



## FIX THE HARM FROM SEATAC AIRPORT FLIGHTS EDUCATION CAMPAIGN



Dear neighbors near and far,

Our Beacon Hill community is greatly impacted by SeaTac Airport flights. Pre-COVID-19, SeaTac had 450,000 take-offs and landings<sup>i</sup>. Aircraft flew as often as every 90-180 seconds over Beacon Hill<sup>ii</sup>. The number of flights dropped to 250,000 during the pandemic and they are going back up quickly.

SeaTac flights impact 419,761 residents living near the airport and under flight paths. The population includes 64% people of color/mixed race, 29% immigrants and refugees, 22% children/youth, and 12% elders. The near airport communities include Burien, Des Moines, Federal Way, Normandy Park, Renton, SeaTac, and Tukwila. Communities that are not near the airport but are under the flight paths include Beacon Hill, Georgetown, Duwamish, White Center, and Chinatown International District.<sup>iii</sup>

We are deeply concerned about the environmental, health, climate and equity impacts of aircraft air and noise pollution.

Beacon Hill Council & El Centro De La Raza

### Join us in expressing concerns for the environmental, health, and climate justice impacts of SeaTac Airport flights.

**Environmental:** Flight take-offs and landings produce air pollution that includes Particulate Matter 2.5, noxious chemicals, and ultrafine particles that settle over our communities. We breathe in this air. Aircrafts also produce noise pollution above 65 decibels, well above the World Health Organization guideline of 55 decibels of environmental noise during the day and 45 decibels at night. Beacon Hill and several other impacted communities are not eligible for noise mitigation. There is no mitigation for air pollution, and ultrafine particles are not regulated.

**Health<sup>iv</sup>:** The 2020 King County Public Health report, "Community Health and Airport Operations Related Noise and Air Pollution,"<sup>v</sup> profiled the health of airport-impacted communities within one mile, 1-5 miles, and 5-10 miles of SeaTac Airport. Table 16 on page 22 shows the following health outcomes:

- Noise and air pollution **cause** cardiovascular problems.
- Air pollutants **cause** respiratory issues, cancer, and central nervous system problems.
- Air pollutants **likely cause** low birth weight.

Other studies show that ultrafine particles can lead to decreased lung function and impair cognitive abilities in children.<sup>vi</sup>

**Climate:** We have only 8 years to prevent irreversible climate temperature change. Aviation emissions will account for 25% of the global carbon budget by 2050<sup>vii</sup>. In 2017, tailpipe emissions from aviation fuel pumped at SeaTac Airport contributed an estimated 5,804,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, or close to a quarter of King County's emissions<sup>viii</sup>. Also, the non-CO<sub>2</sub> impacts of aviation emissions cause them to have three times the climate warming impact as on-the-ground emissions<sup>ix</sup>.

**Equity:** COVID-19 showed us that vulnerable communities (such as people of color, immigrants and refugees, and low-income people) experience faster and harder impacts. The 419,716 airport impacted residents include 64% people of color and 29% immigrants and refugees. Beacon Hill has 40,601 residents with 73% people of color and 40% immigrants and refugees. These are vulnerable communities.<sup>x xi</sup>

**Historic Properties:** Chinatown International District is a landmarked historic district and north Beacon Hill has 47 sites that meet landmarking criteria. Aircraft air and noise pollution contribute to the degradation of these historic properties.

<sup>xii xiii xiv</sup>

**SeaTac Airport is planning to service more flights to meet the increase in regional demand: going from 47 to 66 million passengers, doubling international flights, and tripling air cargo. When the time comes, this letter will be included in the comments to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) about the SeaTac Airport service expansion.**

