American Lung Association.

Nationwide Radon Initiatives

EPA Region 5 Radon Stakeholders Meeting

August 14, 2025

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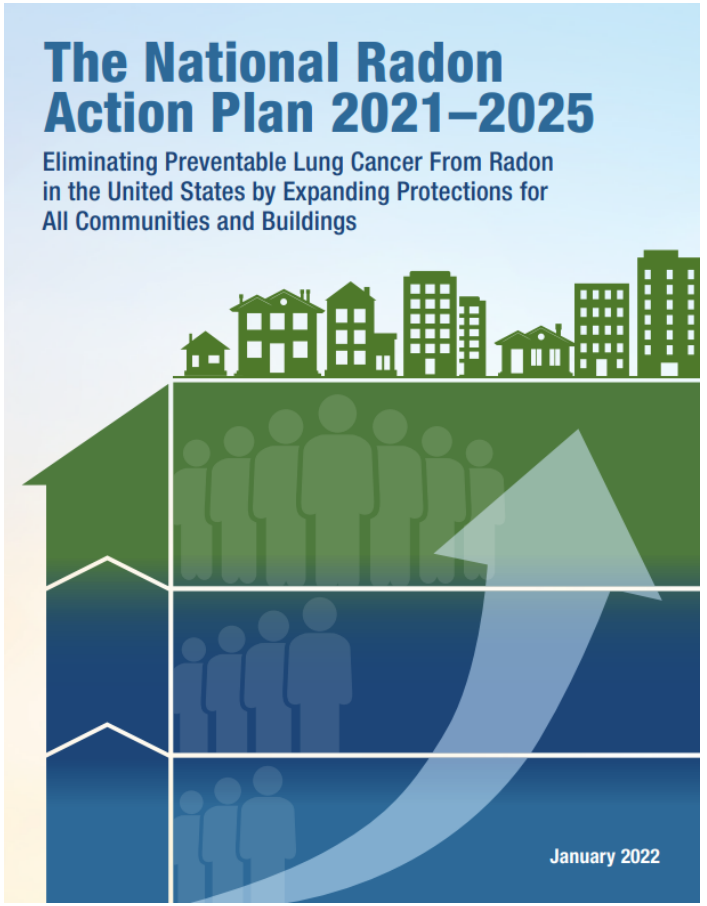
National Radon Action Plan (NRAP)

About NRAP

A framework to guide nationwide action to eliminate preventable lung cancer from radon in the U.S. by expanding protections for all communities and buildings.



Collaboration between 14 organizations:

- American Lung Association
- Indoor Environments Association (IEA)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- …and more!

American Lung Association

NRAP Implementation

Build in Radon Risk Reduction

Support Radon Risk Reduction

Build Capacity to Test and Mitigate Using Professional Radon Services

Increase Awareness of Radon Risk and Control Strategies

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NRAP Interim Progress Report

Decision makers nationwide have access to a growing source of radon testing data to help set priorities for risk reduction efforts.

Radon protection policies for tenants have increased.

Concern about healthy school environments prompts increased spending on infrastructure improvements and consideration of requirements for radon testing and mitigation.

The infrastructure for effective radon testing and mitigation capacity is growing.

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Resources

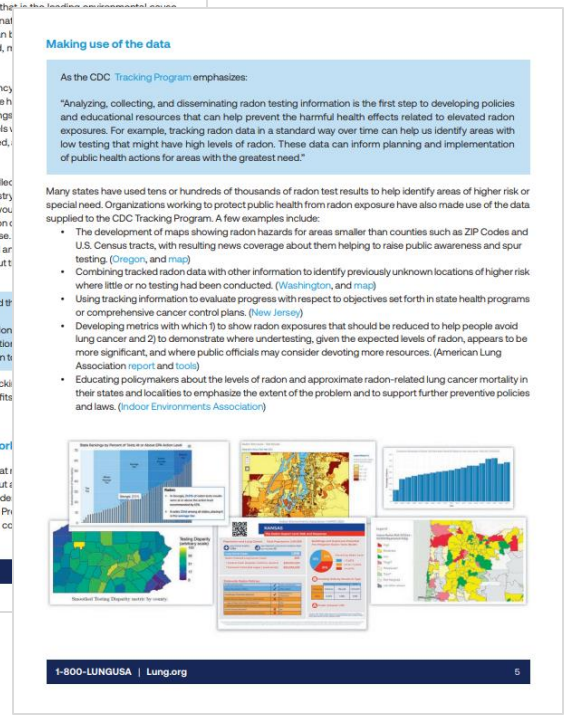
Lung.org/radon

Finding Funding to Fix Radon Problems (Webinar)

Learn about federal funding opportunities that can help support efforts to improve indoor air quality, including radon testing

Radon Testing Disparities in States

This series of state reports on testing disparities has been developed to help decisionmakers identify communities most in need of additional attention.



