wish list

Operator Ability	IR BC	UV	DualSpot
Measure BC in ambient air at low mass concentrations	0.0	0.0	0.0
Operate in low light (typical ambient levels) (10 <sup>3</sup> Mm <sup>-1</sup> )	7	0	0.0
High correlation with gravimetric reference (PM <sub>2.5</sub> )	7	0	0.0
Low power, small size, low cost, low maintenance	0.0	0	0
Highly sensitive, long-term stability	7	4	4

0 = None or 0.0 = cannot be measured; 1 = Good performance; 2 = Good at low end of range; 3 = Fair; 4 = Fair to poor; 5 = Poor; 6 = Poor to very poor; 7 = Very poor

### Research objective

- 1) Verify a consistent correlation with other Analyzers (single and multi wavelength) and other 3D reference instrument
- 2) Validate operating range, identify potential instrument artifacts with concentration, composition, RH, and Temp

### Measurement Overview

Overall: MA350/MA350 vs. AE33  
Overall: MA350/MA350 vs. PASS3  
Overall: MA350/MA350 vs. IR BC

Ambient monitoring: IR BC DualSpot, IR BC Spot, PASS3, MA350, MA350

Wood stove emissions: IR BC DualSpot, IR BC Spot, PASS3, MA350, MA350

Oil burn evaluation: IR BC DualSpot, IR BC Spot, PASS3, MA350, MA350

### Ambient sampling evaluation at AIRS site

The MA350 multi-wavelength BC sensor was operated outside from Feb - May 2017. An AE33 with a sample drying system was operated within an environmentally controlled facility.

Figure 1. Time series of BC measurements at the AIRS site. MA350 (left) and AE33 (right) measurements are shown. The x-axis represents time from 00:00 to 24:00. The y-axis represents BC concentration in Mm<sup>-1</sup>.

Table 1. Summary of ambient BC measurements at the AIRS site. The table shows the number of measurements and the correlation coefficient (R) for MA350 and AE33.

Table 2. Summary of ambient BC measurements at the AIRS site. The table shows the number of measurements and the correlation coefficient (R) for MA350 and PASS3.

### Wood stove evaluation

Wood stove emissions testing: Wood stove tests were carried out with an EPA 2015 certified stove burning green wood at a low burn rate. Emissions were from both flaming and smoldering combustion phases. Multiple continuous BC sensors and a gravimetric reference instrument were sampled during these emissions.

Figure 2. Time series of wood stove emissions. The x-axis represents time from 00:00 to 24:00. The y-axis represents BC concentration in Mm<sup>-1</sup>.

Table 3. Summary of wood stove emissions. The table shows the number of measurements and the correlation coefficient (R) for MA350 and AE33, MA350 and PASS3, and MA350 and IR BC.

### Oil burn evaluation

Crude oil was burned in a stove tank, emitting strongly absorbing plumes with a high amount of organic.

Figure 3. Time series of oil burning emissions. The x-axis represents time from 00:00 to 24:00. The y-axis represents BC concentration in Mm<sup>-1</sup>.

Table 4. Summary of oil burn emissions. The table shows the number of measurements and the correlation coefficient (R) for MA350 and AE33, MA350 and PASS3, and MA350 and IR BC.

### Conclusions

- The MA350 is minimally impacted by environmental parameters (RH and T)
- DualSpot® correction reduces error associated with filter loading by up to 60%
- The MA350 concentrations at visible wavelengths are consistent with the AE33, showing consistency across instruments
- The MA350 performs similarly compared to other instruments for both source and ambient conditions
- Additional testing is used to determine the source of differences between the MA350 and the AE33 for the UV channel
- Evaluations were done with older furnaces versus, ongoing improvements to instrument control still need to be evaluated

The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Holder, A., B. Seay, A. Brashear, T. Yelverton, J. Blair, AND S. Blair. Evaluation of a multi-wavelength black carbon sensor. 10th International Aerosol Conference, St. Louis, MO, September 02 - 07, 2018.

# MA350 Early Validation: Conclusions

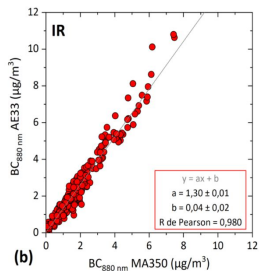
1. Through DualSpot® correction technology, the MA350 effectively mitigates errors associated with filter loading, resulting in a significant reduction of up to 60%.
2. Concentrations measured by the MA350 at visible wavelengths exhibit consistency with those of the AE33, ensuring uniformity and reliability across instruments.
3. The MA350 consistently demonstrates strong performance in both source and ambient conditions, outperforming other instruments in comparative evaluations.

# 7 Years of microAeth MA<sub>x</sub> Deployments

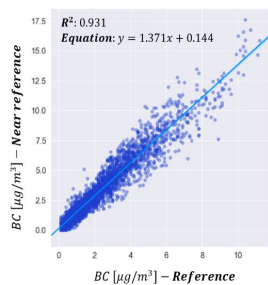
## 131 Google Scholar results

- "AethLabs" AND "MA300" | "AethLabs" AND "MA350" | "AethLabs" AND "MA200", excluding citations
- 593 results if you add "| AethLabs" AND "microAeth"

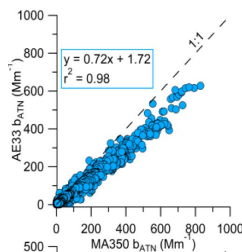
## Numerous performance evaluations



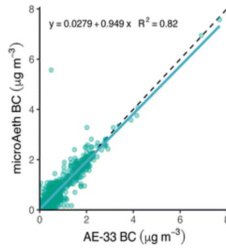
Atmo Nouvelle-Aquitaine 2019



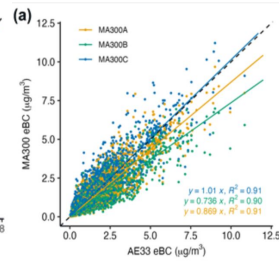
Moroni et al 2022



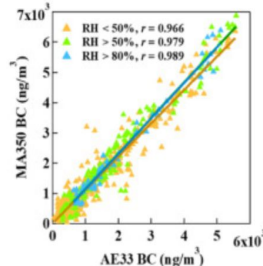
Stavroulas et al 2022



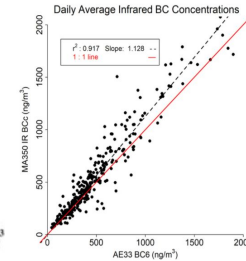
Robinson et al 2023



Chakraborty et al 2023



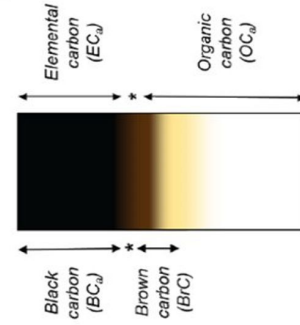
Wu et al 2023



Mendoza et al 2024

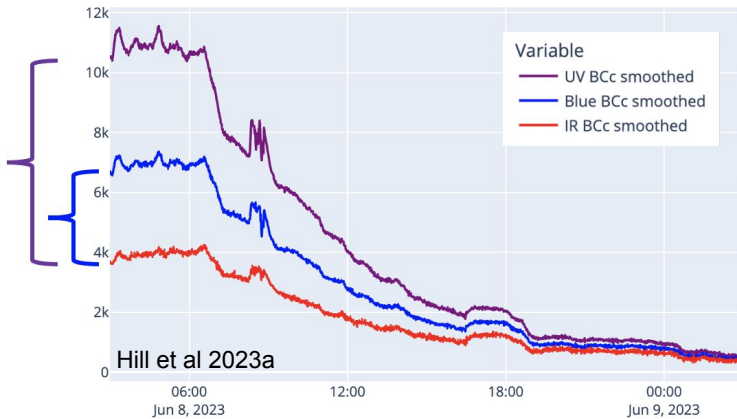
# Source Apportionment

- Biomass vs Fossil Fuel
  - Fossil fuel combustion → more-purely BC
  - Biomass combustion → stronger OC presence
- As OC content increases, aerosols will absorb more-strongly in Blue & UV wavelengths than in IR wavelength (Sandradewi et al 2008)

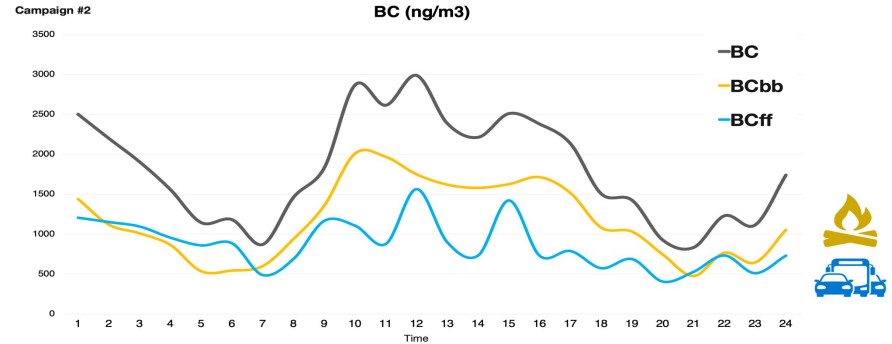


Lack et al. 2013

UV BCc, Blue BCc, and IR BCc during a diminishing biomass smoke event



## microAeth® MA350



# INERIS, ATMO in France

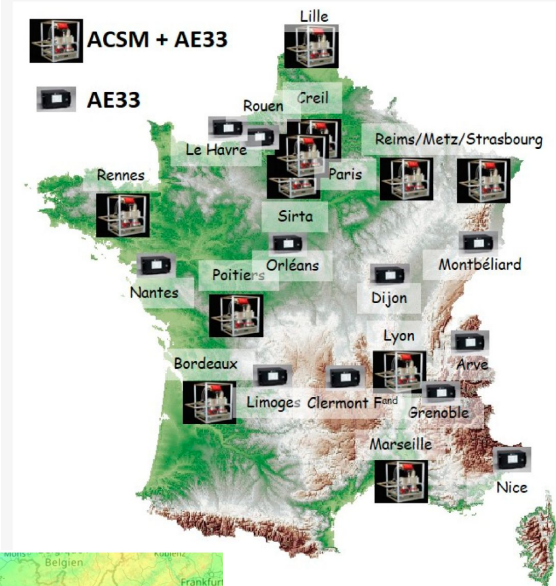
## Complex aerosol landscape

- Residential wood heating, traffic
- Regional transport, orography

Understanding source contributions is key to effectively reducing concentrations

Can MA350's Source Apportionment assist French agencies in this goal?

- Collocate MA350 & AE33 in Lyon
- Mar – Feb, 2022



Favez et al 2021

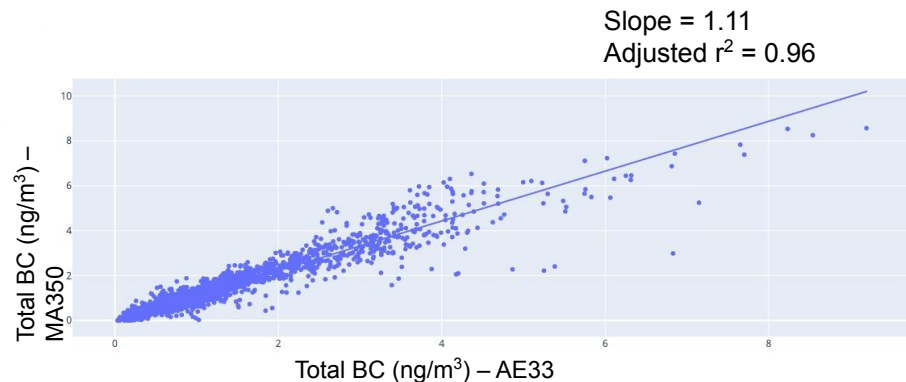
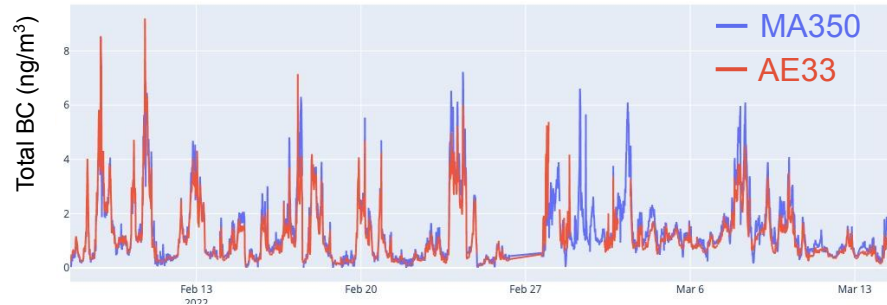


Hill et al 2023b

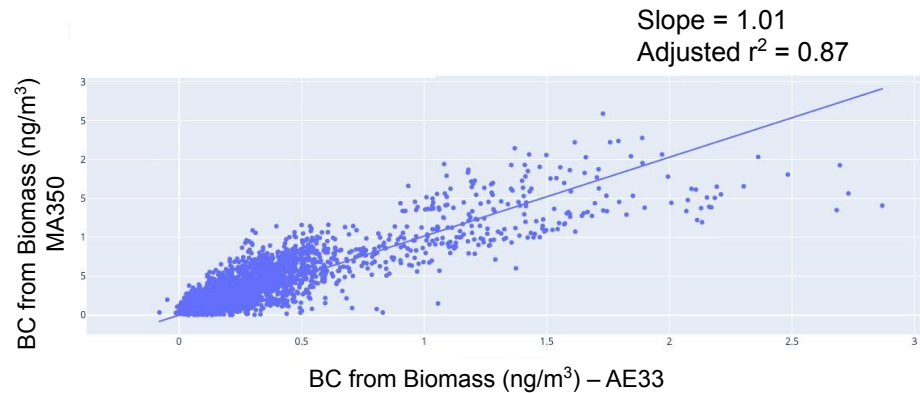
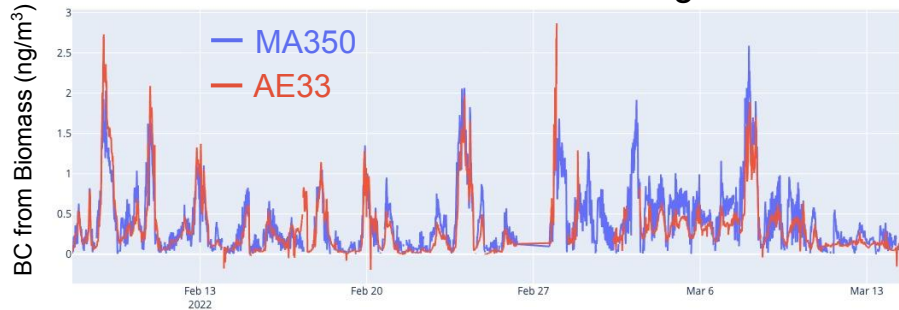


