Exercise

Overview

Tools are available to access data about emissions to air, water and land in your neighborhood.

Objectives

1. Access electronic resources to find local information.

2. Demonstrate the use of these resources to identify location of emission sources and types of emissions from facilities in your zip code.

Facilitator Information

Time Requirement: 2 hours minimum

Number of Instructors: 1-2

Small group activity

Resources

- Participant manual
- Downloaded 'help' resources for each tool to be used
- Laptops or tablet computers. EPA recommends using Google Chrome to access the tools.
- Smart phone needed if myRTK mobile app is demonstrated
- Easels and easel paper or marker board to record feedback
- SDS dictionary or other glossary (such as from the MWC website) for each small group
- Locally useful handout (to be prepared by the facilitator prior to the session) showing several screens, to supplement the Participant manual

Preparation

Become familiar with **MyEnvironment**. This could take up to 8 hours. An excellent tutorial is shown at https://sites.google.com/site/ejinfotnstate. Additional notes follow.

Click on 'how to use this page (upper right hand side of page, near the 'select a new location' box'. Additional guidance is shown below to aid in maneuvering the site:

MyMaps

Upper left corner of map

Change scale

Change view (road, aerial)

Labels (buildings, road names)

Show/hide icons

Upper right corner of map—Map Contents, expand to see menu

Select by adding check in box the type of data desired

(example, air→air emissions)

The symbol (a cloud) will show on this tool bar, and on the map

Hover over a symbol on the map

Chemistry flask: EPA Site Report

Hard Hat: Inspection and Compliance Report (detailed ECHO report for the facility)

Bulls eye: 2010 census data for 1 mile around the facility

RSS feed and Google Earth links also shown

Lower left of map

Print: the map

Download Data: for example, create a spread sheet of all sites regulated regarding air emissions—longitude, latitude, EPA ID, name, address, zip code

Grab this Map: add to e-mail, website

MyAir

Air Quality Index

Click ‘more’ to find data for all states. Click on ‘archive’ for data on any date you specify. Click on’ Air Quality Maps Archive’ for daily (by month) historical maps for the US since 2011.

Map (see above)

Radon

Hazard by County for the state of the zip code you selected

Click county of the zip code or ‘more’ for specific guidance

Click another county for that specific guidance

UV Index

Click ‘more’ for expanded information

MyWater

Water Quality Assessment Map

Water Quality Monitoring Activities

Drinking Water Sources

Drinking Water Information Systems

Watersheds

New/Expiring Permits

Water conditions

Streamflow

MyEnergy

Energy Production: for the state of the zip code you entered

Map (see above): find users who must report to EPA

Home Energy Saver: use to identify savings, and compare with community

In My Back Yard: Determine savings from solar/wind; identify site for installation

Green Power Locator: local resources, based on zip code

Fuel Cost Calculator: calculates cost of motor vehicle; approaches to reducing energy needs and production of greenhouse gases. (use side bar to see the other DOE resources)

Biomass: seems to be down, check it out prior to session

Energy Star: tip of the day and link to rebates for appliances

MyHealth

Map (see above): locate cancer, infant mortality and low birthweight risk for the zip code chosen.

Cancer Risk: shows source characteristics (for example, mobile sources) and the chemicals associated with the risk. 'click to get the whole list' provides the full listing.

Low Birth Weight: compares the county of the zip code with state and National

Mortality: limited to infant mortality

ToxMap: display all TRI and NPL sites

MyLand

Map: identify location of emergency incidents, Superfund sites, RCRA sites, toxic releases to land, Brownfield properties, companies filing biennual reports to EPA (see above)

Brownfields: provides links to background on Brownfields

Hazardous Waste: provides links to background on Hazardous Waste

Superfund: provides links to background on the Superfund Program

Cleanups in my Community: can generate a map of cleanups, and then access cleanup report.

MyCommunity

Map: identify the locaction of a wide range of green actions (note that you can identify neighborhoods, by name)

MyEnvironmental Reports

Links to reports relevant to the zip code selected

MyRTK and **ECHO** (You may want to become familiar with these using guidance cited in the Participant Guide, even if not used in the program as questions might arise that could be answered by resources in these tools.)

