

# *Welcome to the Public Laboratory for Open Technology and Science!*

Welcome to a collaborative research effort including activists, makers, scientists, technologists, curious people and assorted hybrids of all of the above.

Together, we develop open-source tools for environmental exploration and investigation, promoting inexpensive and accessible “Do-It-Yourself” techniques to increase the ability of underserved communities to identify, redress, remediate, and create awareness and accountability around environmental concerns. But it only works if we all share our ideas and innovations! This means that you have some responsibilities:

- to share what you do with the rest of the research community (through our mailing list and website: <http://publiclaboratory.org>)
- to help others leverage your and Public Lab’s research and resources
- to cite our community (which you’re now part of) when presenting or publishing your work, if you based it on or drew ideas from the Public Lab research community.

But it also comes with benefits!

- a community of diverse and helpful fellow researchers to ask for support and advice -- by signing up on the website you may join several relevant mailing lists
- a growing body of open source research and resources to leverage in your work
- you may use, reuse, adapt, improve, and distribute any Public Lab research without even asking permission! (Find out how at <http://publiclaboratory.org/licenses>)
- a place to publish your own work and to build a body of research online

*Balloon/kite mappers:* Photography of public spaces and people in them is by and large legal. But things get more complicated when taking pictures from an unusual vantage point that can expose private property. If you’re mapping away from home, get to know people in the places you’re working -- reach out for partners and collaborators, who may have key insights into how and where to gather information, and to whom the data is surely relevant.

Finally, we encourage you to publish and share the data you collect, ideally under open source licenses, with neighbors and stakeholders. Get in touch with [team@publiclaboratory.org](mailto:team@publiclaboratory.org) for help publishing your data.

Learn more at: <http://publiclaboratory.org/getting-started>