**SUPPORT AIRPORT IMPACTED COMMUNITIES!  
WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER.**

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- <sup>i</sup> Weathering the Storm: 2020 By the Numbers See Operations [https://www.portseattle.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/By%20the%20Numbers%20InfoG\\_3.pdf](https://www.portseattle.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/By%20the%20Numbers%20InfoG_3.pdf)
- <sup>ii</sup> 2018 EPA/EI Centro De La Raza Noise & Air Measurement community scientists projects. See [videos](#) [Neighborhood Noise Map](#) and 2017 Earth Day Blue Sky Trails: [Video / Data / Photos Residential Noise Map](#), [Cleveland HS Noise Study](#), and [Residential Noise Map](#) and [Cleveland HS Noise Study](#). Or READ the results in the [2018 Air & Noise Pollution Health Impacts Project Accomplishments Report](#). See pages: 14 to 15 for Beacon Arts Blue Sky Trails project; Cleveland HS Noise Study pages 16-38 for Cleveland HS Environmental Club project with analysis by WWU Huxley Institute Dr. Troy Abel; and pages 39-61 for Beacon Hill Noise Measurement Project report and analysis which had been [updated](#) at the Residential Noise Map.
- <sup>iii</sup> SeaTac Airport Impacted Communities 2020 Census Data.pdf <https://1drv.ms/p/s!AsxiHr7uaVr-syCOIH4Uieyrr7BB?e=XlctEM>
- <sup>iv</sup> Beacon Hill/Georgetown/South Park 98108 zip code residents Duwamish Valley Cumulative Health Impact Analysis Poster <http://justhealthaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/JHA-Gould-Cumulative-Impacts-APHA-Nov-2013.pdf> and full report <http://justhealthaction.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/Duwamish-Valley-Cumulative-Health-Impacts-Analysis-Seattle-WA.pdf>
- <sup>v</sup> Community Health and Airport Operations Related to Noise and Air Pollution December 1, 2020. [https://apps.leg.wa.gov/ReportsToTheLegislature/Home/GetPDF?fileName=Community%20Health%20and%20Airport%20Operations%20Related%20Pollution%20Report\\_c7389ae6-f956-40ef-98a7-f85a4fab1c59.pdf](https://apps.leg.wa.gov/ReportsToTheLegislature/Home/GetPDF?fileName=Community%20Health%20and%20Airport%20Operations%20Related%20Pollution%20Report_c7389ae6-f956-40ef-98a7-f85a4fab1c59.pdf)
- <sup>vi</sup> <https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/full/10.1289/EHP5732>
- <sup>vii</sup> [https://theicct.org/sites/default/files/publications/ICCT\\_CO2-commercl-aviation-2018\\_20190918.pdf](https://theicct.org/sites/default/files/publications/ICCT_CO2-commercl-aviation-2018_20190918.pdf)
- <sup>viii</sup> <https://your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/climate/documents/201907-KingCounty-GHG-Emissions-Analysis.pdf>
- <sup>ix</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7468346/>
- <sup>x</sup> Community Health and Airport Operations Related to Noise and Air Pollution December 1, 2020. See pages 5 and 6 [https://apps.leg.wa.gov/ReportsToTheLegislature/Home/GetPDF?fileName=Community%20Health%20and%20Airport%20Operations%20Related%20Pollution%20Report\\_c7389ae6-f956-40ef-98a7-f85a4fab1c59.pdf](https://apps.leg.wa.gov/ReportsToTheLegislature/Home/GetPDF?fileName=Community%20Health%20and%20Airport%20Operations%20Related%20Pollution%20Report_c7389ae6-f956-40ef-98a7-f85a4fab1c59.pdf)
- <sup>xi</sup> SeaTac Airport Impacted Communities 2020 Census Data.pdf <https://1drv.ms/p/s!AsxiHr7uaVr-syCOIH4Uieyrr7BB?e=XlctEM>
- <sup>xii</sup> Seattle Chinatown US National Historic Designation <https://www.nps.gov/places/seattle-chinatown-historic-district.htm#:~:text=The%20Seattle%20Chinatown%20Historic%20District%20is%20listed%20in,referred%20to%20as%20the%20Seattle%20Chinatown%20International%20District.>
- <sup>xiii</sup> Seattle North Beacon Hill Historic Context Statement <https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/Neighborhoods/HistoricPreservation/HistoricResourcesSurvey/context-beacon-hill.pdf>
- <sup>xiv</sup> Beacon Hill Historic Properties Documentation that identified in the historic survey 47 sites that were determined to meet the definition of historic landmarking by Seattle Dept. of Neighborhoods Historic Preservation Program. [https://1drv.ms/u/s!AsxiHr7uaVr-pDU3a8EPBH\\_oA33I?e=ZwhkYY](https://1drv.ms/u/s!AsxiHr7uaVr-pDU3a8EPBH_oA33I?e=ZwhkYY)