# Lyon Results

## Black Carbon (Total)



## Black Carbon from Biomass Burning



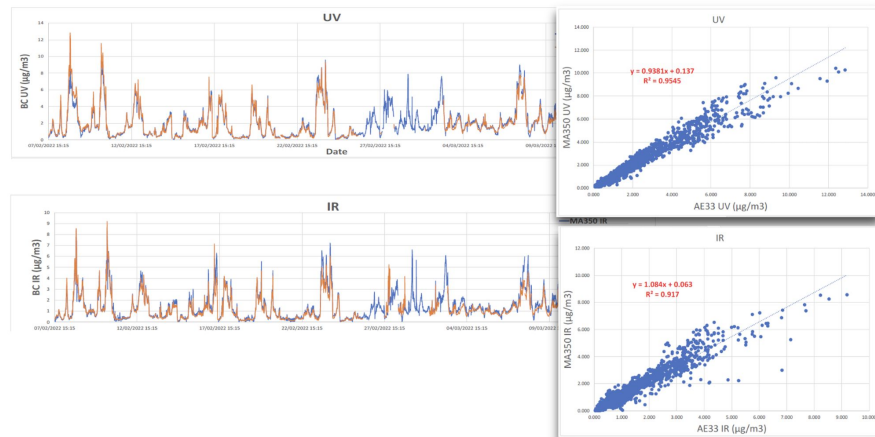
# MA350: Approved for long-term monitoring of Black Carbon by French authorities

MicroAeth® MA350 approved as equivalent to the most widely used rack-mount aethalometer for long-term Black Carbon monitoring.

Issued by French authorities **AASQA** (Approved Air Quality Monitoring Association) and **LCSQA** (Central Air Quality Monitoring Laboratory).

**Campaigns conducted between winter 2019 and 2022.** Multiple microAeth® MA350 units were intensively tested in conjunction with pre-installed rack-mount aethalometers. Tests focused on monitoring BC concentrations and implementing a new source apportionment algorithm.

Official certificate from LCSQA in [French](#) and [English](#)



# Conclusions

## Black carbon is:

- soot
- a major component of PM<sub>2.5</sub>
- responsible for a great deal of illness and death
- the 2<sup>nd</sup> leading cause of climate change
- lacking direct regulation

## AethLabs:

- has worked to inform action through BC measurement for over 15 years
- specializes in small, flexible, best-in-class BC monitors

microAeth technology is well established and comparable to rack-mount Aethalometers

# Works Cited

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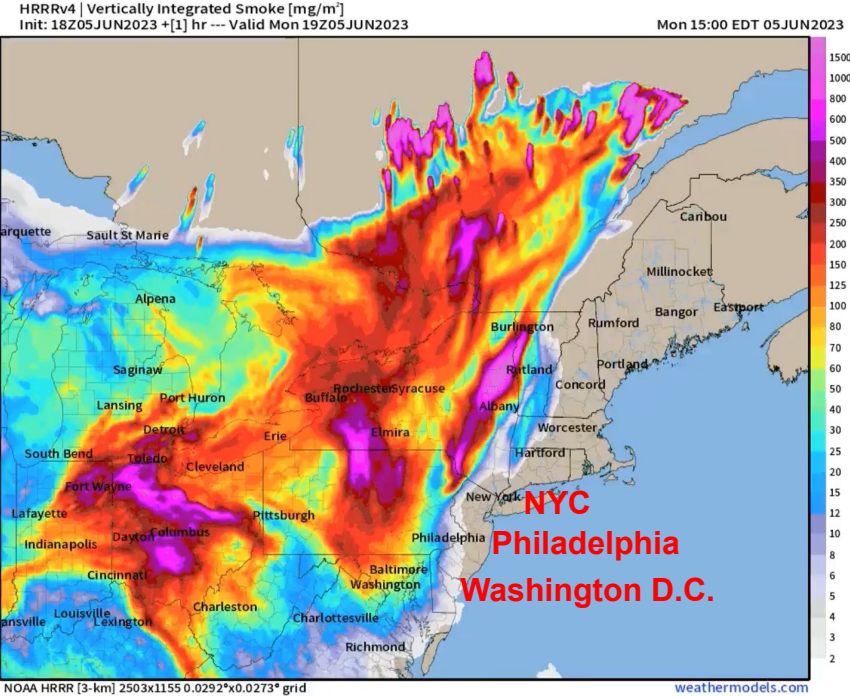
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# Smoke from 2022 Ontario Wildfires

Thank you!

Jeff Blair (CEO, Head of Engineering)

[Jeff.blair@aethlabs.com](mailto:Jeff.blair@aethlabs.com)



# The EU's Clean Air Policies



SETTING OBJECTIVES  
FOR GOOD AIR QUALITY

## Ambient Air Quality (AAQ) Directives

Maximum concentrations of air polluting substances

(PM<sub>2.5</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, CO, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>6</sub>, BaP, As, Cd, Ni, Pb)

REDUCING EMISSIONS



## National Emission Reduction Commitments Directive

National emission totals

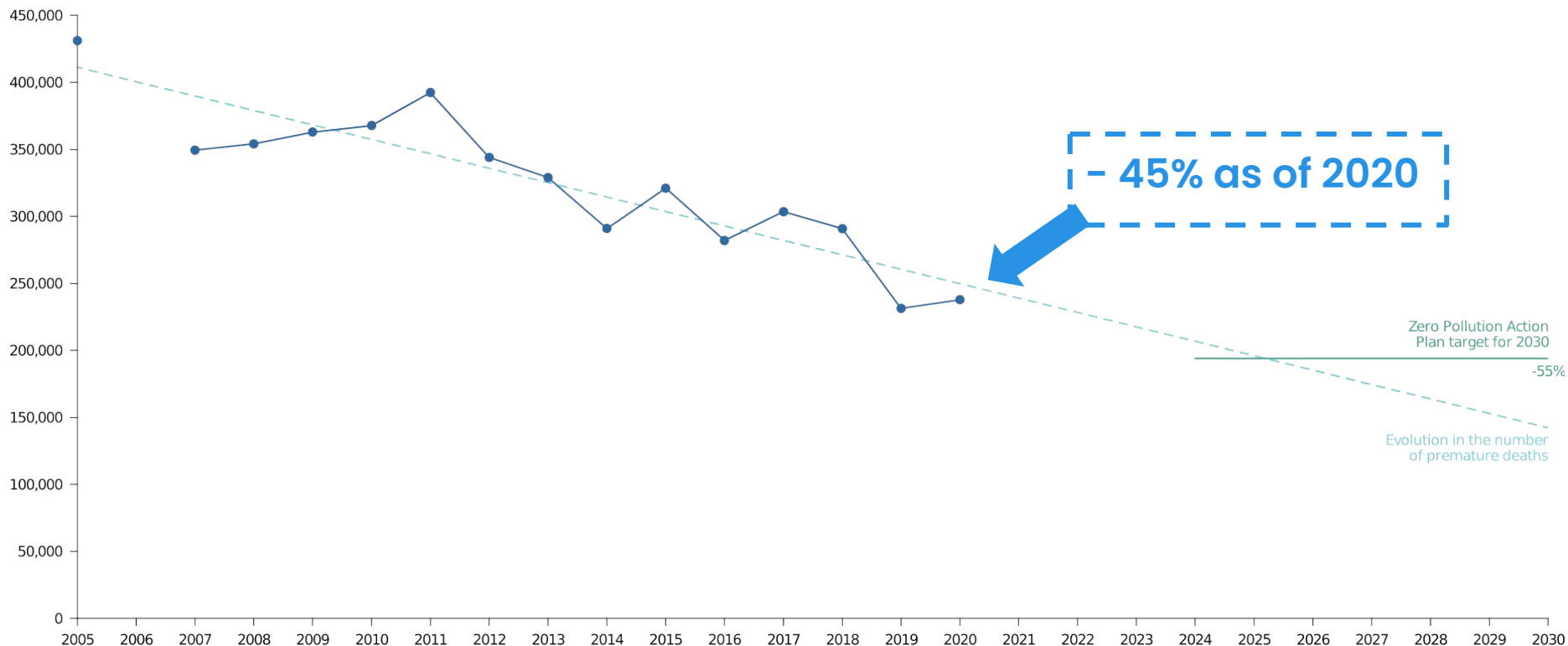
(SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, NMVOC, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NH<sub>3</sub>)

## Source-specific emission standards

- IE Directive
- MCP Directive
- Eco-design Directive
- Energy efficiency
- Euro and fuel standards

# Is EU clean air policy effective?

## Declining number of premature deaths due to PM exposure





# How good we are when we consider AQ monitoring?

## Example of PM2.5 monitoring sites across Europe (2022) to current limit values of pollutants vs. WHO guidelines

EU Standard today - 25  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$



**1789** Total Sampling Points  
98.7% Below Limit  
1.29% Above Limit

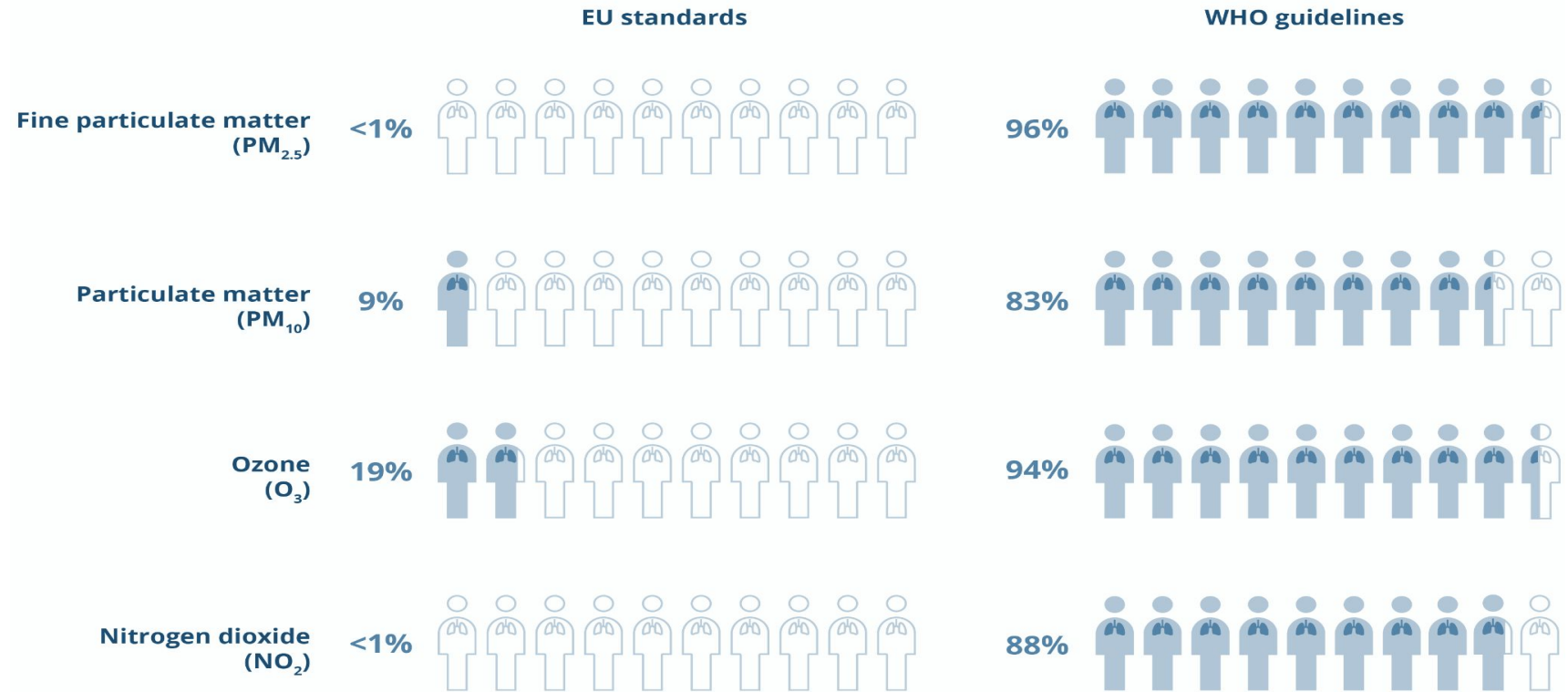
WHO AQG - 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$



**1789** Total Sampling Points  
3.80% Below Limit  
96.2% Above Limit

# Air pollution remains a problem in the EU

## 2022 urban air pollution exposure exceeds EU standards & WHO guidelines



Source: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/europes-air-quality-status-2024>

# Air pollution remains a problem in the EU

## Significant societal costs associated with air pollution

- **Health impacts:** Air pollution is the number one environmental cause of health impacts in the EU, with significant morbidity. Estimates of up to **300.000 premature deaths per year**.
- **Social impacts:** It **disproportionally affects vulnerable groups** - children, elderly, persons with pre-existing conditions, socioeconomically disadvantaged.
- **Environmental impacts:** Causes **eutrophication (74%) and acidification (5%)** of ecosystem area exceeding critical loads, as well as crop and forest damage.
- **Economic impacts:** It causes annual costs at **€231-853 billion (bn) in health impacts**, €8 bn in lost workdays, €4-12 bn in ecosystems damage, €10-11 bn in crop yield loss, €19 bn in forest damage, €1 bn in damage to buildings.
- **Europeans care about the air they breathe** (Eurobarometer 2022)

# Revision of EU Air Quality Rules

- The **European Green Deal** aims to reduce premature deaths from fine particulate matter (PM2.5) by 55% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels, with a **goal of zero significant health impact from air pollution by 2050**.
- In **2022, the European Commission proposed more stringent air quality standards**, including halving the annual limit values for PM2.5 and NO2, and increasing air quality sampling points in cities.
- Co-legislators agreed on more ambitious EU air quality standards in February 2024, though these are still less strict than WHO guidelines. The **European Parliament adopted a revised directive in April 2024**.
- Next steps:
  - the official acceptance of the new legislation
  - acceptance in each Member State; followed by two year time for the implementation
  - periodic 5yrs review of network design and monitoring site locations (supported by modeling and/or **indicative measurements**)
  - if target criteria not met, a Member State has to present two year plan to meet the standard
  - all “transition” acts should become fully operational no later then 2040

# EU Directive

## Implementation, reporting and ...justice

- Supersites combine multiple sampling points to gather long-term data on air pollutants covered by Directive, as well as on **air pollutants of emerging concern (UFP, BC and NH<sub>3</sub>)** and other relevant metrics.
- Modelling and indicative measurements may play a significant role in choosing the right location of the monitoring site (!NGOs, individuals)
- Reporting of all crucial pollutants on 1h time-base
- The right for compensation and justice in case of damage on human health (individuals or NGOs)
- Introduces sampling points for **ultrafine particles (UFP), black carbon (BC), ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>)** or the oxidative potential of particulate matter.