Use *MyEnvironment* to prepare an example using a zip code that may be of interest to participants. This could take up to two hours, depending on familiarity with this resource.

Assure that there are enough internet connections for small groups of participants.

Prepare a handout of screens that may be helpful to participants following the exercise. (examples in the appendix to this document).

Presentation of the Exercise

Introduce a facility that may report to EPA using a local example or the interactive site shown at http://www2.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program/explore-tri-facility that also includes some of the jargon of EPA.

Access *MyEnvironment* for an overview.

http://www.epa.gov/myenvironment and enter a zip code

Referring to the Participant Guide, identify the eight screens that are listed.

On *MyMap*,

- demonstrate the controls tool bars, including the left side bar that floats
- show the icons that appear when hovering over a site
- show how the sites change, as the request for Map Contents is changed
- identify the 'how to use this page' information

Briefly introduce the other screens, referring to the participant guide

Have participants use classroom laptops or notebooks to access the site. Use Google Chrome for best results.

Review the Worksheet

Facilitate a discussion to determine what participants would like to learn about their neighborhood. List these information needs on the easel paper and post. Link these

needs with the *MyEnvironment* sceen(s) to aid in searching. As appropriate, break class into groups of 3-4 based on interest area.

Ask 1 participant in each group to be the recorder for the discussion.

The groups should work for about 30 minutes getting familiar with the site, and finding information. Complete the Worksheet as the information is found.

Facilitate a discussion during the report back. Refer to the posting of information that participants wanted to find, and identify if there are still needs. Use your knowledge of *MyEnvironment* and the resources in the **More Information** section of the Participant Guide to point participants toward that information.

Make notes of feedback on how to improve this exercise.

Specifically,

Acronyms

Terms that should be defined

Time constraints of the exercise

Items you were not able to answer

Other

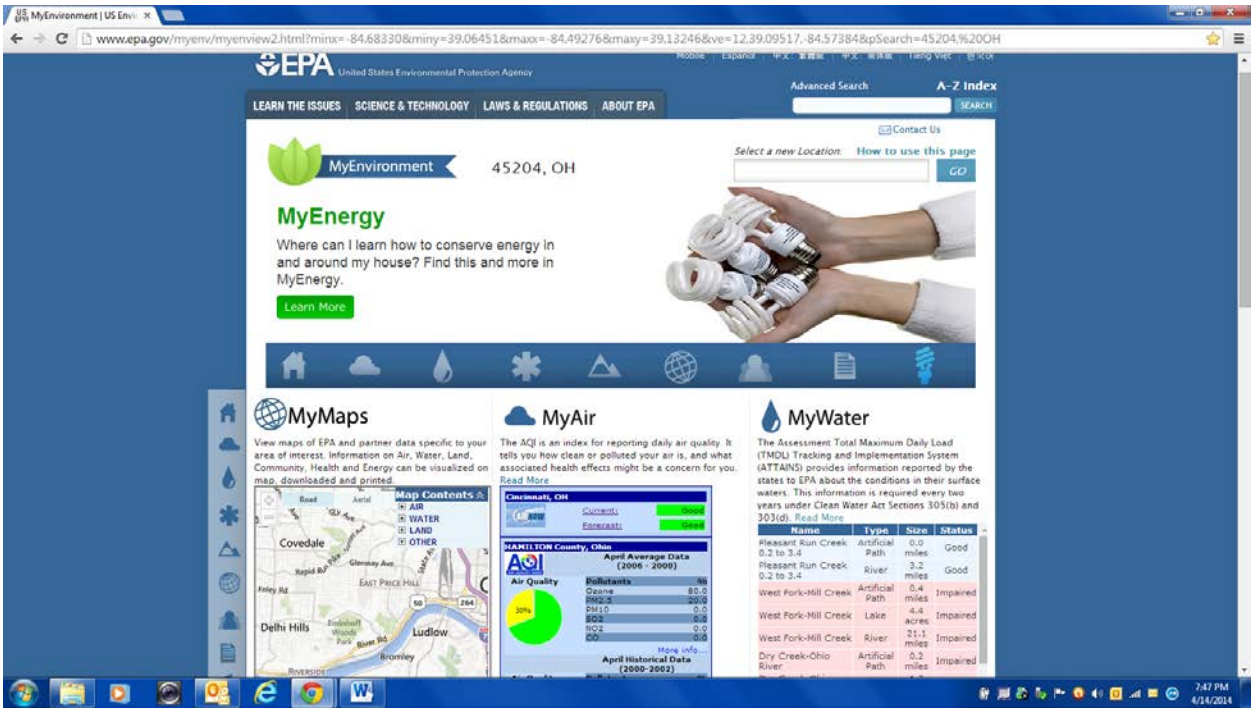
Acknowledgement:

