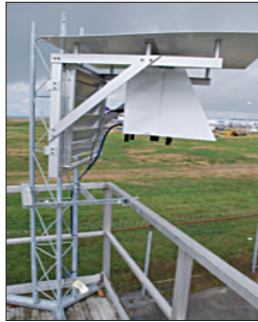


MEASURING VISUAL AIR QUALITY

Visual air quality is measured at several monitoring stations in Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley Regional District (together known as the Lower Fraser Valley). We use several types of equipment to track and report visual air quality.



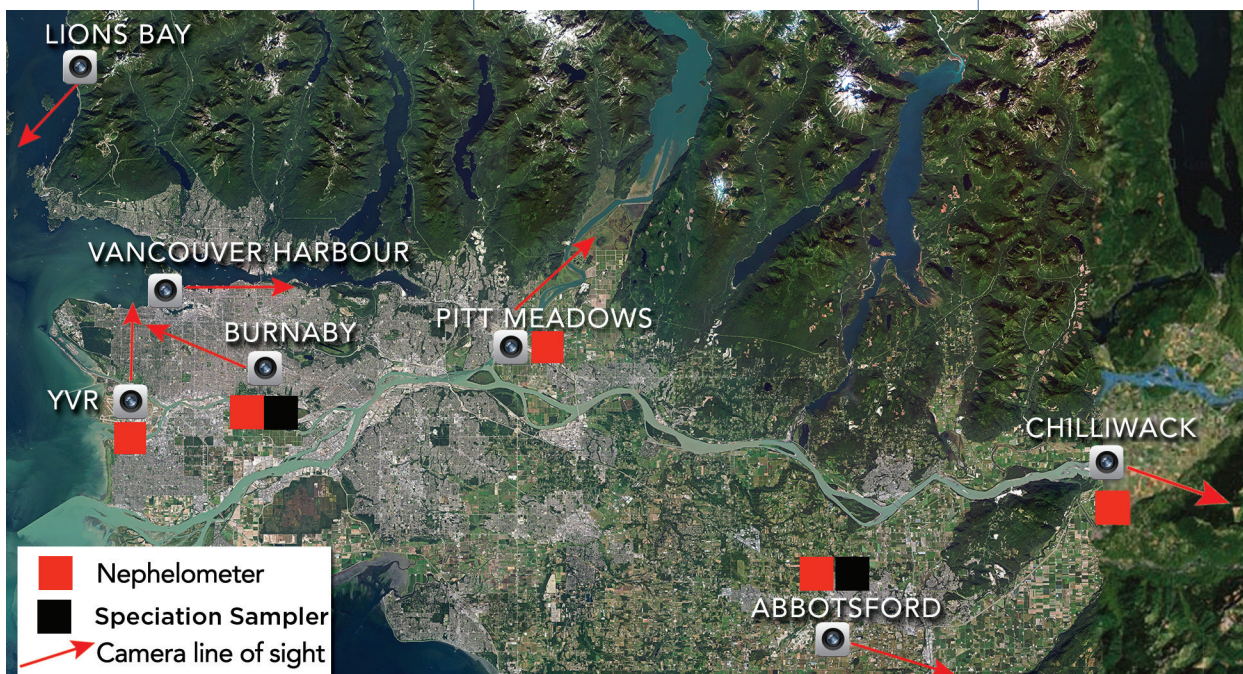
CAMERA The easiest way to capture visual air quality is to record a scene using digital photographs under a variety of lighting conditions and pollutant levels. Cameras take pictures every 30 minutes at several locations in the Lower Fraser Valley (see map below).



NEPHELOMETER
A nephelometer records the amount of light that is scattered by particles and gases in the air, providing a quantitative measurement of visual air quality.



SPECIATION SAMPLERS
By collecting samples of fine particulate matter over 24 hours and performing tests to determine chemical composition, we can learn what kinds of particles affect visual air quality the most.



The Lower Fraser Valley visual air quality monitoring network. Arrows reflect the “line of sight” (or the direction toward which the camera is facing) for each camera featured on clearairbc.ca. For example, the Abbotsford camera takes photos of Mount Baker to the southeast.