# What does the directive improve?

## Environment and Health

- Zero pollution level by 2050
- Intermediate AQ standards
- Update of air quality standards (stricter limit values)
- Regular review mechanisms (5 yr)



## Governance and enforcement

- AQ plans for more effective preventing of exceedances
- Improved enforceability: new provision on justice, compensation and penalties
- More “cross-border” collaboration on AQ

## Monitoring and assessment

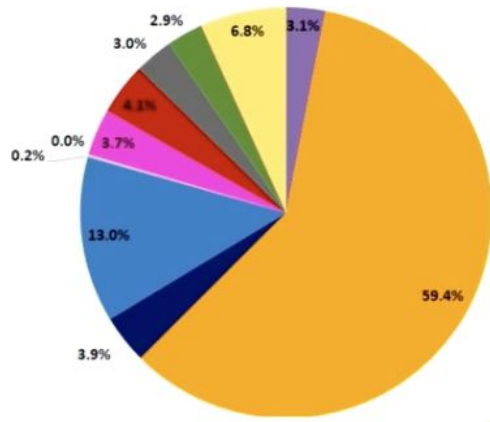
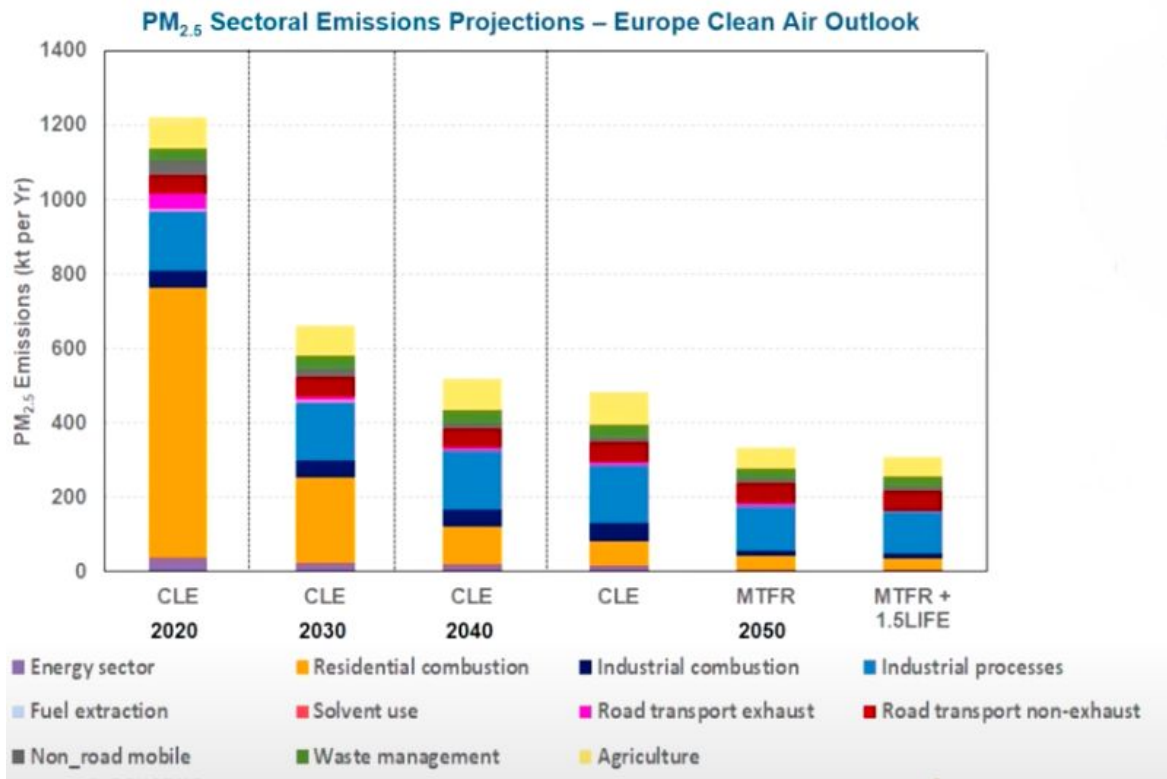
- Refined approach to AQ monitoring, increased use of AQ modelling and/or indicative measurements
- Additional information on representativeness of sampling points
- Monitoring of pollutants of emerging concern (UFP, BC and NH4)

## Information and communication

- Up-to-date AQ information
- Requirement to provide hourly data reporting
- Informing the public about possible health impact and provide recommendations

# Where to start, what are the next steps?

## Understanding the pollution source(s) is a key.



**Road traffic is NOT the main source of pollution.**

Source: [Concawe Air Quality Analysis Tool \(CAQAT\)](#) using EEA's AQ e-Reporting Data



# Studies of Black carbon in Ireland

Stig Hellebust, presenting work by  
John Wenger, Paul Buckley, Eimear Heffernan, Rosin Byrne

A TRADITION OF  
INDEPENDENT  
THINKING





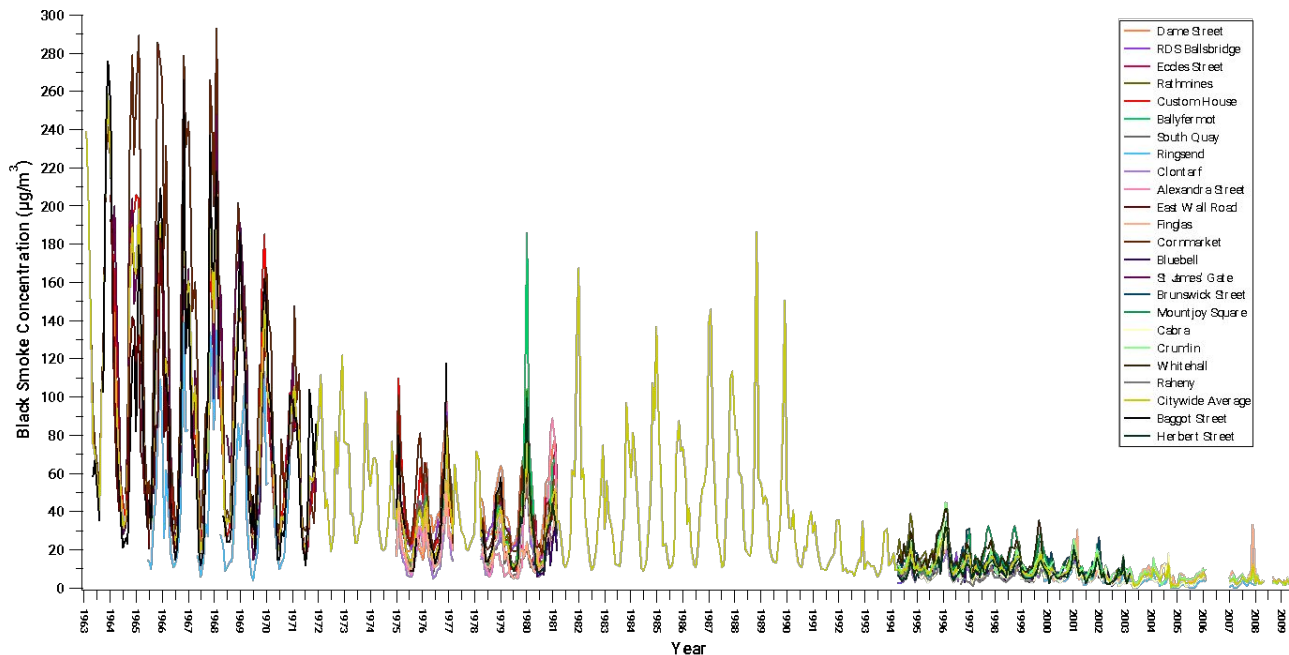
# Centre for Research into Atmospheric Chemistry



- Based in the School of Chemistry at University College Cork
- Academic staff and research team leaders:
  - [Professor John Wenger](#)
  - [Professor Andy Ruth](#)
  - [Dr Dean Venables](#)
  - [Dr Stig Hellebust](#)
- The CRAC was set up in 1999 by Professor emeritus John Sodeau and Professor John Wenger, the current chair
- The research activity of CRAC is wide-ranging and encompasses laboratory, field and modelling studies

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/crac/>

# Historical Black smoke measurements in Dublin



BS measured 1963 – 2009

CAFÉ Directive  
(2008/50/EC) : No BC



# Legislative changes and impacts on BS levels

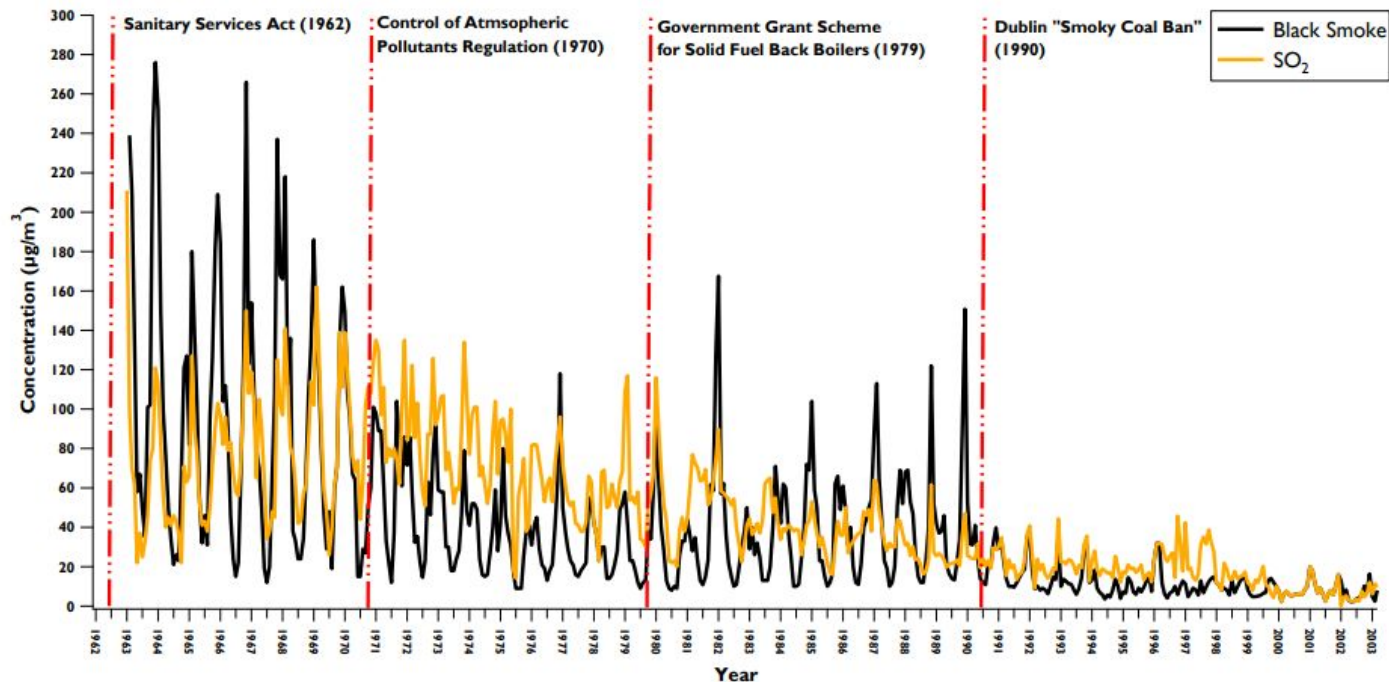
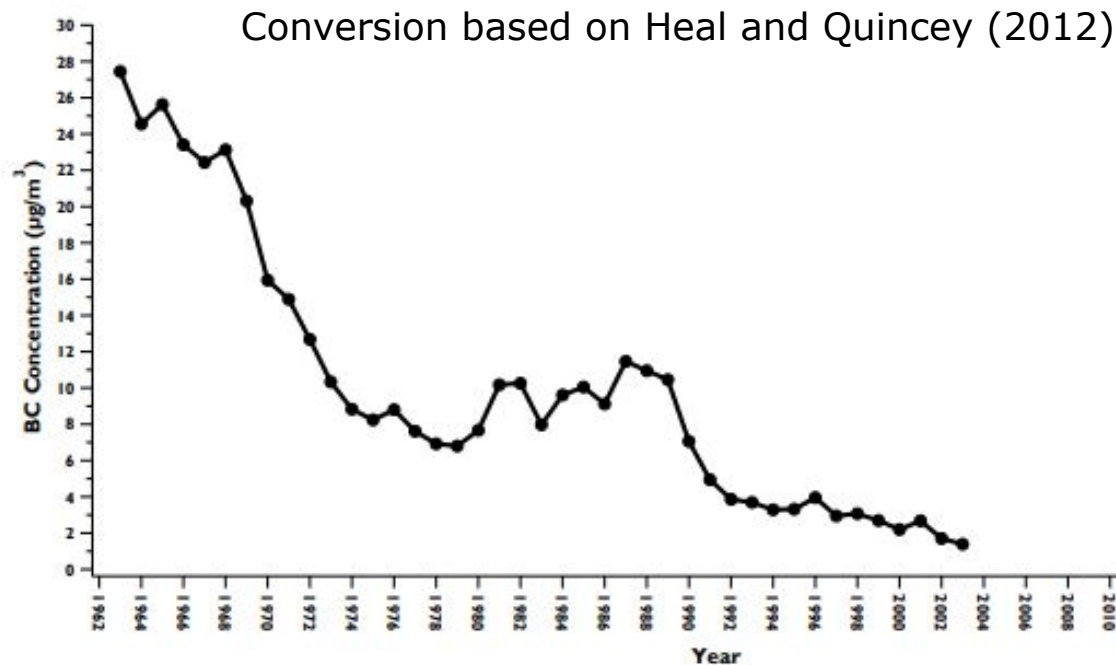


Figure 5.8. Monthly average concentrations of black smoke (black) and  $\text{SO}_2$  (yellow) in Dublin city from Baggot Street and Herbert Street (1963 – 2003), supplemented by citywide average values (1972 – 1974, 1977 – 1978, and 1981 - 1994). Some key legislative changes are marked in red.