The Midwest Consortium gratefully acknowledges the careful review and helpful comments by Dr. Ebony Turner, Assistant Director of Operations, Education and Training, Dillard University Deep South Center for Environmental Justice.

APPENDIX

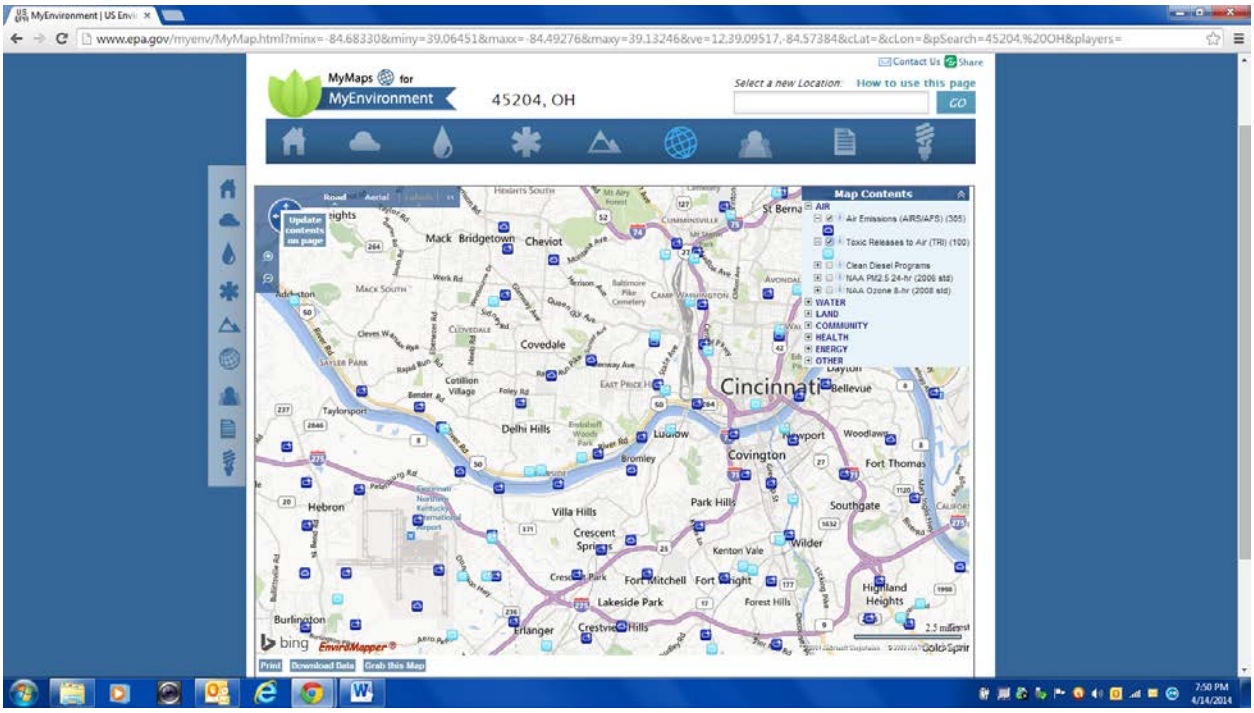
Prepare a handout for participants, with a focus on the interests of participants or your area. The following is for zip code 45204 in Ohio.