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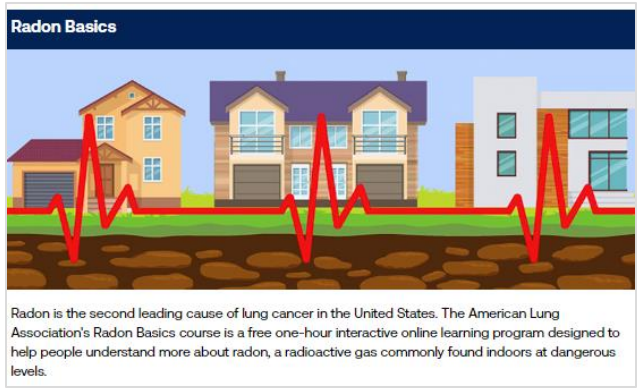
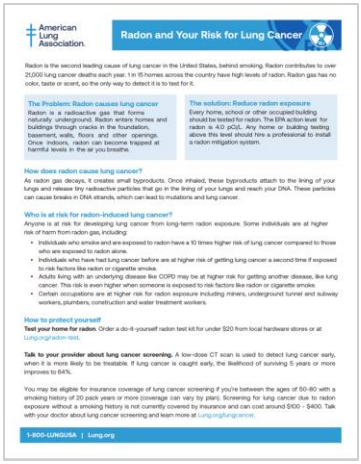
Nationwide Radon Resources

General Radon Resources

Lung.org/radon





- **Radon Basics:** FREE, online learning module to learn more about radon
- **Radon and Lung Health:** educational video about radon risks, testing and mitigation
- **What is Radon:** educational factsheet about finding and fixing radon problems
- **Radon and Your Risk for Lung Cancer:** handout educating those at high-risk for lung cancer

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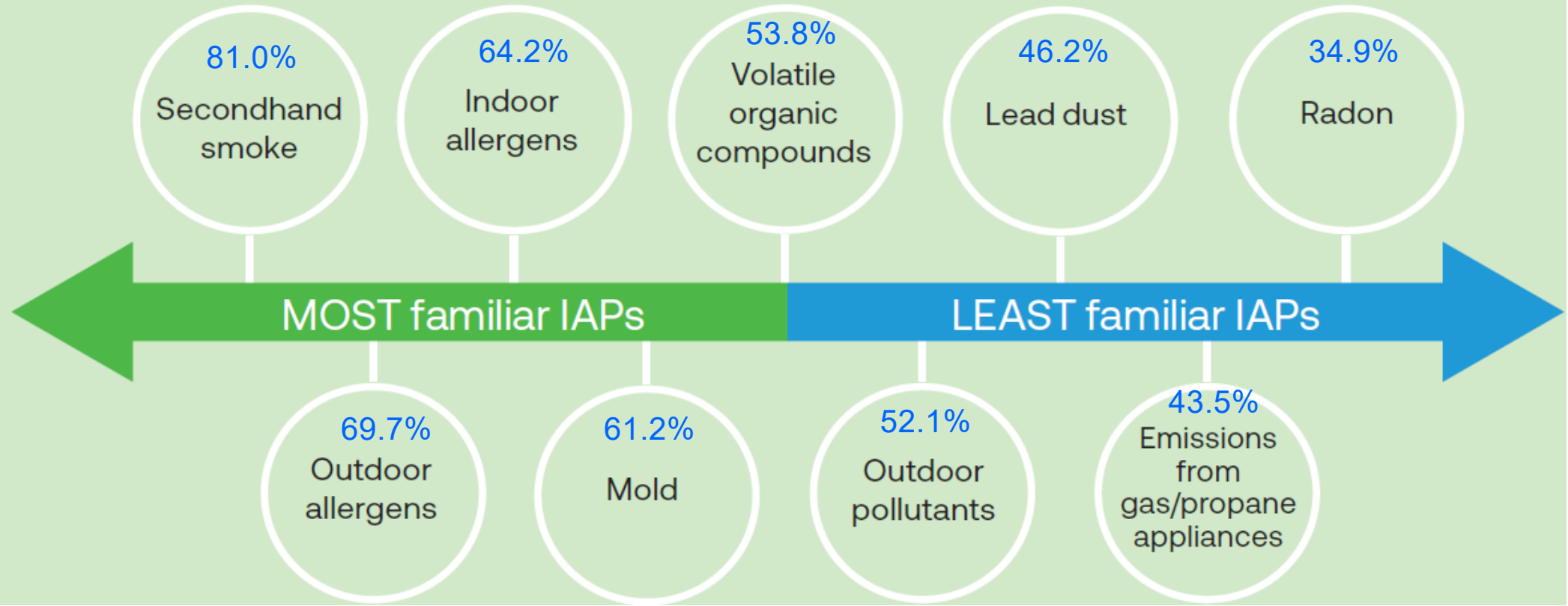
Healthcare Professional Survey