# Black smoke reinterpreted as black carbon



BS: Absorption of reflected light  
BC: Absorption of transmitted light

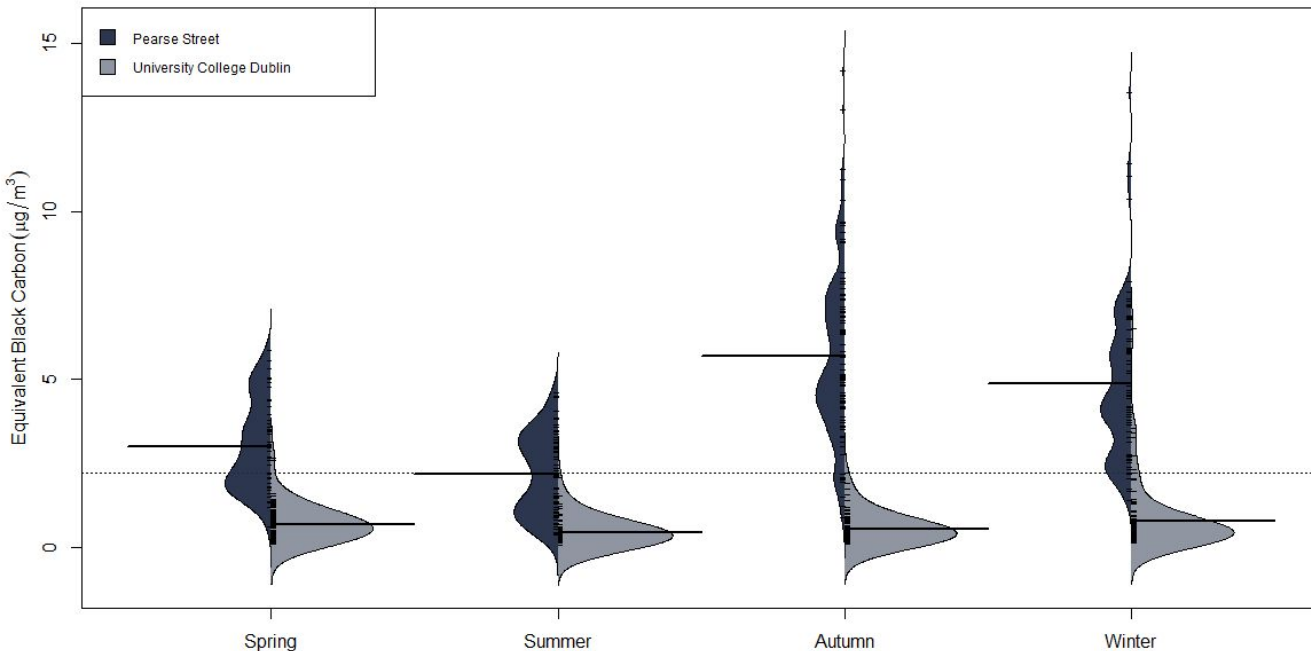
Buckley, 2017  
Annual average < 1 µg/m<sup>3</sup>

P. Buckley, PhD thesis, 2020

Figure 5.19. Annual average calculated BC concentrations (µg/m<sup>3</sup>) in Dublin, 1963 – 2017.

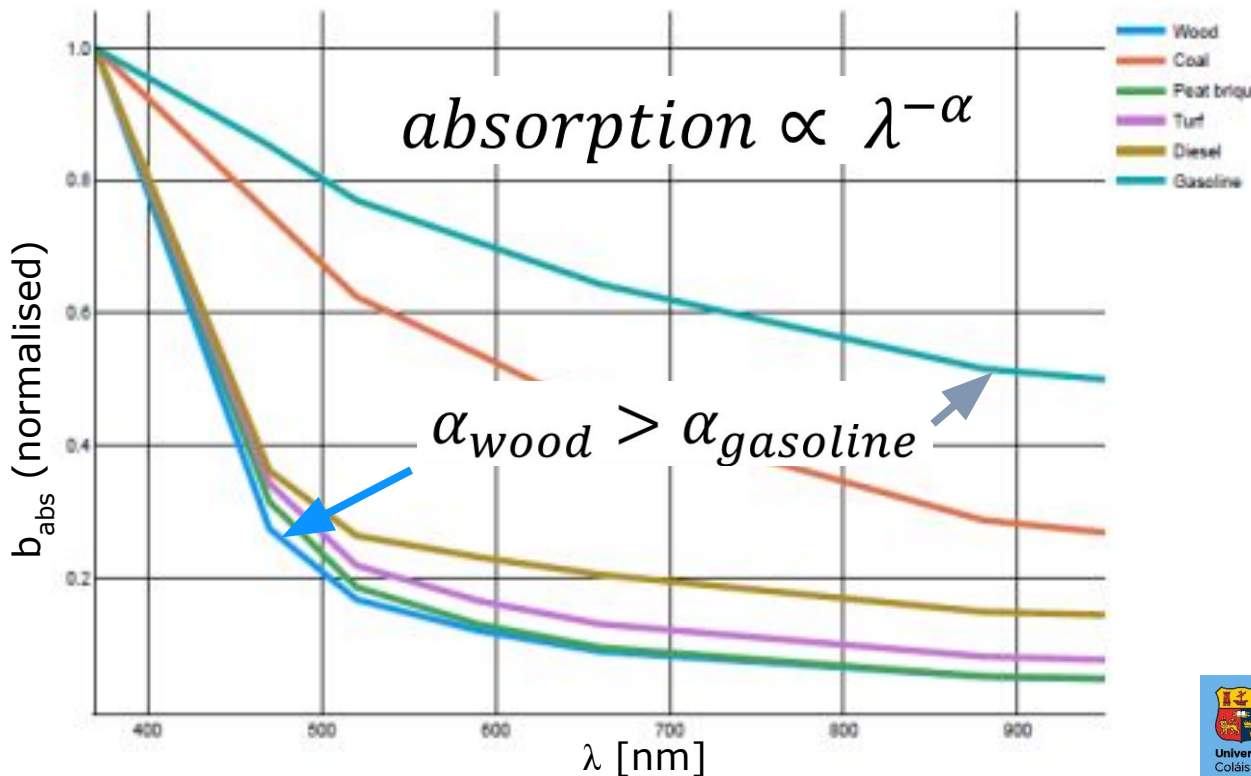
# Dublin 2018: Suburban << City centre

Despite great improvements, levels in the city centre are still considerable, and much higher than in the suburbs



Seasonal distribution of daily average eBC concentrations measured at Pearse Street (September 2018 – August 2019) and University College Dublin (September 2017 – August 2018). Analysis at Pearse Street was based on 49, 74, 91 and 72 sampling days in spring, summer, autumn and winter, respectively. (Eimear Heffernan, PhD Thesis, 2022)

# Multi-wavelength aethalometer data – revealing the fuel type

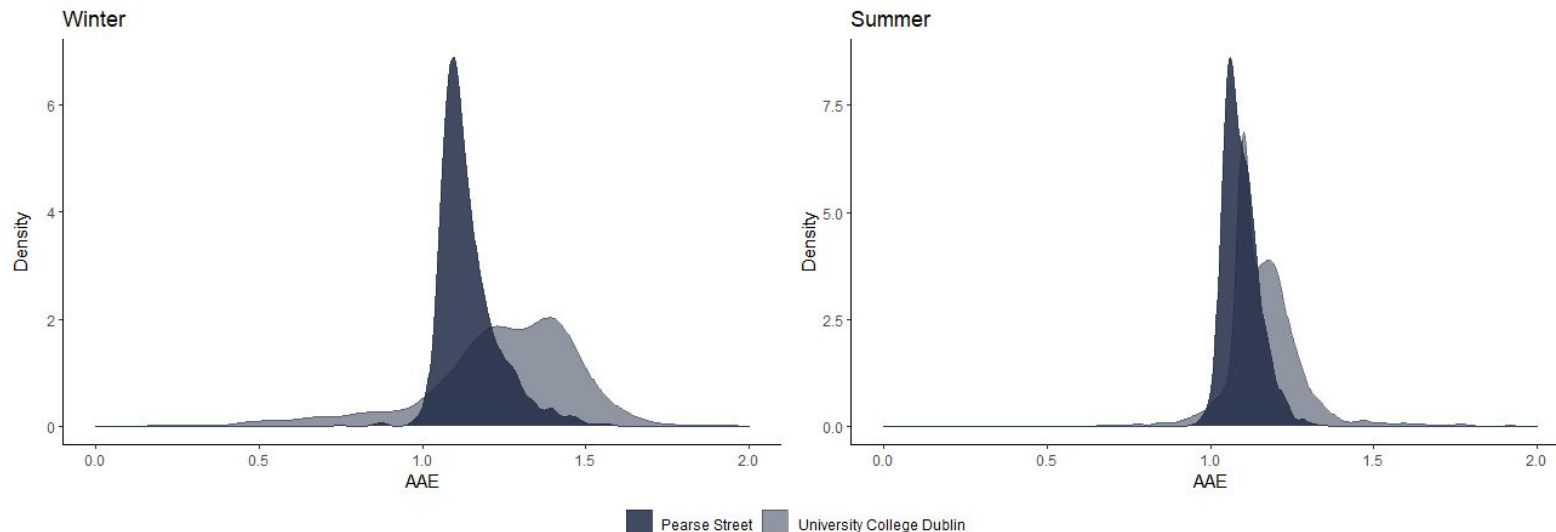


- Some fuels (wood, peat, turf) shown enhanced absorption in the UV end of the spectrum (UVBC)
- This is due to organic compounds (“Brown Carbon”) formed from combustion of these fuels
- Black carbon from combustion of fossil fuel does not absorb as strongly in the UV
- So the contributions of fuel types (fossil fuel vs. biomass) can be estimated separately!
- Two-parameter model!