The following image shows the home page, with the selected zip code, tool bar at the top and down the side and three topics: *MyMaps, MyAir, MyWater*

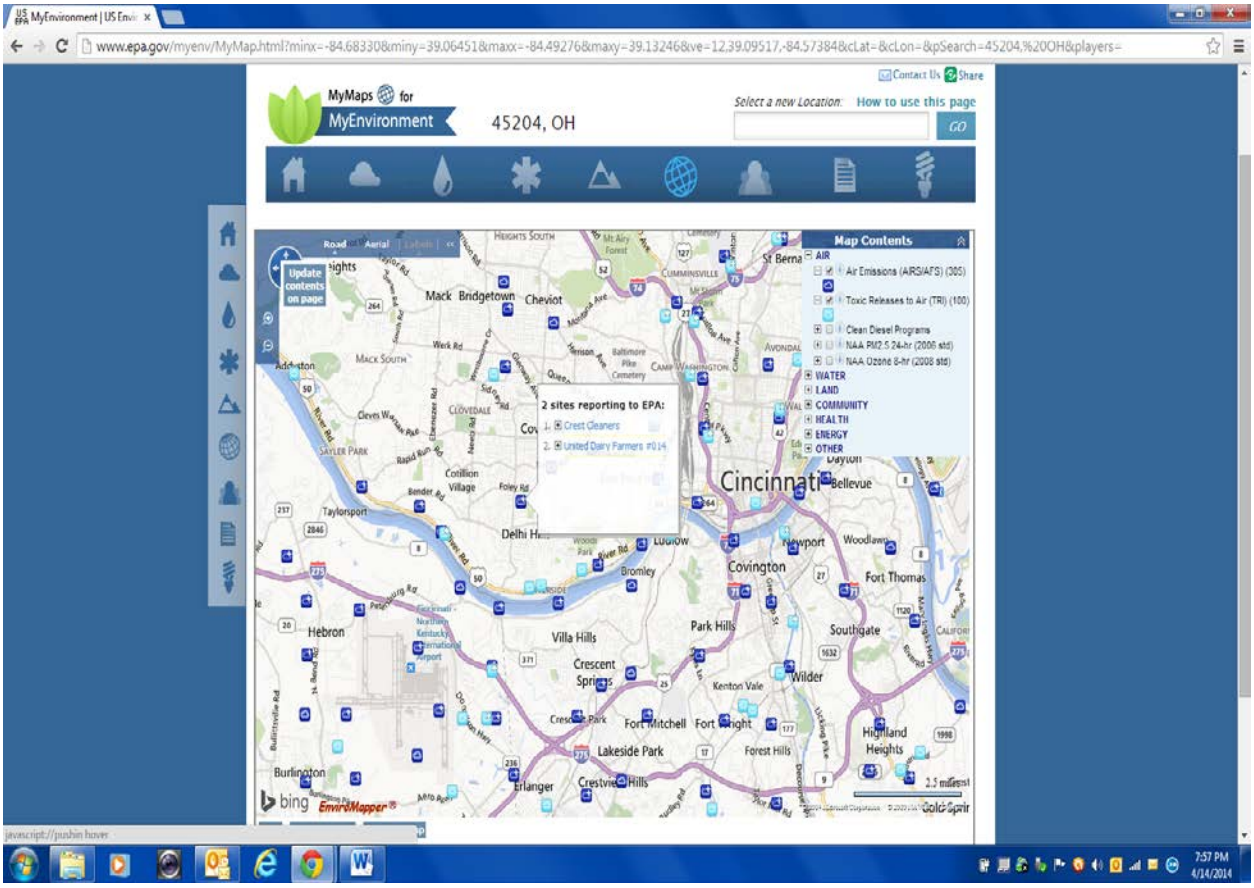


Open ***MyMaps*** and expand the *Air Emissions* and *Toxic Release to Air* selections. Note the symbols on the map: a dark blue cloud for air and a lighter blue cloud for TRI.