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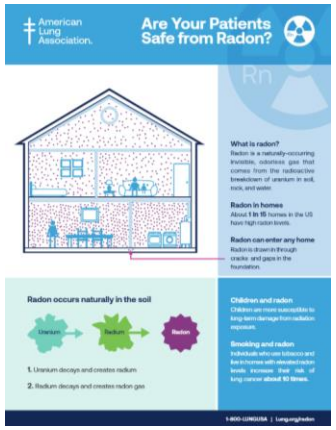
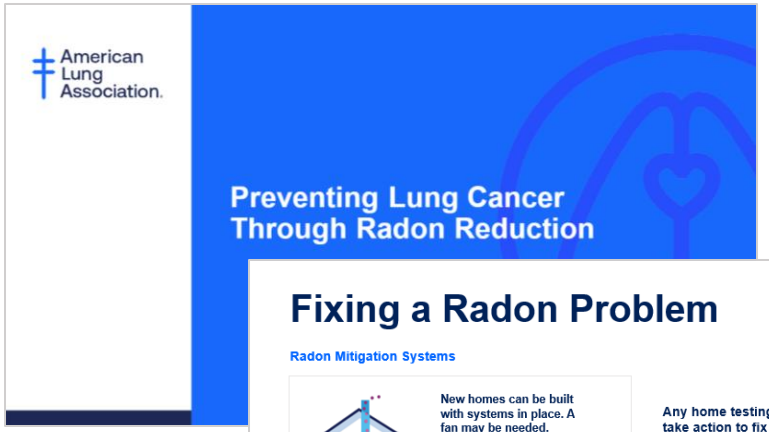
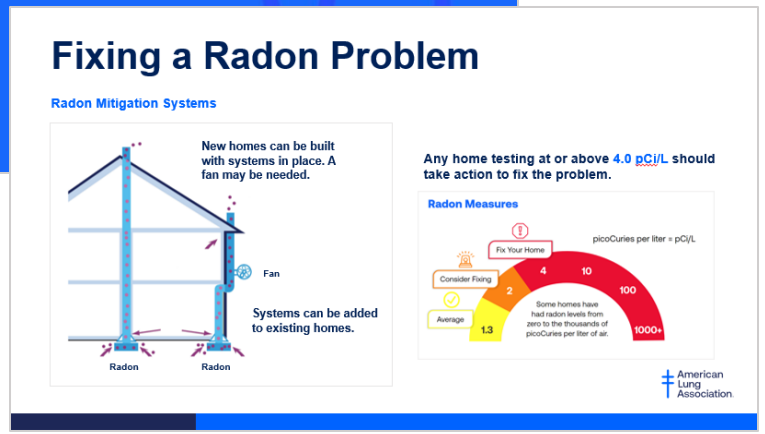
Healthcare Professionals

