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Since 1967, Protecting Everyone's Right to Breathe Clean Air

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For four decades, members of Clean Air Council have made a difference in Pennsylvania and Delaware, helping everyone to breathe a little easier. Members receive quarterly issues of Fresh Air, action alerts, invitations to special events and the annual 5K Run. Please send your comments to Joe Minott, Executive Director.

Thinking about a bequest?
Consider leaving a gift to Clean Air Council in your will.
Learn more by calling
215.567.4004, ext. 108.

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Scan with a QR reader to go directly to our web page www.cleanair.org

HOW I SEE IT: JOE'S CORNER

Thank you.

This spring, we ran our annual matching-gifts campaign to build our reserve funding. It was a wild success with you, our members, rising to the occasion. The average gift was over \$100. That's the highest we've ever recorded.

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This year is my 30th at the Council, and funding is one of my perennial concerns. Grants are awarded and denied. Event sponsors come and go. Members join and lapse. Sometimes finances are good, and sometimes they're bad. In the flurry of it all, an endowment is a helpful reassurance, especially when finances are bad. Now, thanks to you, it's a little bit less of a concern.

So this half of Joe's Corner is to thank you. To thank you for your generosity. To thank you for continuing to support our work. And to thank you in the most important way – by making sure your gifts do the most good for our air. Next time you send us a donation, please consider designating a small amount extra for our endowment.

CO2 in the atmosphere hit an all-time high of 400 parts per million this year. Human beings have fundamentally changed the earth's chemistry. Sadly I am hearing government officials talking less and less about how to fight climate change and more and more about how we will adapt. Adaptation is not a solution. It is surrendering. We are all responsible – from coal burning power plants to how recklessly we use our energy. The "little" conveniences in our lives add up. An air conditioner running with no one home. A TV on in the background. Even leaving your electronics plugged in while not in use. They all waste power.

Of course, little things can add up the other way. Have you taken the time to contact your representatives to let them know you're concerned about climate change? Have you implemented easy energy savings at home such as air drying your laundry or unplugging your cable box when you go out (it uses more energy than your fridge)? If you're a Pennsylvania resident, have you switched to a green electricity provider?

I believe you get the most bang for your buck by switching to Community Energy (www.CommunityEnergyInc.com/Council). Community Energy was the first green electricity company in Pennsylvania and is the only one building new wind and solar farms. A further listing of companies that sell green electricity can be found at www.ChoosePAWind.com.

CO2 levels are worsening every day. If we all make a few small changes, we can make a big difference.

If you'd like to get in touch with Joe, you can email him at joe_minott@cleanair.org or call 215-567-4004 ext. 116.

Joe Minott is the Executive Director of Clean Air Council



Staff Profile

– Jonathan Zaikowski

Meet Jonathan Zaikowski, our new Membership Coordinator. Jon worked in the green energy market before joining the Council this March. He ran the Council's 5k in middle school, interned in the office during high school, and is thrilled to work here full-time now.

Before going to Wake Forest University, Jon grew up in the suburbs just outside Chestnut Hill. While he enjoyed his time at Wake, he knew that after he graduated he wanted to come back and live in Philadelphia and work for an environmental cause. He's now happily doing both. There's one major membership goal that Jon wants to achieve: break the 10,000 members mark. For the past few years, that number has hovered between 7,000 and 8,000. In the coming months and years, he thinks he'll be able to close that gap.

Jon thinks the biggest challenge he's facing is being able to make the Council stand out from the crowd and communicate with members in a way that really connects with them. As he learns more, he hopes to continue seeing increasingly positive feedback.

When he's not busy stuffing envelopes or writing about himself in the third person, Jon enjoys playing tennis, exploring the city, and staying involved with policy debate. If you'd like to contact him for any reason, you can call him at 215-567-4004 ext. 108, or email jzaikowski@cleanair.org.



News and Information for Members of Clean Air Council

August 2013
Number 18

It's Easy Being Green at Greenfest Philly

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The Clean Air Council is a member-supported, nonprofit environmental organization dedicated to protecting everyone's right to breathe clean air. The Council works through public education, community advocacy, and government oversight to ensure enforcement of environmental laws.