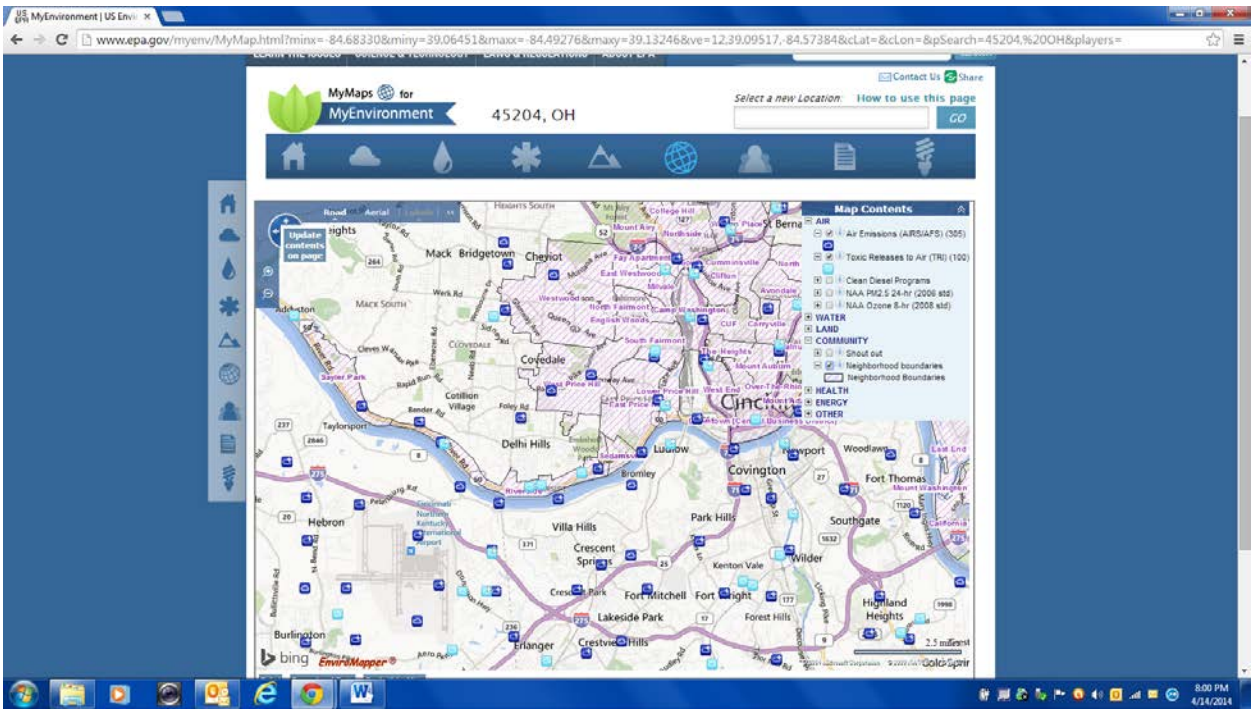
When a cloud has a + sign, there is more than one site.