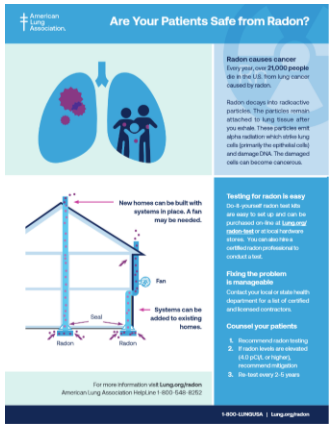


Consumer Video

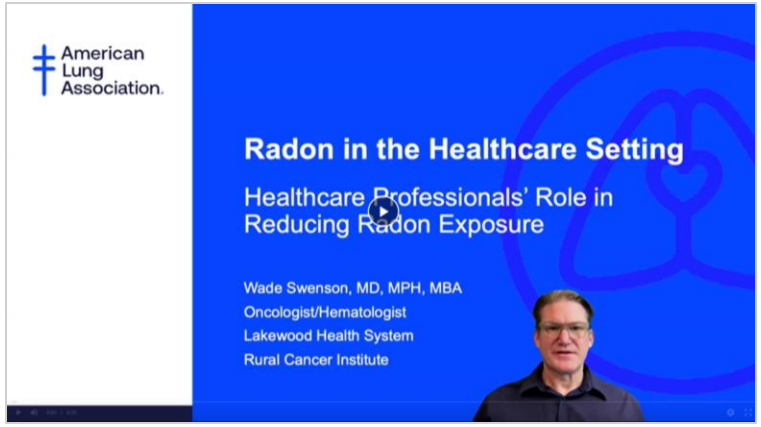




Educational Presentation Slide Deck



HCP Handout



HCP Educational Video

Decision Support Tool

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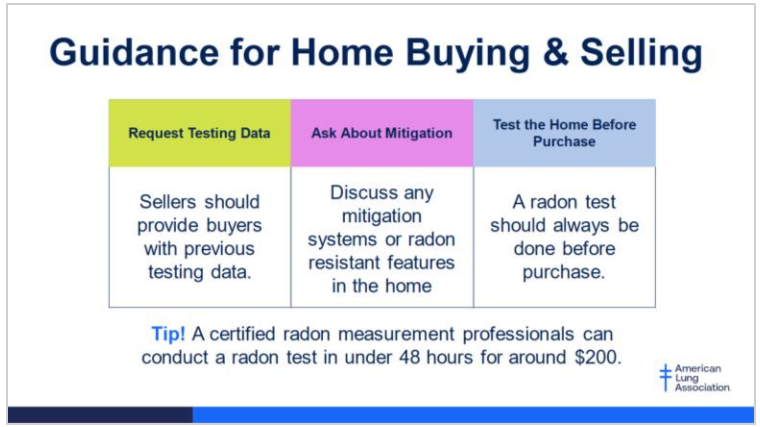
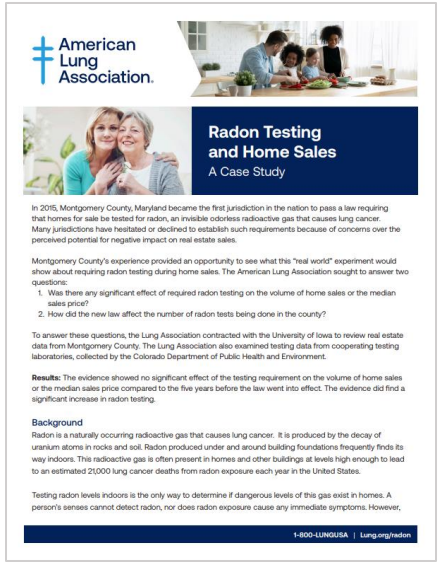
Real-Estate Professionals



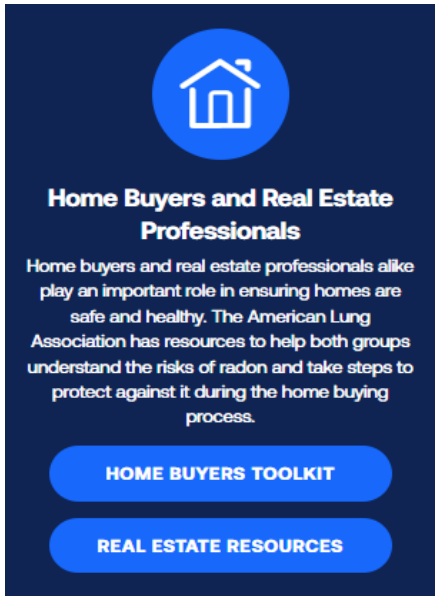
Educational Presentation Slide Deck

Webpage

Webinar



Case Study



Resource Toolkit

Schools

American Lung Association.

Radon Measurement Guidance for Schools

This guidance provides schools with an overview of the expectations, measurement process and requirements for radon testing.

What is Radon?

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas released in rock, soil, and water from the decay of uranium. It moves up through the ground and enters school buildings through cracks in the foundation, floors, walls, basement or other openings. Once indoors, it can become trapped at dangerous levels. Any building can have a radon problem, regardless of building age, foundation type, or presence of a basement.

Why Test Schools for Radon?

There are no immediate symptoms from radon, but long-term exposure can lead to lung cancer. Over time, radon breaks down into radioactive particles known as radon decay products. These decay products can become trapped in the lungs when inhaled and damage lung tissue by emitting radiation. Children have higher breathing rates and different lung sizes, which could cause children to breathe more radon into their lungs when exposed.

State Testing Requirements in Schools

Several states have laws that require schools to conduct radon testing, install mitigation systems or to incorporate radon-resistant new construction (RRNC) techniques. For a summary of current state radon testing requirements in schools, visit the Environmental Law Institute.

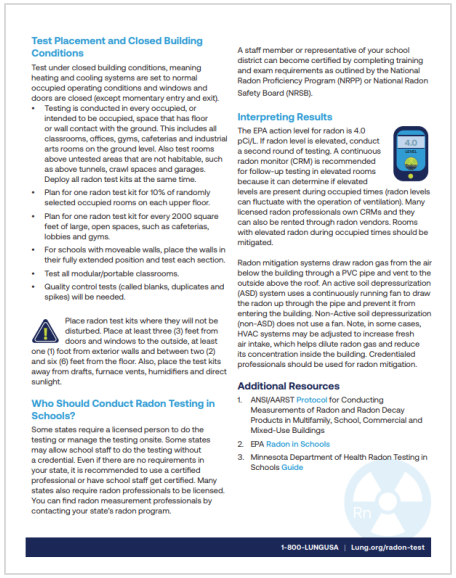
Where to Purchase Test Kits?

