

**Particles in the Air – We’re Not Lichen It**

A three-part program exploring the relationships with airquality, health and the environment

**Part III – Lichens as Air Quality Bio-Indicators**

**Brief Description:** Lichens as Air Quality Bio-Indicatorscontains two lessons that are each 50-60 minutes in length.

* Lesson 1: Students will be introduced to the symbiotic relationship of lichens, along with the differing requirements of different life forms (such as fungi and photosynthetic microbes). Students will explore lichen samples and categorize them into one of the basic three morphologies.
* Lesson 2: This activity is best presented outdoors where there are natural lichen specimens. Students will identify living lichen specimens and explain three ways lichen can indicate air pollution. Students will also collect and record data on their specimens.