

Beacon Hill Community Noise Team Fact Sheet

Who we are

The Beacon Hill Community Noise Team is a group of residents that came together to address the public health risk posed by excessive noise pollution. More than a nuisance, airplane and road noise has been proven to contribute to significant health problems, including [cardiovascular diseases](#) in older adults and [diminished learning](#) in children. The team documents noise levels for the purpose of providing relevant local, state, and federal officials with the necessary data to make informed decisions on policies that relate to noise and the health of Beacon Hill residents.

What we do

In 2018, community volunteers collected quality-assured, 24-hour noise measurement data throughout the neighborhood across several months. From 52 residential sites, 136 24-hour measurements were collected at 1-second intervals. Results are shown on an [online interactive map](#) along with a [detailed report](#) and, available through an open access license, all the raw data. Equipment specifications and measurements procedures are also available on our website ([here](#) and URL also shown below)

Noise data study results

- More than half of the measurements exceeded the loudness level for which homes located adjacent to an airport will receive mitigation from the Federal Aviation Administration.
- More than half of the measurements exceeded the Seattle City noise ordinance—by 100% to 800%.
- More than half exceeded a level to protect public health and welfare as identified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency by 100% to 800%.
- Compared to noise measurements collected by the Port of Seattle for locations closer to the airport, loudness levels in Beacon Hill are similar or louder than locations within 2 miles of the airport.

Working together to prevent harm

Today, aircraft fly over Beacon Hill every 90 to 180 seconds, and Port of Seattle expects an annual 8-12% increase in flights. King County Airport projects a compound growth rate of almost 4% annually.

Beacon Hill Community Noise Team seeks to work with local, state, and federal elected and public health officials and policy makers to reduce the impact of existing and future traffic. We invite residents to continue to document noise impacts, raise your voice, engage your neighbors, and contact your local/state/federal policy makers and elected officials.

About Beacon Hill

The Beacon Hill neighborhood of Seattle is uniquely situated to receive the brunt of noise pollution from the SeaTac and King County airports as well as road traffic.

- Aircraft arriving at Sea-Tac fly 2,500 feet or less overhead.
- Being on a hill results in a noise impact that is like being miles nearer to Sea-Tac airport.
- Beacon Hill is also ¼ to ½ mile from King County Airport.
- It's at the confluence of I-5 and I-90, the I-5 interchanges for the Industrial District and Seattle's port, and the I-5 interchange for the 6-lane West Seattle Bridge.

Even without noise pollution, the community carries an excessive burden of impacts to health and well-being as well as challenges in access to policy makers and government representatives.

In King County, Beacon Hill is in the top 25% for poverty, infant mortality, deaths due to diabetes and stroke, adults who are not vaccinated against pneumonia, and adults without health insurance.

Among its almost 40,000 residents, about 25% of those 25 years and older lack a high school diploma. About 80% consider themselves non-white. More than 30 languages other than English are spoken at home, and of those who don't speak English at home, less than half report being able to speak English "very well."

