



GRADES
5-6

VIDEO CONTEST

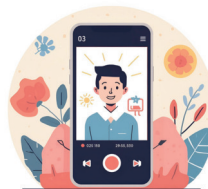
Theme:



Together for Healthier Air!



Your group could
win a **science kit** &
recognition on
social media!



Creative ways that
everyone can help
keep the air healthy
individually and
community-wide!

CONTEST RULES

- 60 seconds max per video; content based on theme
- One submission per group/classroom (minimum of 5 students per group)
- Due no later than February 2, 2026
- Upload videos via YouTube
- Submit link, entry form, and release form

For more information & materials, visit:

epa.illinois.gov/topics/education/contest



Contact Information

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IEPA's Video Contest

Video Contest Rules:

- Length up to one minute (60 seconds) max; can include live filmed components, animations, text slides, etc.—be creative!
 - Participation occurs on the classroom/group level. Groups can include homeschool units, 4-H clubs, scout troops, after-school clubs, etc.
 - Each school classroom or group with a **minimum of five students** may submit one video for judging
 - Participants must be in the 5th and/or 6th grade; teacher/adult will be main point of contact
 - Videos are uploaded on YouTube; entry form with link and consent form must be submitted to: EPA.contest@illinois.gov no later than **February 2, 2026**
 - Any inappropriate material will be automatically disqualified
 - All work must be original and cannot contain copyrighted material, including background music
 - Videos will be judged on their message, creativity, and originality
- Note: Winning videos will be used for Illinois EPA educational purposes and played on social media and posted on websites, etc.

Entries must engage with air quality strategies in accordance with this year's theme: "Together for Healthier Air!" thinking creatively on the many ways that everyone can help make a difference for healthier air both individually and community-wide and how to communicate those effectively.

Helpful Steps:

- Plan your script and props before you film
- Think about your cast: who/what will you show to communicate your message?
- Decide what kind of camera/phone you will use to record and practice filming
- Edit your project: programs like iMovie; Adobe Express; OpenShot, TikTok, and CapCut are all useful for editing
- Upload on YouTube (details here: <https://www.youtube.com/creators>)
- A positive and helpful/upbeat message is received better than a negative tone
- Focus should be on Illinois

Awards

- You could win recognition on social media and Illinois EPA's website
- The top three winner groups will receive classroom science kits and a group certificate

Reference Material

- Illinois EPA curricula units:
 - *How Does a Bulb Light?* <https://epa.illinois.gov/topics/education/pathways.html>
 - *How Does My Environment Affect Me?*
<https://pathways.mste.illinois.edu/curriculum/environmental-justice>
- AirNow, Education Resources: <https://www.airnow.gov/education/>
- US EPA
 - Teaching Resources: <https://www.epa.gov/students/lesson-plans-teacher-guides-and-online-environmental-resources-educators>
 - Indoor Air Quality Tools for School: <https://www.epa.gov/iaq-schools>
- PBS, Kids Go Green: Reducing Air Pollution: <https://illinois.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/ee18-sci-airpol/kids-go-green-reducing-air-pollution/>
- Subject to Climate, 5 Ways to Teach About Air Pollution: <https://subjecttoclimate.org/teacher-guides/5-ways-to-teach-about-air-pollution>
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Air Pollution and Your Health: <https://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/topics/agents/air-pollution>
- National Geographic, Air Pollution: <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/air-pollution/>

Video Contest Entry Identification

School/Group:

Educator/Contact Name:

YouTube Username:

Link to YouTube Video:

Address:

City:

Zip:

County:

Email:

Phone number:

Grade(s):

Number of students:

Student names:

Group statement from the students about why the theme is important to them:

Please email to: EPA.contest@illinois.gov

Video Contest Appearance and Material Release Form 2026

In consideration that (group/class name), _____
at (school/organization) _____
in (city) _____ has entered the Illinois Environmental
Protection Agency's *Together for Healthier Air* Video Contest and said video is the property of
the Illinois EPA. I hereby give my consent to the Illinois EPA to publish the **group/class name,
school, city, and video** on the Illinois EPA's Internet site and social media for educational,
informational, marketing, or other purposes deemed necessary.

I hereby waive any right that I may otherwise have to inspect or approve the finished
product, or the manner of its use chosen by the Illinois EPA. I also release, discharge, and agree
to hold harmless the Illinois EPA to whom this consent and waiver is given from any liability by
virtue of any blurring, distortion, alteration, or use in composite form, whether intentional or
otherwise, that may occur or be produced in the taking of said video or in any processing, or in
the distribution. I understand that I shall receive no compensation whatsoever in connection
with the foregoing, beyond participation. I hereby waive all rights of privacy in connection with
the use of the class name, school, city, photo, or video. I also waive any and all rights, whether
explicit or implied, in the material and consent without reservation to the Illinois EPA using,
distributing or otherwise making available the material to other parties as it sees fit.

***It is the group leader and/or teacher's responsibility to make sure that all the participating
students have been allowed by their guardians/parents to participate in this contest.***

Teacher/Group Leader Name (over 18 years of age)

Email

School/Group Name

Address

Signature _____ **Date** _____