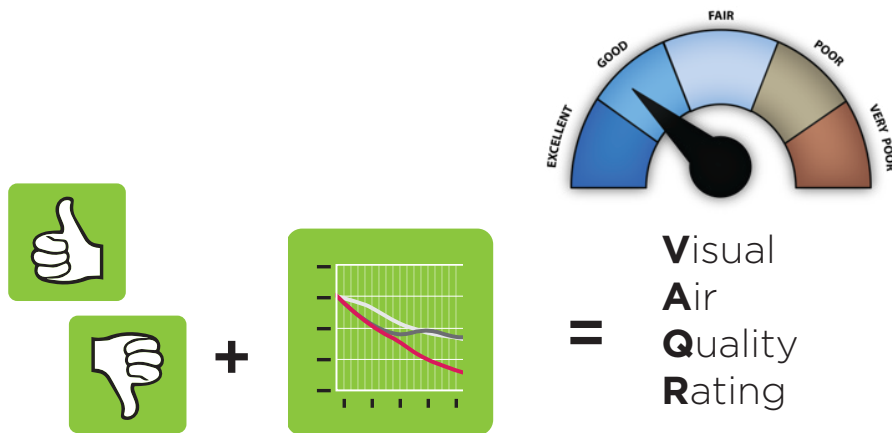


THE VISUAL AIR QUALITY RATING

Visual air quality is affected by pollutant levels as well as weather conditions. To account for these factors and report visual air quality in a clear way, we've created a scale called the Visual Air Quality Rating (VAQR).

Since "good" visual air quality can mean different things to different people, we invited over 300 residents of Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley Regional District to "rate" different visual air quality conditions. We then compared those ratings to the levels of the pollutants that impair visual air quality.



By combining statistics from the resident surveys with the measurements of air pollutants, we defined five categories of visual air quality -- "excellent", "good", "fair", "poor" and "very poor". The VAQR describes current visual air quality conditions using these categories.

It's important to remember that the VAQR tells us about the impacts of air pollution (not clouds, fog, rain or darkness) on the clarity of the view. For this reason, the VAQR is "Not Available" during the night or when humidity is over 75%. Although the VAQR is based on measurements at one location, it represents the surrounding area as well.

Visit www.clearairbc.ca/community to check the Visual Air Quality Rating at a location near you.



EXCELLENT



GOOD



FAIR



POOR



VERY POOR