Short-term (3-7 days) charcoal-based radon test kits are recommended for school testing. Many test kits will be needed to cover testing areas for the building. Test kits may be purchased through state radon programs or the American Lung Association at Lung.org/radon-test.

When to Test?

- The best time for testing is between November 1 and March 31. These are colder months when the building's HVAC system is running, which helps assess radon levels in normal conditions.
- Test on school days, when students occupy the building, not during weekends or holidays.
- Testing from Monday through Thursday is recommended, with overnight shipping so the devices are analyzed on Friday.
- Test when HVAC maintenance and filter changes are current.
- Schools should be tested every five (5) years if the initial radon level is under 4.0 pCi/L (picocuries per liter of air). Test sooner if there are significant changes that affect radon levels, such as soil, HVAC system or foundation. Test sooner if untested areas start to be occupied. If a mitigation system is installed, radon testing should be conducted within 24 hours – 30 days from the installation and then every two (2) years.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a nationwide survey estimates one in five schools has at least one schoolroom with a short-term radon level above the action level of 4.0 pCi/L. The EPA estimates that more than 70,000 schoolrooms in use today have high short-term radon levels. The only way to detect radon in your school is to test.



Test Placement and Closed Building Conditions

Test under closed building conditions, meaning heating and cooling systems are set to normal occupied operating conditions and windows and doors are closed (except momentary entry and exit).

- Testing is conducted in every occupied, or intended to be occupied, space that has floor or wall contact with the ground. This includes all classrooms, offices, gyms, cafeterias and industrial arts rooms on the ground level. Also test rooms above untested areas that are not habitable, such as above tunnels, crawl spaces and garages. Deploy all radon test kits at the same time.
- Plan for one radon test kit for 10% of randomly selected occupied rooms on each upper floor.
- Plan for one radon test kit for every 2000 square feet of large, open spaces, such as cafeterias, lobbies and gyms.
- For schools with moveable walls, place the walls in their fully extended position and test each section.
- Test all modular/portable classrooms.
- Quality control tests (called blanks, duplicates and spikes) will be needed.

Place radon test kits where they will not be disturbed. Place at least three (3) feet from doors and windows to the outside, at least one (1) foot from exterior walls and between two (2) and six (6) feet from the floor. Also, place the test kits away from drafts, furnace vents, humidifiers and direct sunlight.

Who Should Conduct Radon Testing in Schools?

Some states require a licensed person to do the testing or manage the testing onsite. Some states may allow school staff to do the testing without a credential. Even if there are no requirements in your state, it is recommended to use a certified professional or have school staff get certified. Many states also require radon professionals to be licensed. You can find radon measurement professionals by contacting your state's radon program.

A staff member or representative of your school district can become certified by completing training and exam requirements as outlined by the National Radon Proficiency Program (NRPP) or National Radon Safety Board (NRSB).

Interpreting Results

The EPA action level for radon is 4.0 pCi/L. If radon level is elevated, conduct a second round of testing. A continuous radon monitor (CRM) is recommended for follow-up testing in elevated rooms because it can determine if elevated levels are present during occupied times (radon levels can fluctuate with the operation of ventilation). Many licensed radon professionals own CRMs and they can also be rented through radon vendors. Rooms with elevated radon during occupied times should be mitigated.

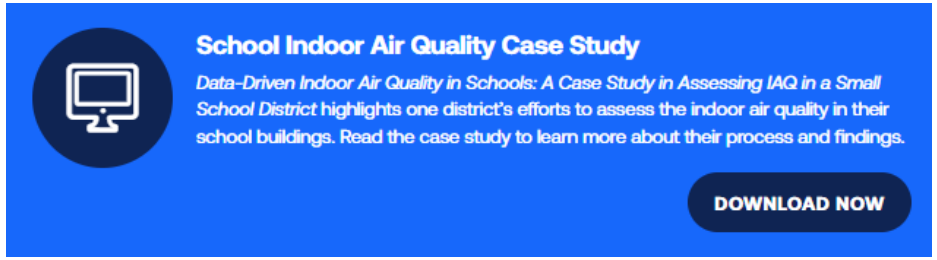
Radon mitigation systems draw radon gas from the air below the building through a PVC pipe and vent to the outside above the roof. An active soil depressurization (ASD) system uses a continuously running fan to draw the radon up through the pipe and prevent it from entering the building. Non-Active soil depressurization (non-ASD) does not use a fan. Note, in some cases, HVAC systems may be adjusted to increase fresh air intake, which helps dilute radon gas and reduce its concentration inside the building. Credentialed professionals should be used for radon mitigation.