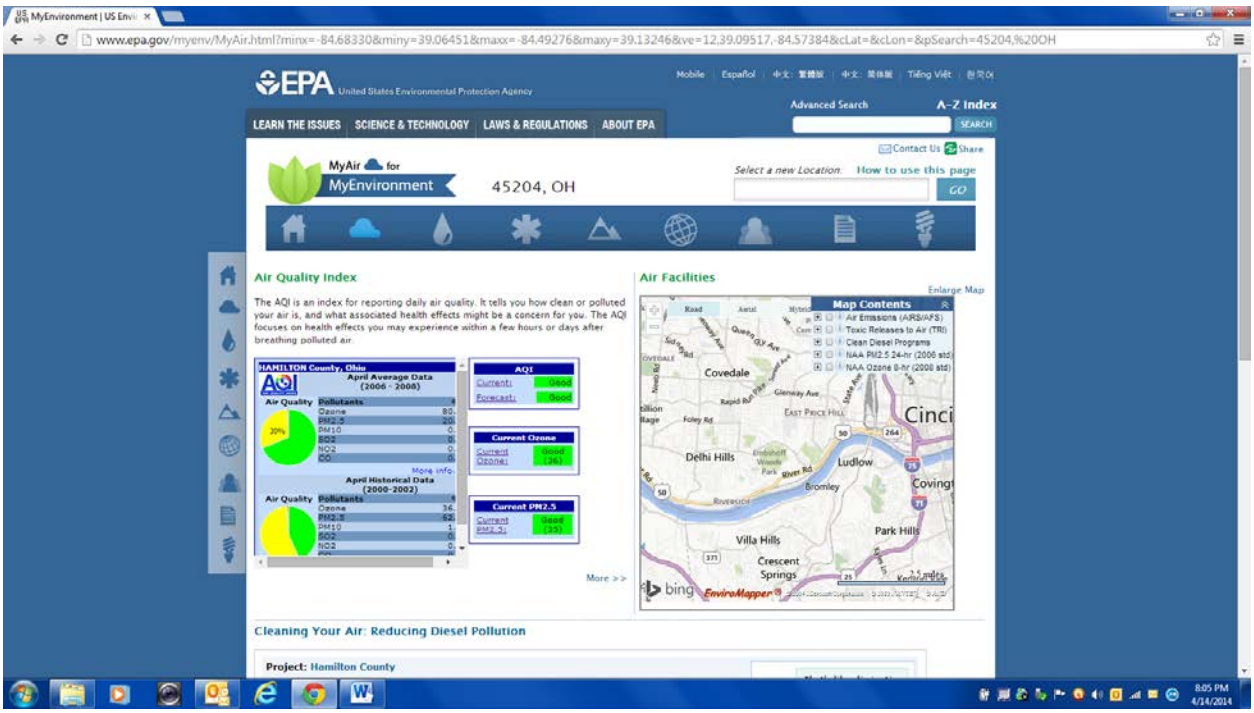
Hover over a cloud with a + sign, and the names of the sites will show as seen below:



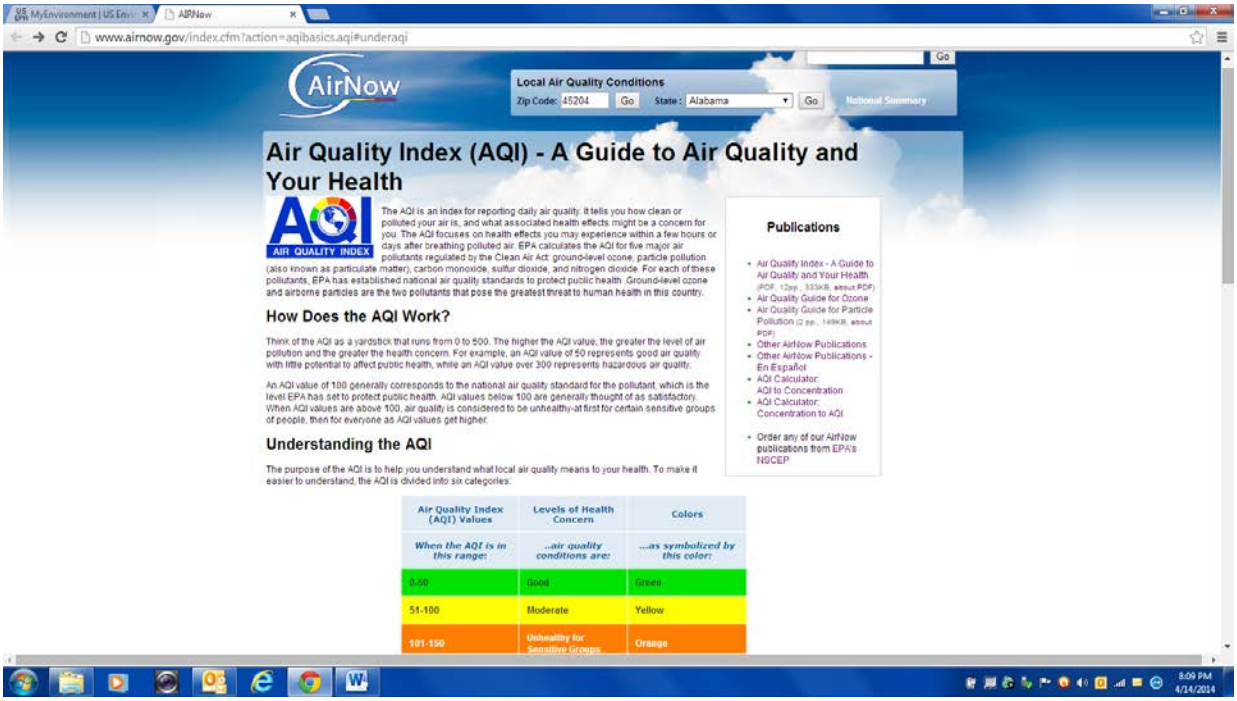
Identify neighborhoods by opening ‘Community’.