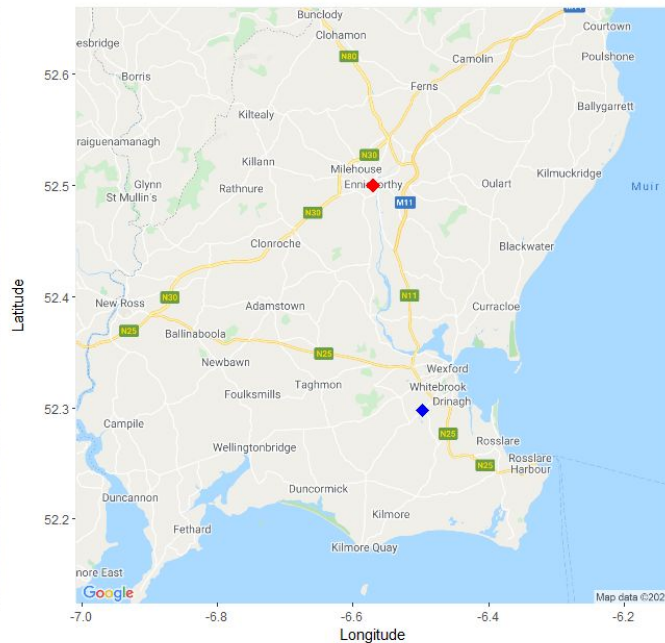
# UVBC: Suburban >> City Centre



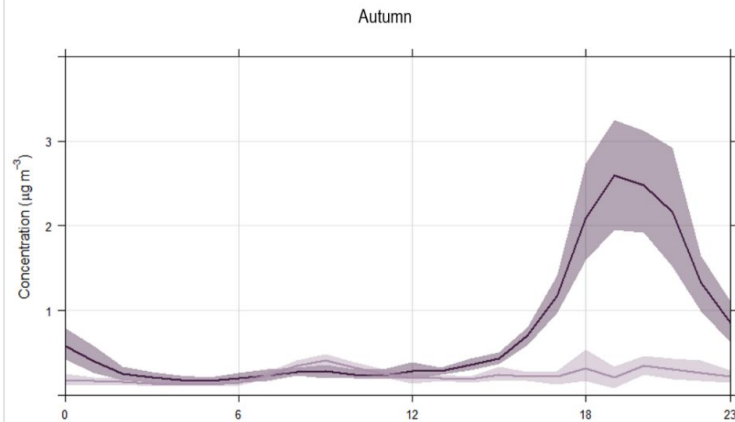
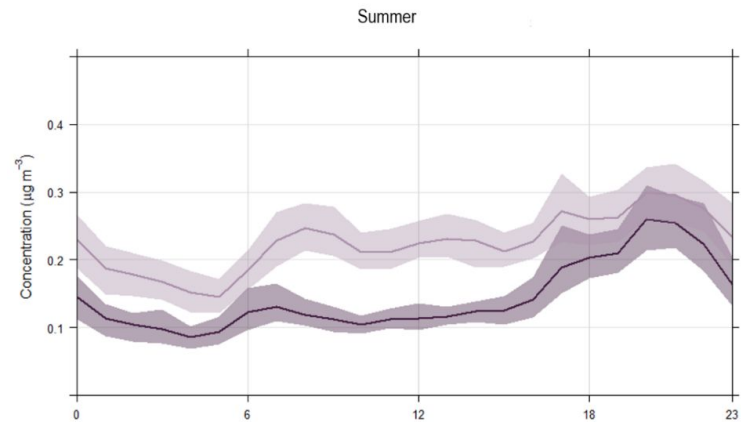
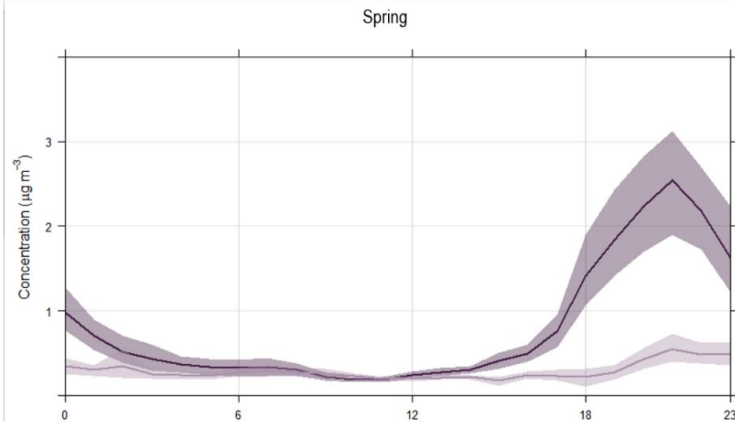
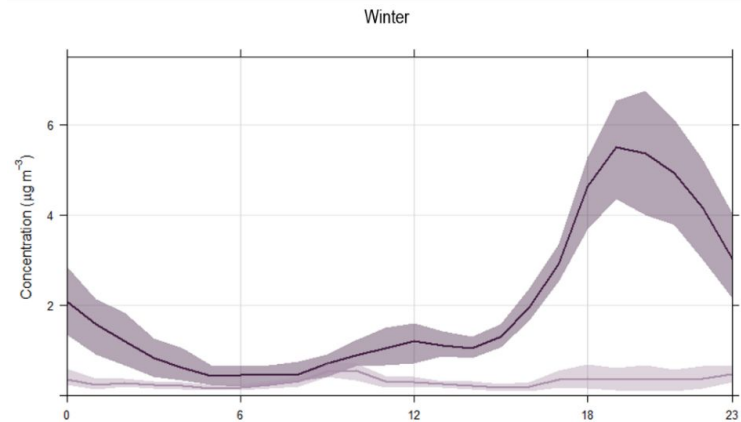
$$\alpha_{\text{wood}} > \alpha_{\text{gasoline}}$$



# Small towns – high BC levels



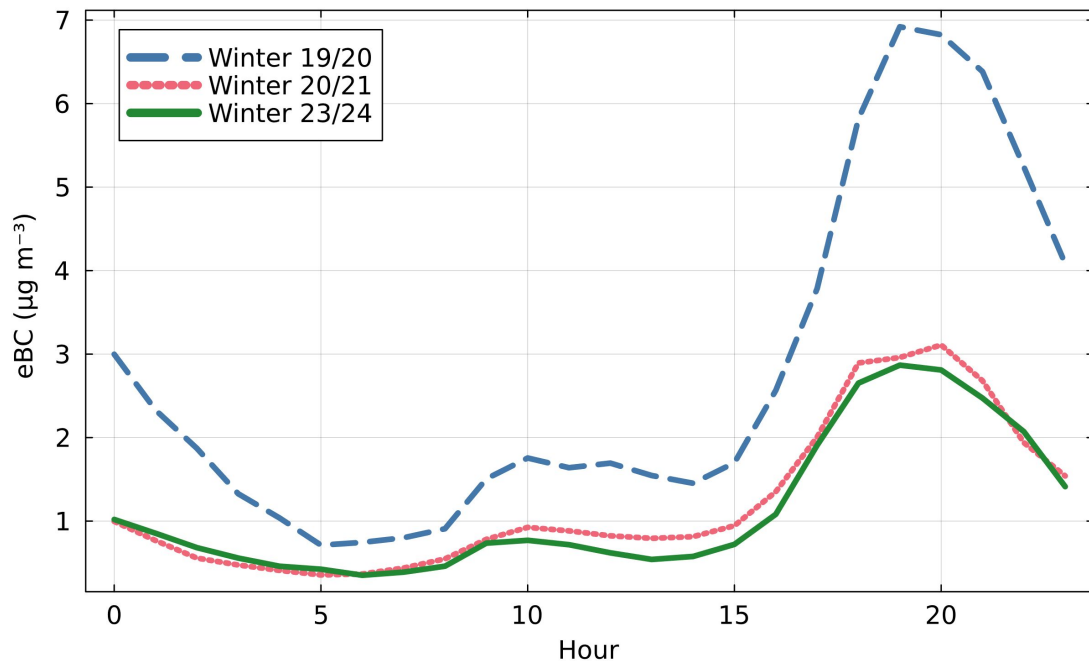




Solid Fuel
  Traffic

The main problem here is solid fuel burning!

# It's improving!



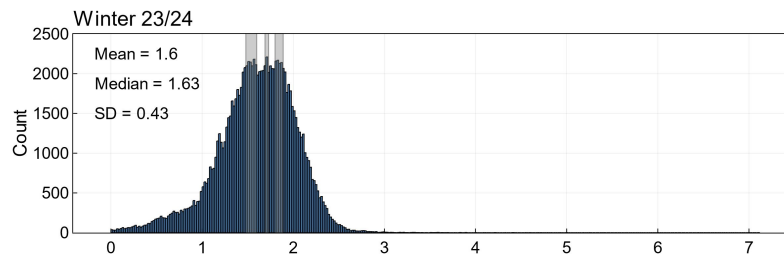
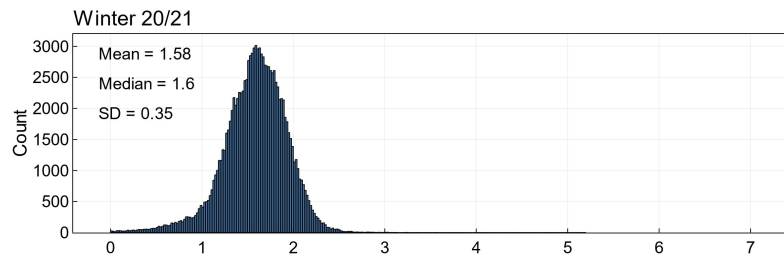
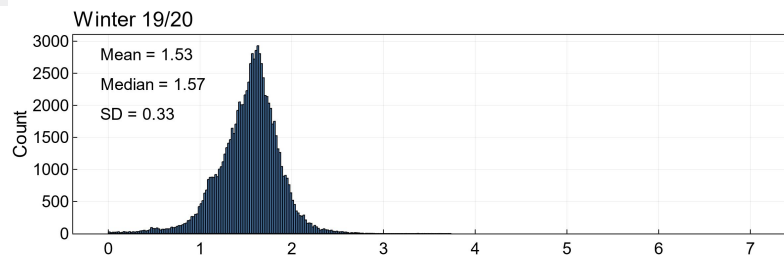
Seasonal diurnal profiles of eBC in Enniscorthy 2019 - 2024  
(Byrne *et al.*, in preparation)

# The nature of BC changing, too

*Frequency distribution and summary information of the absorption Ångström exponent measured in Enniscorthy during each winter period.*

*The characteristic absorption is changing – this shows that the fuel mixture is changing!*

*The influence of “brown carbon”, or UVBC, is increasing*



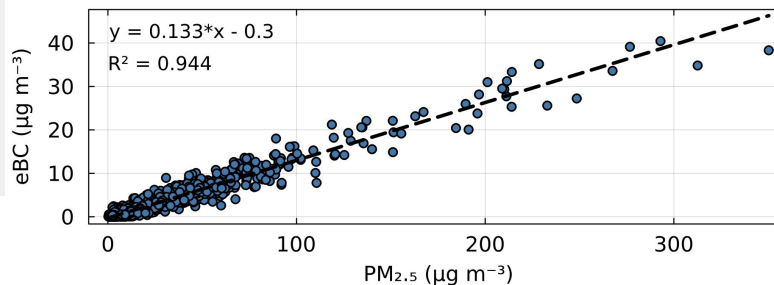
Byrne *et al.*, in preparation

# BC and PM<sub>2.5</sub>

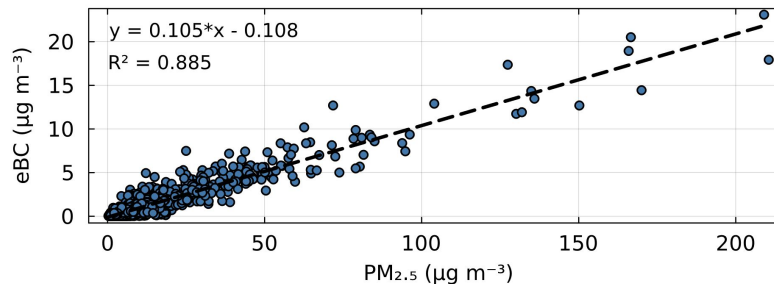
Seasonal comparison of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and eBC over three winters:

- They become less correlated
- The fraction of PM<sub>2.5</sub> that is BC is reducing
  - Suggestive of changing fuel mixture
  - PM<sub>2.5</sub> less influenced by primary emissions
    - more influenced by secondary aerosol?
- Combined measurements of BC/BrC and PM<sub>2.5</sub> tell a more comprehensive story than they do separately

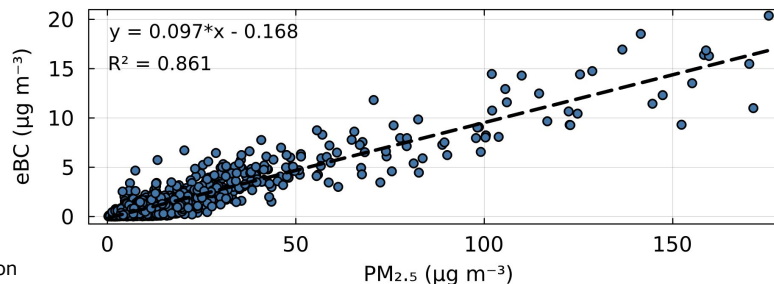
Winter 19/20



Winter 20/21



Winter 23/24



# Future opportunities from expanding BC monitoring network

- Continued monitoring for evidence of changing fuel mixture, impacts of changing legislation
- Developing aethalometer model for mixed fuel environments
  - Optimising location-specific model parameters
  - From two-parameter model to three-parameter model
- Augmenting AQ networks with BC data
  - Information on the direct contribution of combustion sources to PM<sub>2.5</sub>
  - Mapping the changing nature of carbonaceous aerosol
  - Spatial variation – environment types – urban, rural, roadside
  - Exposure assessment





Thank you

[s.hellebust@ucc.ie](mailto:s.hellebust@ucc.ie)



# Empowering the world to reduce air pollution

We are on a **mission** to empower the world to **reduce air pollution**

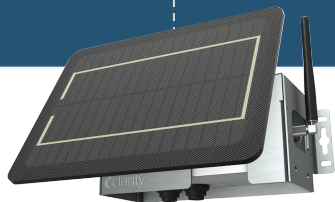


**Lee Swanson**

**Regional Account Manager**

# A fully integrated air quality monitoring service

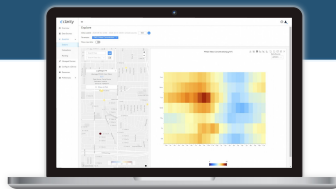
## Sensing-as-a-Service<sup>SM</sup>



### Clarity Node Platform

#### Measures all key air pollutants

- Solar-powered
- Cellular-connected
- Easily installed within 5 minutes



### Clarity Cloud

#### Cloud-based data analysis

- Natively-integrated IoT dashboard
- Secure data pipeline & storage
- Powerful APIs, analytics and visualization



### Clarity Expert Support

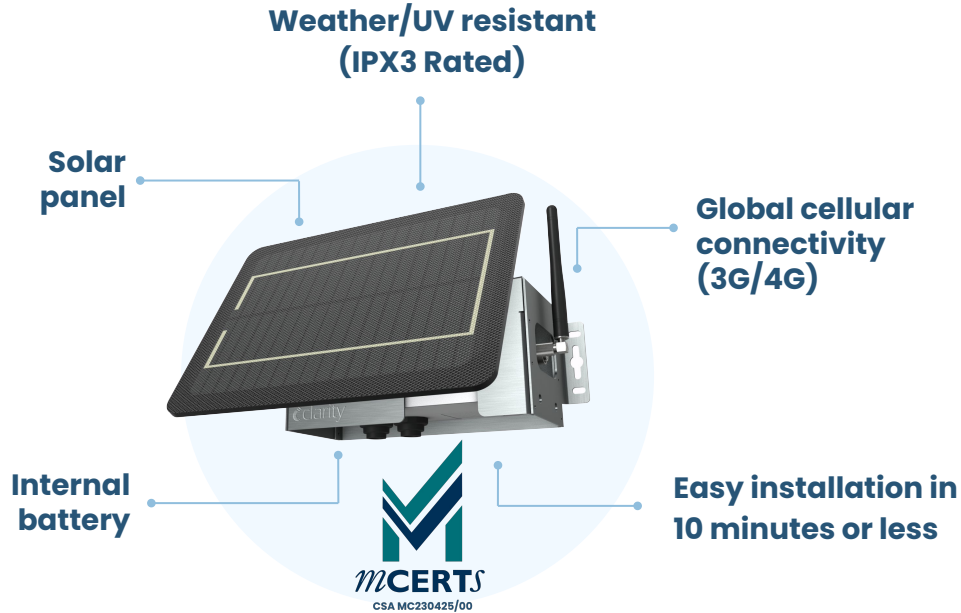
#### Scalable project support

- Highly qualified air quality experts
- Accurate and reliable data through Remote Calibration
- Responsive project management enabled by modern software stack



# Clarity Node-S

A resilient, independently powered, and cellular-connected air monitor



Measures **PM** and **NO2**.