Additional Resources

1. ANSI/AARST Protocol for Conducting Measurements of Radon and Radon Decay Products in Multifamily, School, Commercial and Mixed-Use Buildings
2. EPA Radon in Schools
3. Minnesota Department of Health Radon Testing in Schools Guide

1-800-LUNGUSA | Lung.org/radon-test

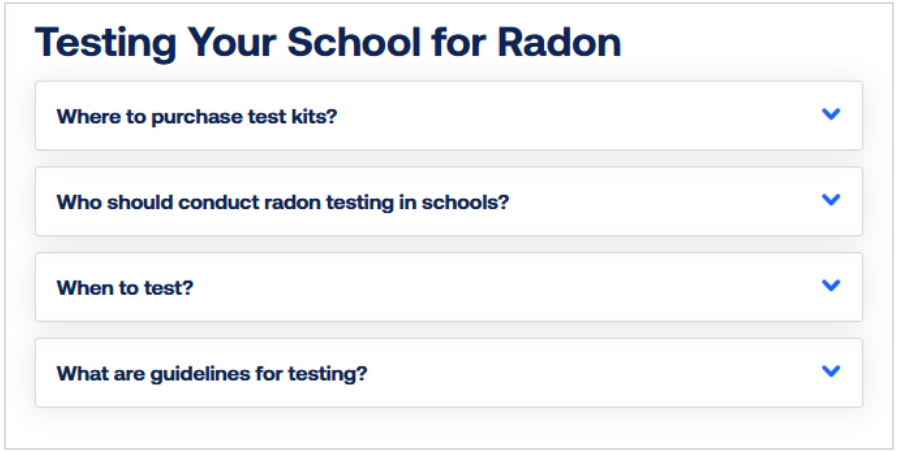
Measurement Guidance Handout



School Case Study

Educational Video

School Resource Website



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Nationwide Radon Initiatives

National Radon Action Month

NRAM 2025 Activities

- Press Releases
- Virtual Media Tour – 5 states and nationwide coverage
- Digital advertising campaigns – 4 states
- Organic social media
- Frontline/Family Physician Magazine articles
- Partner toolkits

Lung Association urges radon testing during January 'action month'

By PATRICK CLOONAN pcloonan@indianagazette.net Jan 3, 2025 Updated Jan 16, 2025

Special Report: What Everyone Needs to Know About Radon Exposure and Lung Cancer

This natural gas can shorten your life—and it's likely you don't even know that it's in your home.

Updated Jan 21, 2025 **By:** Cheyenne Buckingham
Medical Reviewer: Natalie Vokes, M.D.

MEDICAL WATCH

Radon gas poses health risks; experts urge home testing and mitigation

by: Dina Bair, Katharin Czink
Posted: Jan 21, 2025 / 04:35 PM CST
Updated: Jan 21, 2025 / 04:40 PM CST

Radon is the Nation's 2nd Leading Cause of Lung Cancer; Lung Association Offers Tips to Safeguard Health in the New Year

January is National Radon Action Month; the American Lung Association urges every household to test for radon gas

American Lung Association

Radon Test Kit Program

Nationwide

The Lung Association operates a nationwide radon test kit store at **Lung.org/radon-test**.

- Short-term charcoal test kits: **$18**
- Long-term Alpha Track Detectors: **$30**

Through **State Indoor Radon Grants (SIRG)** the Lung Association offers FREE or discounted radon test kits to residents and/or local health departments in select states.

Key Distribution Statistics:

Time Period	# of Kits Sold
July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024	**7,038**
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025	**12,999**

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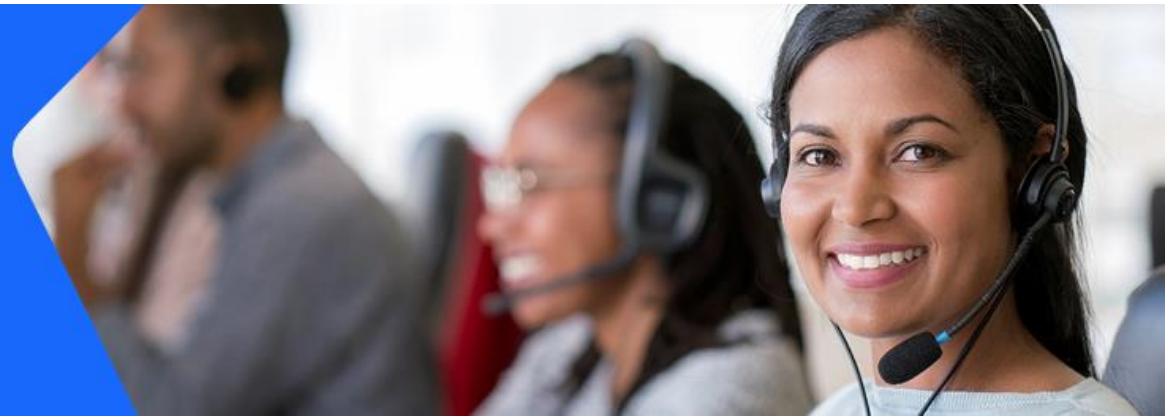
Lung Helpline and Tobacco Quitline

Free information and support from lung health experts.