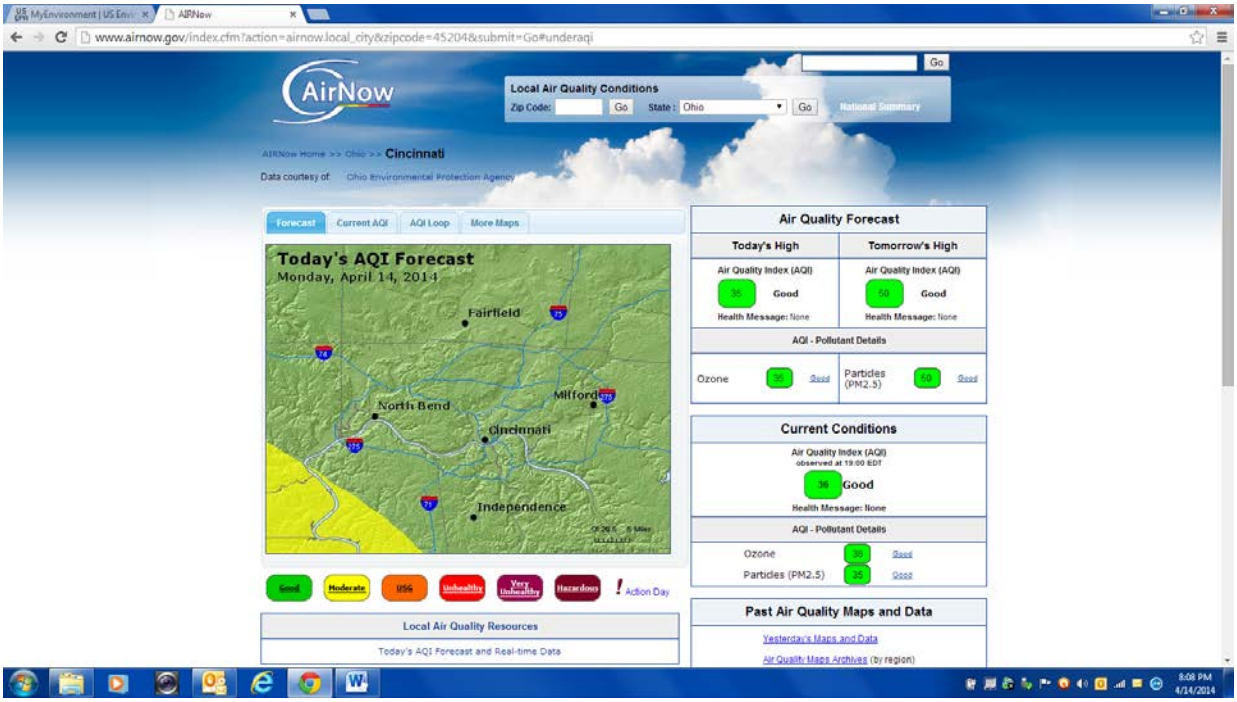
Open *MyAir*, and note that the map appears and can be used as in *MyMap*.



Click on ‘current’ in the AQI box to see overall information about the Air Quality Index



After entering the zip code, the following screen is shown.



Tailor the selected screens to the interests of the participants and/or the zip code of the session.