**FCC + CE certified** and designed for **easy deployment** everywhere, and **reliable operation** in adverse weather conditions.



# Clarity Add-On Modules



## Wind Module

Determine where air pollution is coming from.



## Ozone Module

Confirm ozone attainment with this FEM-capable device.

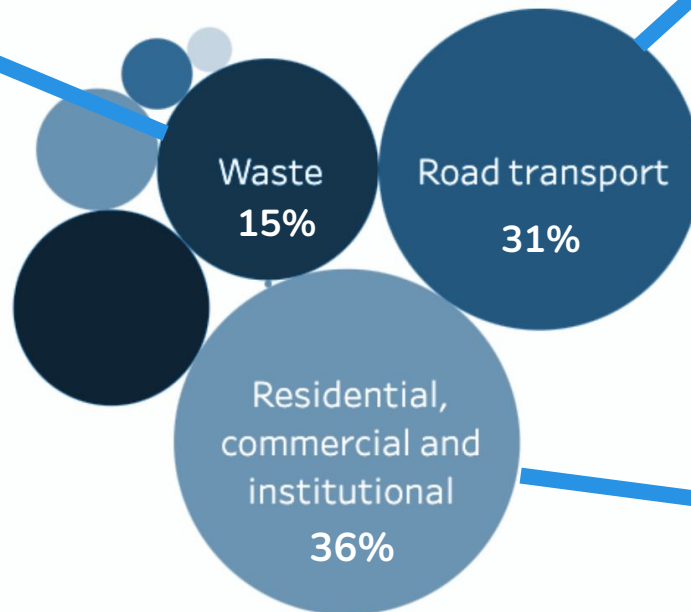


## Black Carbon Module

Understand the composition and sources of particulates.

# Black Carbon sources in the EU

## Contributing sectors and activities



# What makes the Black Carbon Module unique?

## AethLabs & Clarity Black Carbon Module

1

**Ease of  
deployment**

2

Seamless  
data access

3

Best-in-class  
data quality

4

Collocated  
PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub> and  
BC

# Deploy anywhere with Clarity

Built for continuous, outdoor deployment

- Field deployment takes a few minutes
- Outdoor enclosure protects against temperature and environmental conditions
- Robust pump for 2 years continuous operation without flow calibration
- Solar operation requires only 40 minutes of direct sunlight per day
- Battery for 14-day operation without sunlight
- Seamless cellular connectivity with via Clarity Cloud through companion Node-S
- Low maintenance with long filter tape life



# What makes the Black Carbon Module unique?

## AethLabs & Clarity Black Carbon Module

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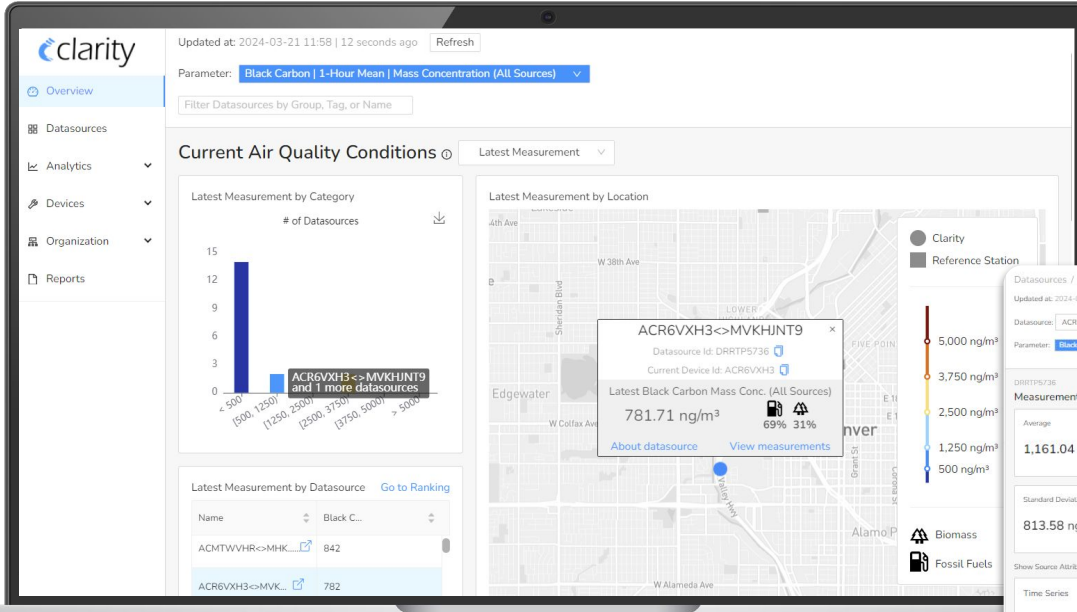
Best-in-class  
data quality

4

Collocated  
PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub> and  
BC

# Seamless data access

## AethLabs & Clarity Black Carbon Module



```
clarity Recent measurements Search
```

API Guide  
Home  
Getting started  
Revisions  
v1 (Deprecated)  
Datasources (legacy)  
Devices  
Measurements

Example code

The following sample Python code selects just the columns you want and converts to native Python types.

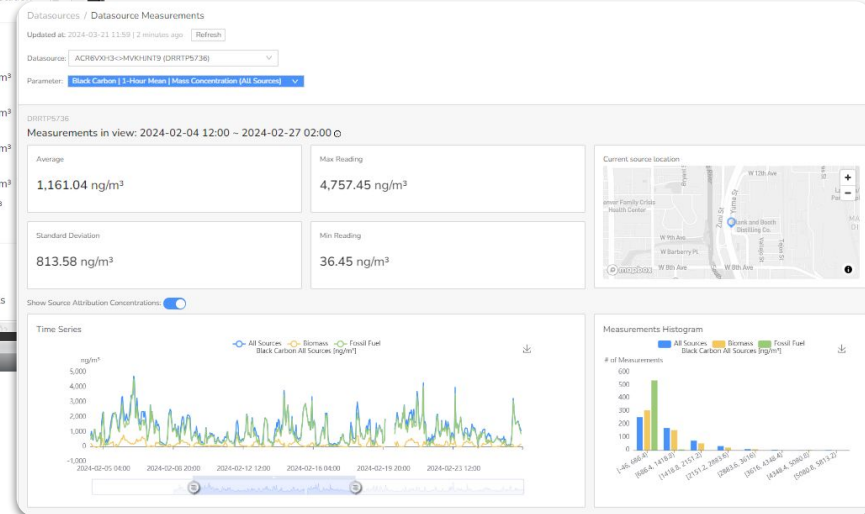
```
# simple demo using Clarity Data API

import requests
import os
import csv
import pprint
import datetime

BASEURL = 'https://clarity-data-api.clarity.io'
HEADERS = {
    'Accept-Encoding': 'gzip',
    'x-api-key': os.environ.get('MY_CLARITY_API_KEY') # put your key in the environment or directly here
}

def check_can_connect():
    # verify can reach the API
    response = requests.get(BASEURL, HEADERS)
    http_code = response.status_code
    connected = (http_code == 200)
    if connected:
        print('Connected to Clarity')
    else:
        print(f'(http_code) : {http_code} - Cannot connect')

def get_recent_measurements(org, datasourceIds, outputFrequency):
    # Fetch measurements from the API
    url = BASEURL + '/v2/recent-datasource-measurements-query'
    request_body = {
        'org': org,
        'datasourceIds': datasourceIds,
        'outputFrequency': outputFrequency
    }
    response = requests.post(url, headers=HEADERS, json=request_body)
    response.raise_for_status()
```



# What makes the Black Carbon Module unique?

## AethLabs & Clarity Black Carbon Module

1

Ease of  
deployment

2

Seamless  
data access

3

**Best-in-class  
data quality**

4

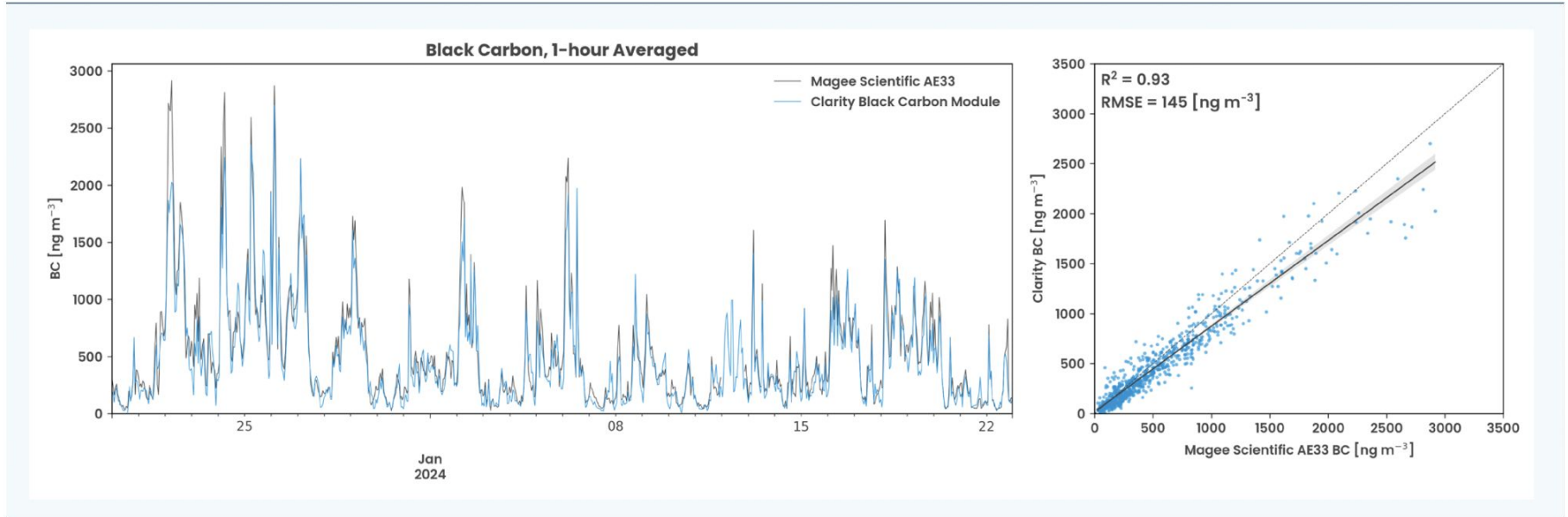
Collocated  
PM<sub>2.5</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub> and  
BC



# Best in class data quality

## AethLabs & Clarity Black Carbon Module

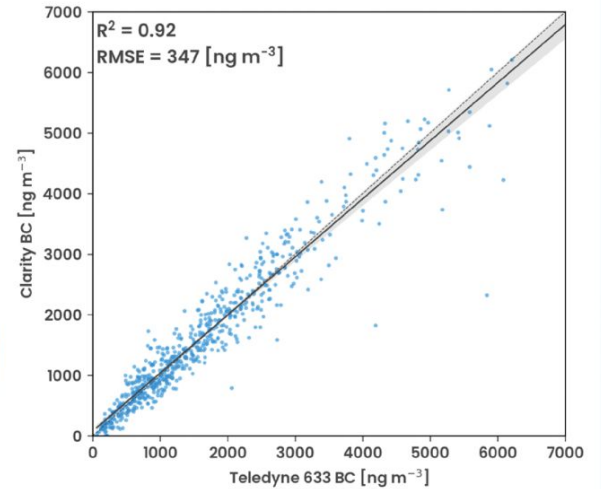
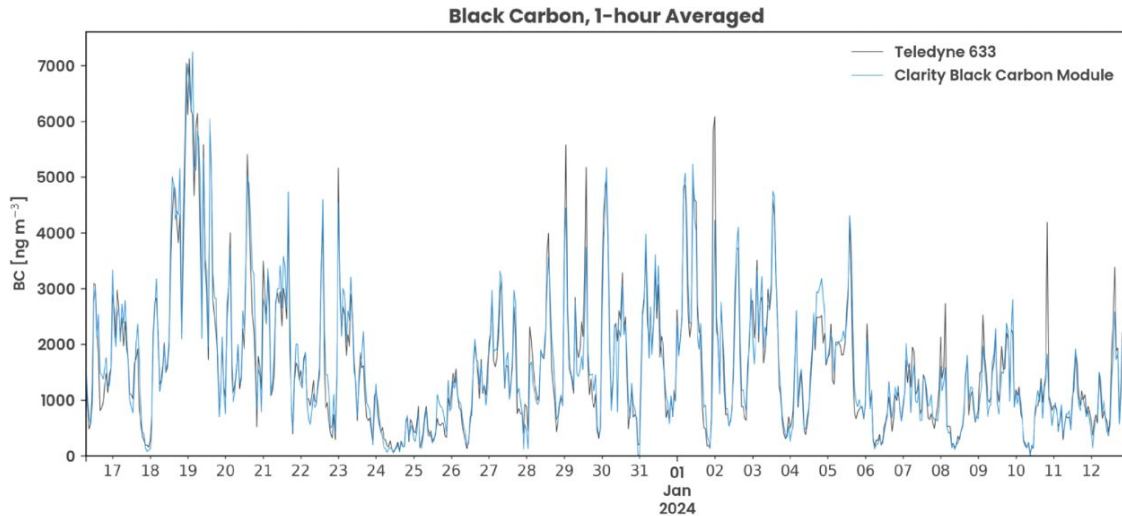
BERKELEY, CA, USA