Visitors to Greenfest Philly enjoy the kid's corner, local organic food and drinks, live music from local bands, and much more

Mark your calendars! September 8th is the date for the Clean Air Council's Greenfest Philly. It's the Philadelphia region's largest environmental festival with thousands of attendees and over 100 different sponsors and exhibitors. Held at Headhouse Square and South Street in Society Hill, each exhibitor focuses on sustainability and highlights their commitment to the environment. The event offers something for everyone. A kid's corner with eco-friendly crafts and music, local organic food and drinks, live music from local bands, electric vehicles, innovative green ideas, ways to take action, a beer garden, and much more.



A yearly highlight is the Green Innovators program. SCA, one of Philadelphia's most sustainable companies, provides a scholarship fund for businesses or organizations that have new and creative products, services, or ideas that promote sustainability. In the past two years, over a dozen local businesses and organizations have participated. These include Wash Cycle Laundry, Common Market, Barrio Neal, Greensaw Design and Build, Chariots of Philly, and the Sustainability Workshop's Bright Ideas. It's a

great way to showcase local ideas that are on the forefront of sustainability. To learn more or nominate a business, visit www.greenfestphilly.org. New this year, we're offering VIP festival passes, the Green Card. This pass includes a \$10 voucher for any of the participating food trucks, 2 beers at the Greenfest Beer Garden, a Greenfest T-shirt (printed on fabric made from recycled plastic bottles), admittance to the Greenfest lounge (a place to cool off, play games, and relax), discounts at participating Greenfest Vendors, and a Greenfest reusable bag to carry everything home in. The Green Card, valued at over \$45, is available pre-festival for \$25 at www.greenfestphilly.org or \$30 on the day of the festival at Greenfest Headquarters.

Be sure to follow Greenfest Philly on Facebook at www.facebook.com/GreenFestPhilly and on Twitter at @GreenFestPhilly for news, special offers, and more. If you have any questions about Greenfest Philly, please contact Katie Edwards at 215-567-4004, ext. 102 or kedwards@cleanair.org. See you on September 8th from 10am – 5pm at Greenfest!



Clean Air Council-sponsored Feet First Philly T-shirts debut.

Clean Air on the Radio

Is Philadelphia serious about being the most sustainable city in America, as Mayor Nutter famously stated? If so, limiting the use of single-use plastic bags would be a big step in that direction. Every year in Philadelphia we go through about one billion bags.

While the bags are convenient for single use, there's a serious side effect. The light bags easily blow in the wind. They often catch in fences, gardens, trees, and sewage lines. The bags last for hundreds of years, if not more, cause tremendous damage to machinery and waterways, and kill all types of wildlife. We all end up paying a tremendous cost for these "free" bags, both financially and environmentally.

Plastic bags were designed in the 1960s to be a cheap and durable alternative for consumers. Over the years, plastic bags overtook paper as the preferred choice. Plastic bags are much lighter to ship than paper bags, and this has both environmental and economic benefits. The unintended effects, however, make them environmental villains.

Since 2009 the Clean Air Council has worked to reduce plastic bag use in Philadelphia. Plastic bag "recycling" is often simply burning the bags for their energy. This creates air pollution and is harmful to public health. The alternative of ending up in the streets or in landfills is not any better for the environment.

In January 2013, we proposed legislation to Councilman Squilla to charge a nickel for all single-use bags (paper and plastic). The revenue would be split between the Philadelphia school system and a fund to help clean up under-served parts of Philadelphia. The retailer would keep one penny for administrative costs of the program. Councilman Squilla has committed to introducing this legislation in October. We are optimistic that it will pass.

The Clean Air Council was recently asked to participate in an hour-long debate with the American Progressive Plastic Bag

Alliance and Hilex Poly on WHY's Radio Times. The debate covered a range of topics. On the plastic bag side, Phil Rozenski touted the industry line that consumers should be educated more on how to recycle bags. The Council's Logan Welde pointed out that if education can work for consumers to remember to recycle, then why not educate people to just bring reusable bags. Phil was silent on this point.

The nationally broadcasted Radio Times spotlighted the need to be more conscious of our consumer behavior. The little decisions that we make often have large impacts. If everyone in Philadelphia were to bring their own bag to the store and stop using plastic bags, we would have a much cleaner city.

If you would like to get involved and help ensure that Philadelphia passes common-sense legislation for single-use bags, go to www.Greenphillyblog.com and sign the petition. Also, contact your council member for your district and all at-large members. If you have any questions or would like to do more please contact Logan Welde at 215-567-4004 ext. 126, or email lwelde@cleanair.org.