Lung HelpLine

- Staffed with bilingual, licensed healthcare professionals
- Direct to local services like lung cancer screening and tobacco cessation
- Assist with healthcare coverage
- Answer lung health and lung disease questions

Radon Specifics

- Ordering radon tests
- Interpreting test results & recommending action
- Directing to local resources and certified radon professionals
- Finding financial assistance for mitigation

Radon HelpLine Call Statistics:

Time Period	# Radon HelpLine Calls
July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024	**952**
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025	**1,141**

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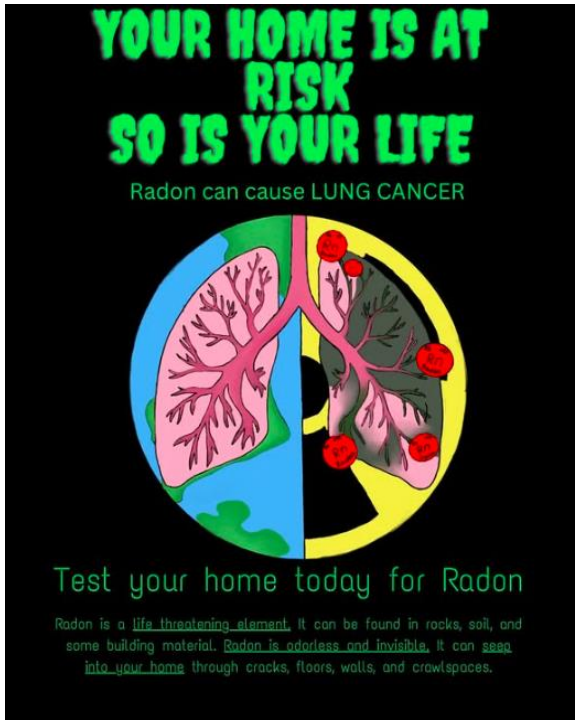
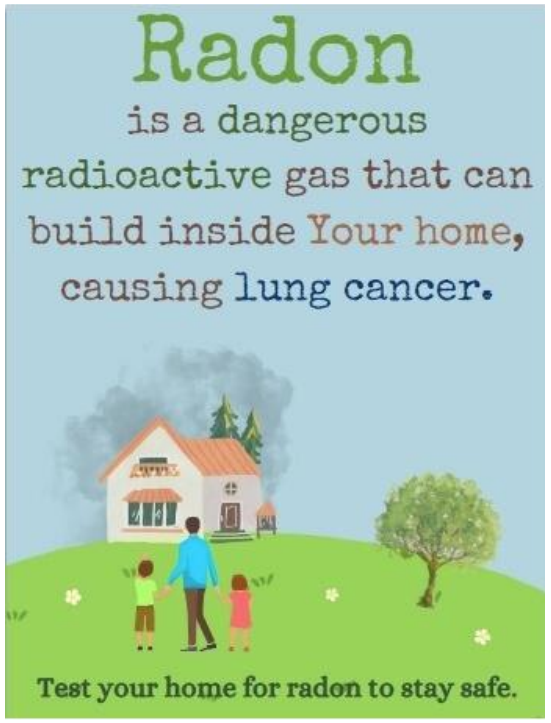
National Poster Contest