# Best in class data quality

## AethLabs & Clarity Black Carbon Module

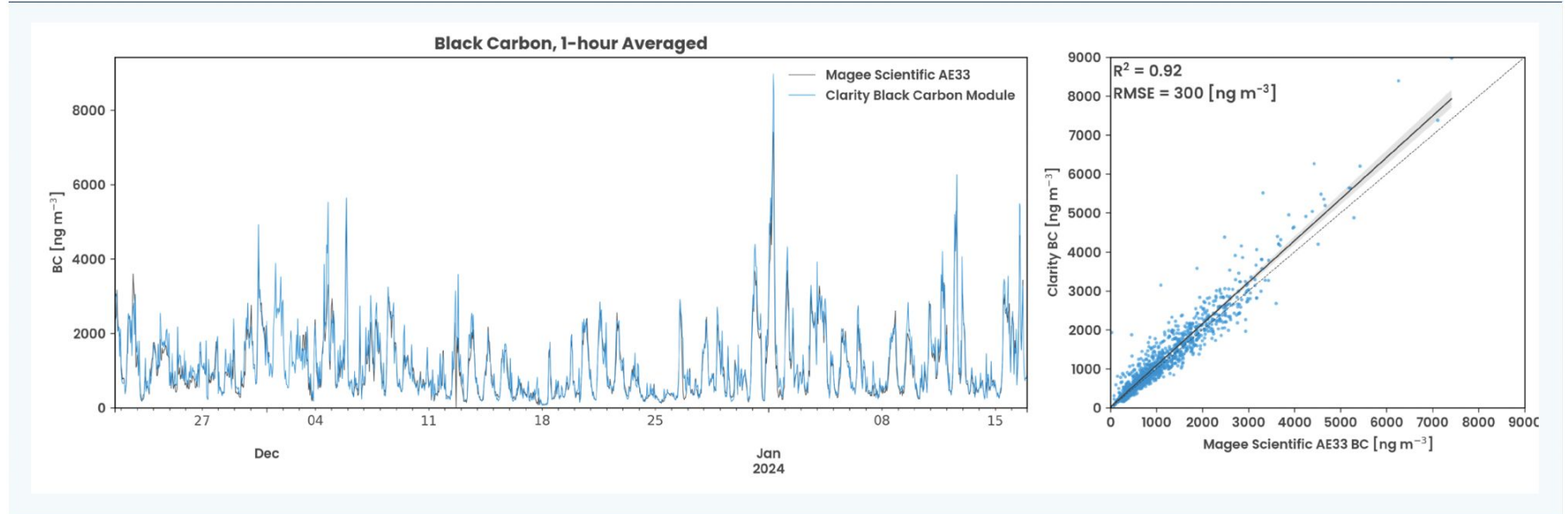
DENVER, CO, USA



# Best in class data quality

## AethLabs & Clarity Black Carbon Module

BROWARD COUNTY, FL, USA



# What makes the Black Carbon Module unique?

## AethLabs & Clarity Black Carbon Module

1

Ease of  
deployment

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Seamless  
data access

3

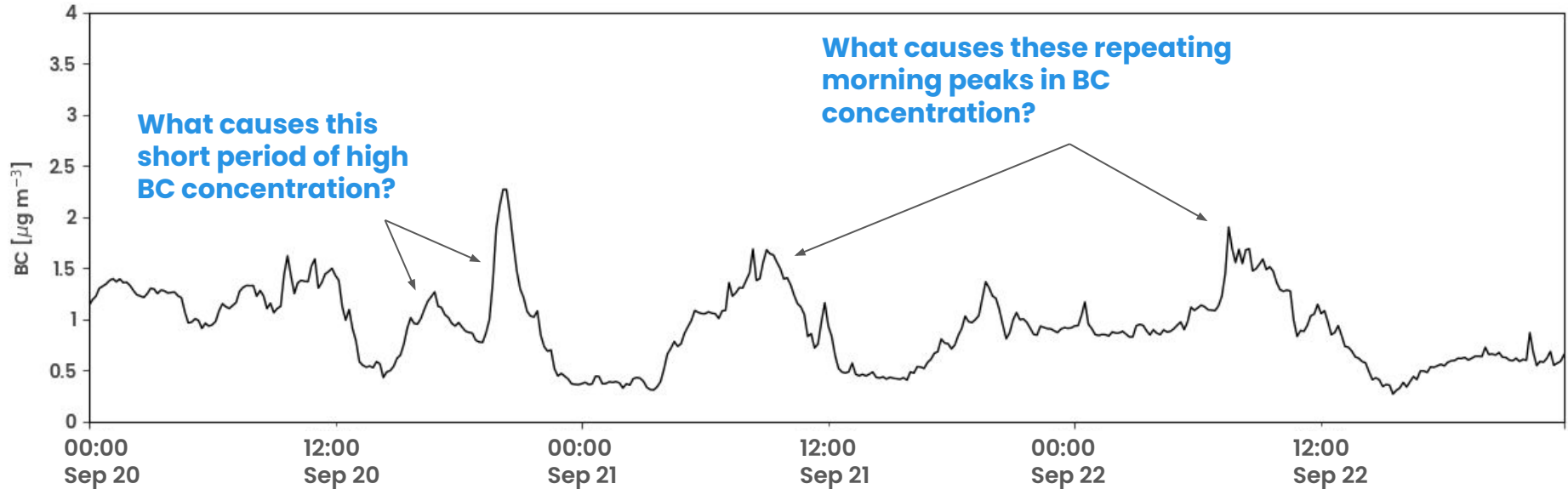
Best-in-class  
data quality

4

Collocated PM<sub>2.5</sub>,  
NO<sub>2</sub> and BC

# Case Study: Collocated PM<sub>2.5</sub> & Black Carbon

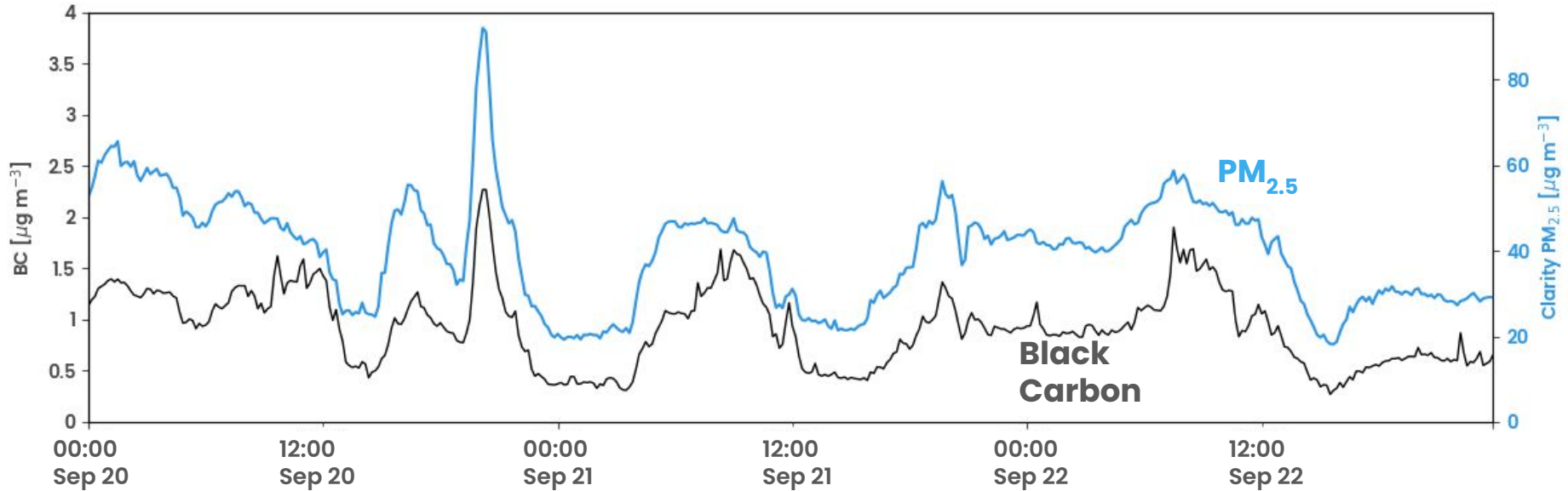
## What's driving PM<sub>2.5</sub> air pollution in Berkeley, California?



**Berkeley experiences several episodes of high black carbon concentrations which could increase the risk of negative health impacts. What sources drive this high variability in BC?**

# Case Study: Collocated PM<sub>2.5</sub> & Black Carbon

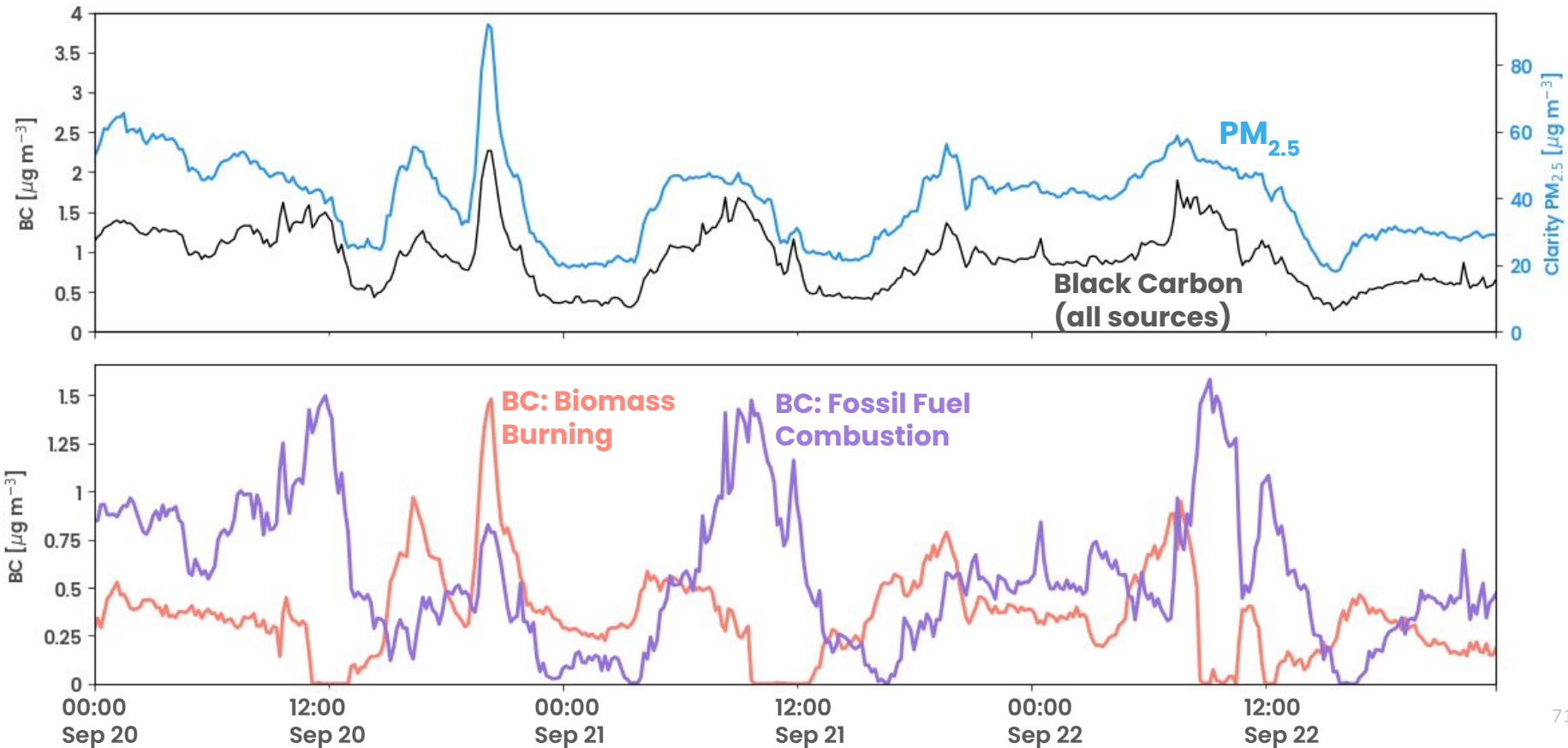
## What's driving PM<sub>2.5</sub> air pollution in Berkeley, California?