Grassroots Campaign to Tackle Shale

In northeastern Pennsylvania, residents are concerned about air quality and health effects of new natural gas facilities. With skills learned from the Clean Air Council, they decided to tackle the issue with a grassroots campaign.



Over the past two years, the Council held workshops for Susquehanna County residents to educate them about natural gas. The workshops also developed local residents' public organizing skills. With the knowledge and skills they developed, Breathe Easy Susquehanna County (BESC) was born. The group's goal is to "protect regional air quality and the health of communities in Susquehanna County, from potentially harmful air emissions released through the processes of shale gas extraction, production and transport."

BESC aims to get shale gas companies to use better technologies and processes to emit the least possible amount of harmful air pollution.

"Achieving the lowest air emissions possible will help to keep our air healthy to breathe, which will help protect the health of everyone living and working in our community," said Paul Karpich, co-leader of the group.

BESC hopes to make regional air quality a mainstream issue. The group is already gaining traction from the local chamber of commerce, business leaders, and politicians. Members of the group recently met with state officials and were favorably received. BESC is currently setting up meetings with the major gas companies in the area to advocate for best technologies. The Council is excited to see grassroots efforts like this emerge, and we look forward to helping these residents achieve their goal of clean air for Susquehanna County. For more information, contact Matt Walker at 215-567-4004 ext. 121, or email mwalker@cleanair.org.

Committed to Carbon Emissions Rule

Since March of 2012 the Council and environmentalists everywhere have been commenting, calling, marching and writing for a rule to limit carbon emissions from new and existing power plants. In that time, we've become a regular fixture at the Environmental Protection Agency's Philadelphia office. On June 6th, the Council and its supporters rallied in Love Park to again show support for climate action. In total, the Council has attended well over a half a dozen rallies demanding a limit on power plant carbon emissions (called the "carbon rule").

Nationally, the EPA received over 3.2 million comments in support of the rule. Polls show that about 65% of voters support Presidential action to address climate change. With numbers like these, inaction was no longer an option.

Recently, President Obama announced his Climate Action Plan, which included the carbon rule. In the President's words, unrestricted carbon pollution is "not right [...] not safe, and [...] needs to stop." Carbon dioxide is 84% of the greenhouse gas in our atmosphere and the biggest cause of climate change. Even though the US has hit a 20-year-low in carbon dioxide emissions nationally, Americans are still dealing with the negative effects of the power plant era and the Industrial Revolution.

The Council is excited to see President Obama respond to environmental concerns. Of course, there is still work to do. The Council will keep pressure on President Obama and the EPA to ensure the new carbon rule is fully and effectively implemented.

For more information, please contact Russell Zerbo at 215-567-4004 ext. 130, or email rzerbo@cleanair.org.

Clean Air Council: Walking The Walk

The Council works to educate individuals and organizations about what they can do to reduce their contribution to air pollution. The Council doesn't just talk about what people can do to be greener, it leads by example. We've recycled for years at our offices and most of its staff have walked, biked or taken public transit to and from work. In recent years, the Council has taken other steps to minimize its impact on the environment:

1. Bike Racks – The Council installed a bike rack made by Dero last year, enabling up to 13 bikes to be safely stored indoors at the office in a compressed space.
2. Composting – The Council recently partnered with Bennett Compost to collect organic waste that can't be recycled.
3. Solar Energy – The Council purchases solar credits from Community Energy to offset its electric usage with clean, renewable solar power.
4. Community Supported Agriculture – The Council provides its employees with organic produce delivered to the office through its partnership with the Delaware Valley Farm Share.
5. Public transit – The Council participates in RideECO which allows employees to purchase public transit passes with pre-tax dollars.
6. Office Supplies – The Council prints on recycled paper and only uses non-toxic cleaning products in the office.

The Council staff would love to hear from our members about other things we could be doing to reduce our environmental impact. If you've got any ideas, send us an email at members@cleanair.org or call us at 215-567-4004 ext. 108.

Erie's Quest for Renewable Energy

For 5 years the Clean Air Council has been active in northwest PA by chairing the Northwest PA Green Economy Task Force (NWPAGE). A coalition of local non-profits, government officials, businesses, and academics, NWPAGE has worked to promote a sustainable region. For the past two years, under the direction of the Council, NWPAGE has worked to highlight the economic opportunities of wind energy, specifically offshore.