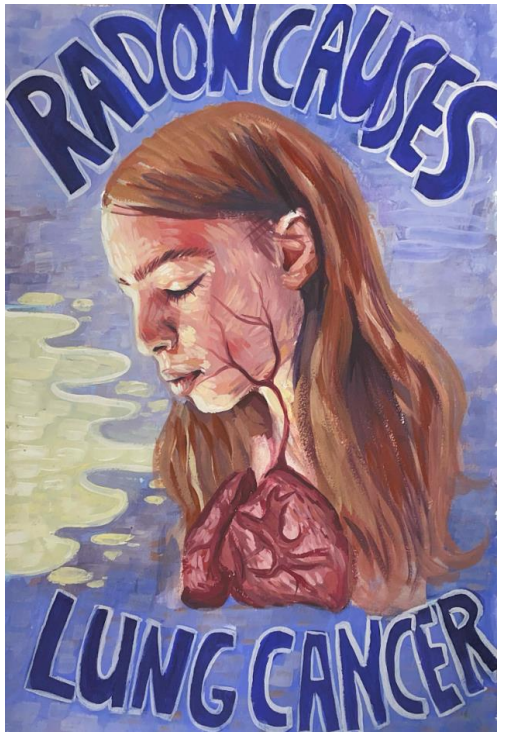
Poster Winners



1st place
Addilyn Mosely, CO



2nd place
Alexia Vallo, OR



3rd place
Olivia Reider, FL

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National Video Contest

Video Winner

Luke Larson, IA

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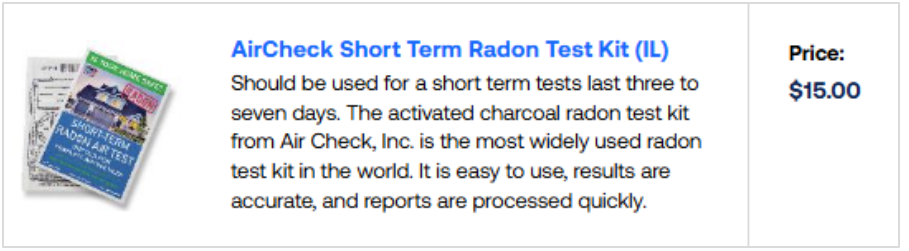
State Indoor Radon Grants

What does the Lung Association do with SIRG funds?

- Facilitate awareness & education campaigns
- Provide free or discounted radon test kits to communities
- Manage state Radon HelpLine
- Manage state webpages through Lung.org/radon
- Targeted outreach to radon stakeholders: healthcare professionals, real-estate professionals, builders
- Research state-specific radon data and regulations
- Develop targeted resources and partner toolkits
- Collaborate with local health departments and coalitions
- Manage Radon Poster & Video Contests
- Support school radon testing and remediation



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Integrating Radon & Indoor Air Quality

- **Addressing Indoor Air Pollution** – toolkit for healthcare professionals
- **Indoor Air Quality Basics** – online learning module for healthcare professionals
- **Healthy Homes** – Improving lung disease triggers in select states
- **Clean Air School Challenge** – supporting indoor air quality management in schools

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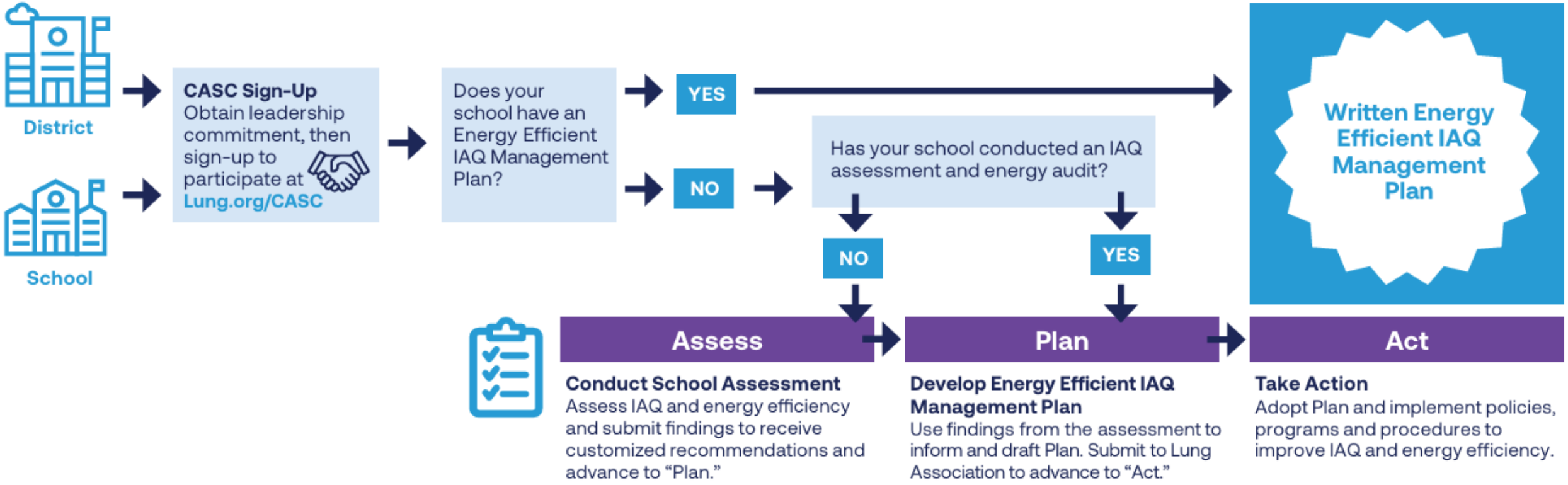
Clean Air School Challenge

Program Overview

The Clean Air School Challenge meets schools where they are in their IAQ and energy management journeys. Participating schools receive support and guidance as they work their way through the 3 program phases: assess, plan and act.



American Lung Association

Benefits of Participation

- Recognition
- Peer mentorship
- Education and Training
- Technical assistance
- Access to Lung Association programs and services
- Mini-grants*
- Learning collaboratives*

Learn more at Lung.org/CASC
Have questions? Contact CASC@Lung.org

American Lung Association

**Opportunity exclusive to select schools via application process*

Our Vision

A World Free of Lung Disease

American Lung Association.