**PM<sub>2.5</sub> and BC are strongly correlated ( $R^2 = 0.8$ ), suggesting that combustion emissions played a major role in air quality in Berkeley over these several days.**

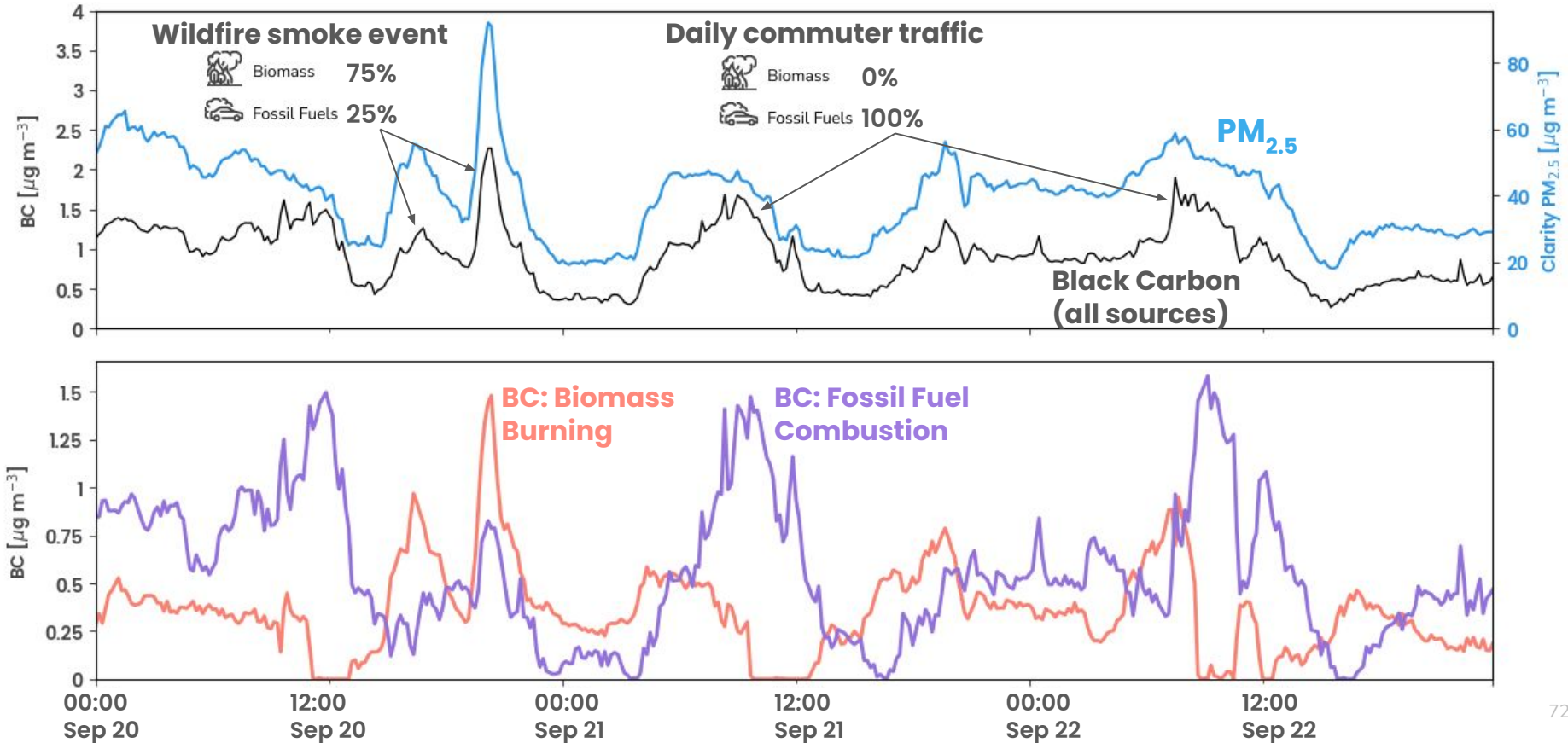
# Case Study: Collocated PM<sub>2.5</sub> & Black Carbon

## What's driving PM<sub>2.5</sub> air pollution in Berkeley, California?



# Case Study: Collocated PM<sub>2.5</sub> & Black Carbon

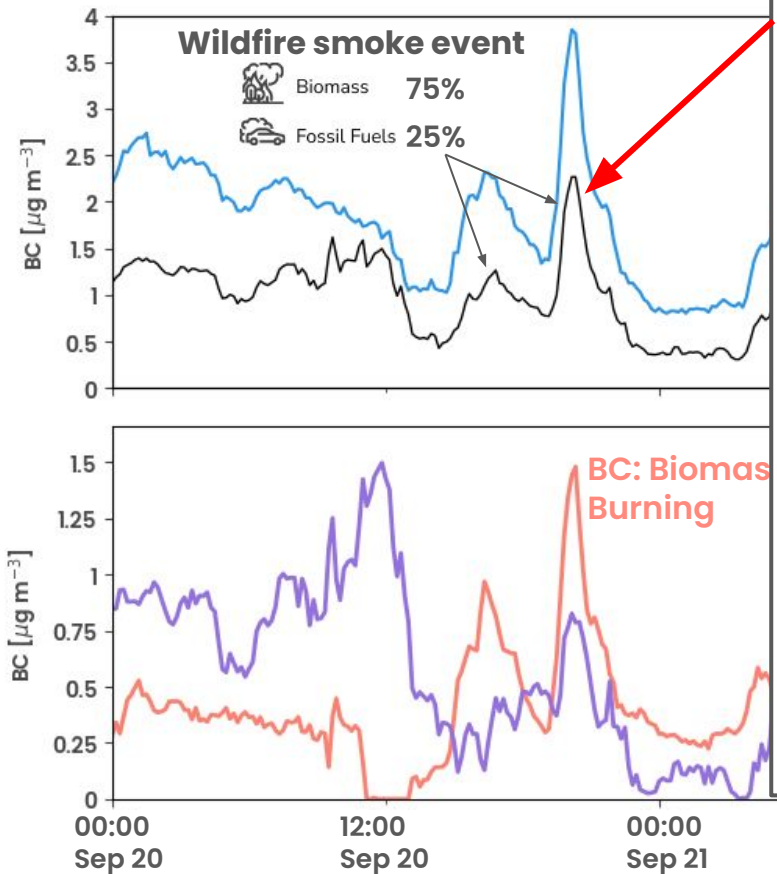
## We can further separate the combustion sources





# Case Study: Collocated PM

## We can further separate the co



The New York Times

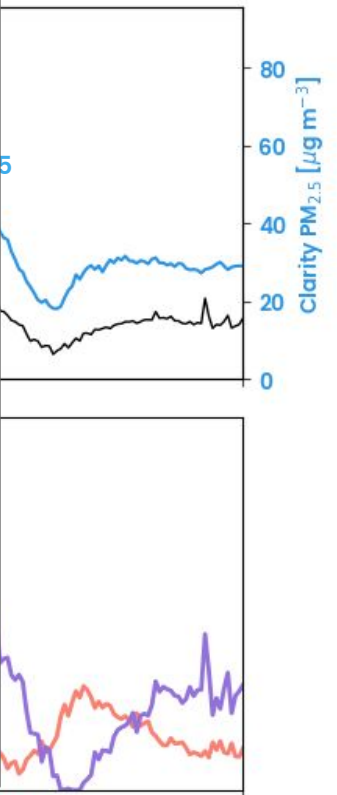
### Unhealthy Air Lingers in Bay Area After Wildfires

Smoke from northwestern California and southwestern Oregon has blown over from the Bay Area. Some relief is expected on Friday.

Share full article

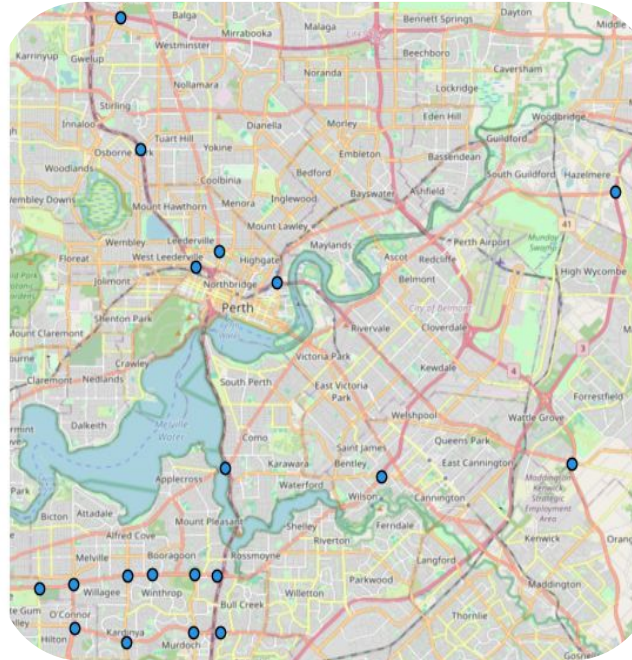
A satellite image of Northern California and Southern Oregon on Wednesday morning. Smoke from wildfires has negatively affected air quality in parts of both states. NOAA

By **Rebecca Carballo**  
Published Sept. 20, 2023 Updated Sept. 21, 2023



# Case Study: Collocated NO<sub>2</sub> and Black Carbon Perth RAC Air Health Monitor (200+ sensors) Traffic Study

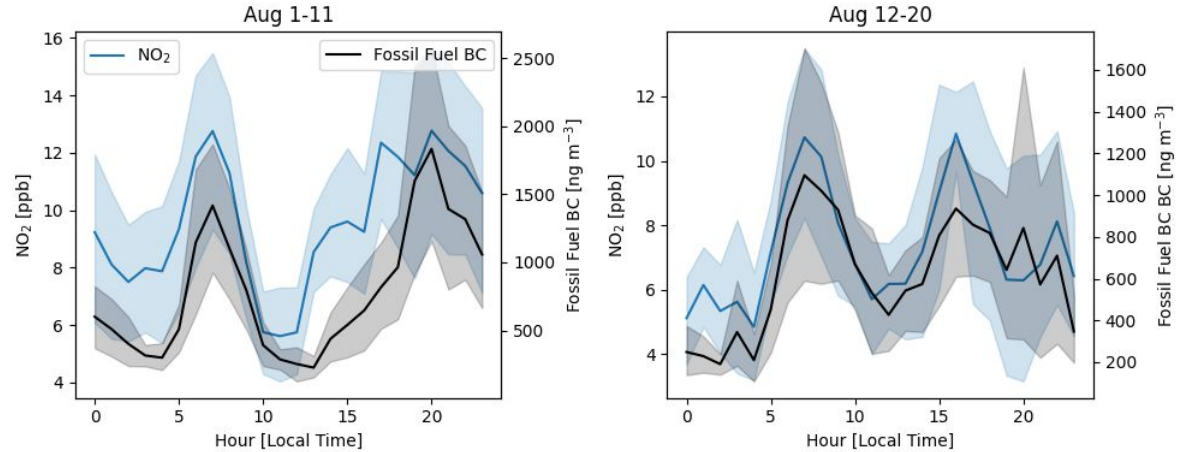
- Node-S and Black Carbon Modules deployed at 20 Main Roads Western Australia sites
- Spread out geographically across Perth along major roads and intersections
- Allows for insights into local traffic impacts on pollution and regional air quality events



# Case Study: Collocated NO<sub>2</sub> and Black Carbon

## Diurnal NO<sub>2</sub> pattern strongly associated with fossil fuel BC

- Two periods with differing air pollution profiles
  - August 1st-11th: Wildfire-impacted
  - August 12th-20th: Non-fire period
- Diurnal pattern of NO<sub>2</sub> correlated with diurnal profile of the Fossil Fuel BC measured by the Clarity Black Carbon Module for both periods.

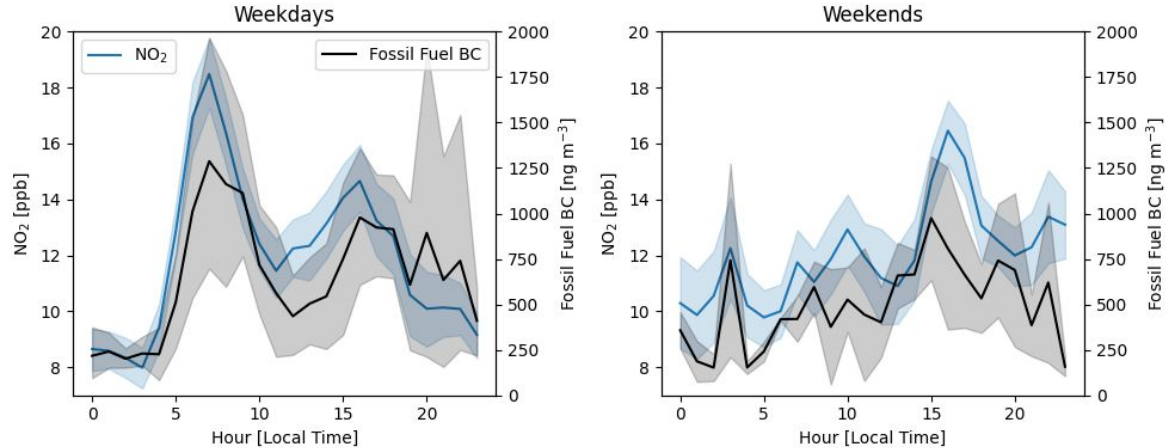


This strongly suggests a traffic source impacting daily air quality across Perth.

# Case Study: Collocated NO<sub>2</sub> and Black Carbon

Both BC and NO<sub>2</sub> show change in diurnal pattern for weekdays vs. weekends

- Diurnal profiles of NO<sub>2</sub> (left hand y-axis) and fossil fuel BC (right hand axis) on weekdays (left) and weekends (right) during August 12-21.
- Both NO<sub>2</sub> and fossil fuel BC show a notably different diurnal pattern on weekends.



The morning peak (commonly associated with commuter traffic) is missing on weekends.

# What makes the Black Carbon Module unique?

AethLabs & Clarity Black Carbon Module

1

Ease of  
deployment

2

Seamless  
data access

3

Best-in-class  
data quality

4

Collocated PM<sub>2.5</sub>,  
NO<sub>2</sub> and BC

# Cost comparison for 1 year of continuous monitoring

## AethLabs & Clarity Black Carbon Module



**Savings with  
Clarity Black  
Carbon Module**

Multiwavelength Aethalometer		Dual Wavelength Aethalometer
Magee AE33	MetOne BC1054	MetOne BC 1060



**\$36,430**

**80%**



**\$30,910**

**78%**



**\$14,590**

**62%**

# Additional questions?

Contact us or visit the Clarity website

We're here to answer any questions!

[hello@clarity.io](mailto:hello@clarity.io)

Learn more on the Clarity website

[clarity.io](https://clarity.io)

Get a quote for your desired configuration

[clarity.io/build-your-solution](https://clarity.io/build-your-solution)

Build Your Solution

## Clarity Node-S

### Build your custom monitoring network

Use this page to review different configurations of Clarity Modules and request a quote for your custom Clarity network.

#### Add-on Modules

Click to see different configurations.

Wind

Black Carbon

O<sub>3</sub>

#### Node-S Details

The self-powered Clarity Node-S air sensor measures PM<sub>2.5</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> — and serves as a platform for all other Clarity modules.

#### Measurement Parameters

PM<sub>1</sub>

• PM<sub>2.5</sub>

PM<sub>2.5</sub>

• NO<sub>2</sub>

#### Selected Model

Clarity Node-S

#### Quantity

Let us know the quantity of this configuration you are interested in.

Type the number you'd like to order

Add to Quote

Get a Quote

Not sure what you need? [Get in touch](#)



**AETHLABS**

**Thank you!**

**Questions?**

