



CLIMATE SMART
GLACIER

CLEAN AIR POP-UP

The blanket of wildfire smoke that settled into Flathead Valley this summer affects everyday life for residents, ranging from minor irritation to life-threatening impacts for people with chronic health problems. A series of pop-up events across the valley highlighted public spaces where people can escape smoke and heat and learn how they can protect their families from poor air quality.



Columbia Falls Community Center (Aug. 24, 2026)
Gateway Community Center -Kalispell (Aug. 25, 2026)
Whitefish Library (Aug. 27, 2026)

*“Participating in this program has been an eye-opening experience. We learned so much about maintaining the HVAC systems to provide clean air spaces. We hope to continue this partnership.”
(Mary Sorenson – Director Columbia Falls Community Center)”*

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Impact

- Displays & Demonstrations on DIY air filters with box fans.
- Raffle for free HEPA air filter & give away of filters for box fans
- Free “Living in Harmony with Fire” books & clean air activity books for school age children
- Expanded partnerships with community groups to provide clean air spaces & education
- Worked with partners to donate 18 HEPA Air filter units to low-income households
- Clean air centers upgraded HVAC systems to better filter smoke and provide cleaner air.



(Filters before and after smoke event the week of Aug. 9. Photo courtesy of Whitefish Library)

Media Coverage

<https://www.kpax.com/news/local-news/flathead-county/new-community-clean-air-centers-showcased-in-flathead-county>

<https://flatheadbeacon.com/2026/08/23/wildfire-smoke-prompts-clean-air-pop-up-events-in-flathead-valley/>

<https://dailyinterlake.com/news/2026/aug/20/clean-air-centers-in-flathead-host-open-houses-dai/>

* Additional media coverage in Hungry Horse News, Whitefish Pilot, NBC Montana, and KGEZ Radio. Social media posts on Facebook, Instagram, and Climate Smart Glacier blog.

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