Lying 90 miles between Cleveland and Buffalo and just over 100 miles to the north of Pittsburgh, Erie has always been an important transit hub for Pennsylvania manufacturing. As the only true shore in PA, this area has incredible opportunities to expand PA's renewable energy portfolio. This past spring the Council saw the fruits of its educational efforts as residents advocated for a proposed wind farm in neighboring Northeast, PA. In addition, local residents continue to push for good legislation from Harrisburg that will allow for responsible siting and permitting of the Lake Erie basin for offshore wind development.

In April 2013 Clean Air Council and NWPAGE launched a quarterly lecture series at The Jefferson Society, the Erie region's think tank. Recent lectures have included discussions on the health effects of coal, energy efficiency, offshore wind, algae blooms in the Great Lakes, and the need for a regional climate action plan. While Erie may be opposite of the Council's headquarters in Philadelphia, the Council sees the potential that lies in an area of the state that has been a major player in energy development since Drake's well was drilled over 150 years ago. With the educational support of Clean Air Council and local partners, the Erie region can become a leader in truly clean, renewable energy production. For more information, contact Gretchen Alfonso at galfonso@cleanair.org or by calling 215-267-4004 ext. 128.



Seeking Justice in Philadelphia & Delaware

The Council's environmental health team, community organizers, and lawyers are working together to tackle environmental justice issues in Philadelphia and Delaware. In Philadelphia the Council is working in the River Ward neighborhoods of Port Richmond and Bridesburg. In Delaware the Council is working in the city of Wilmington.

In Philadelphia the Council trained community residents on how to search on-line government databases to find data on air emissions and chemical storage, and to map where potential hazards are located in their neighborhood. They added to this map by identifying other sources of pollution, such as scrapyards, that are not monitored by government agencies.

On May 9th, Clean Air Council, community members, neighborhood organizations, and local officials from the city's Air Management Services and the Philadelphia City Planning Commission toured Port Richmond and Bridesburg to bring many of the environmental issues in the area to light.

The tour began in Campbell Square, a small public park maintained by neighborhood residents, and continued through the old coal rail lines, port operations, and the still remaining chemical industry in northern Bridesburg. Scrap metal and asphalt recycling are common industries in the area, diesel emissions from heavy-duty truck traffic are a constant, and the remnants of shuttered factories are now either large covered piles of contaminated material or vacant lots. While many of the worst polluting facilities have been closed down, remaining facilities are still emitting air and soil pollution of concern to residents today. Many of these hazards are close to local parks and elementary, middle and high schools.

Pete DeCarlo, an atmospheric chemist at Drexel University, measured the concentration of particulate matter along the tour route. As the tour drove past the first of many scrapyards in the area, particulate matter emissions spiked on the air monitor.

The Council will now work with community residents to develop an action plan on how to address air pollution issues that impact the community's health and quality of life.



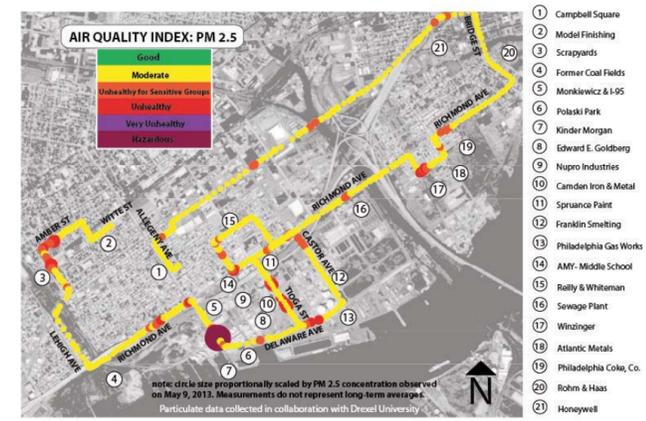
Deputy Secretary for the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Martin Ranowski (left), presented Chelsey Price of Holcomb Behavioral Health in Delaware County the Platinum Certificate for the Clean Air Council organized Young Lungs at Play Community Challenge at a World No Tobacco Day event on May 31st, 2013 in tobacco-free Lititz Springs Park. Other Platinum level honorees from southeastern Pennsylvania were Lancaster and Chester counties. Thurm Brendlinger of Clean Air Council, Keiren O'Connell of Health Promotion Council and Anastasia Groden from the youth movement, Tobacco Resistance Unit participated in the presentation.

Urban Sustainability Forum Provides A Monthly Dose of Environmental Edification

Do you enjoy serious discussions about environmental topics? Do you live around Philadelphia? If so, then the Urban Sustainability Forum (USF) is a must-attend event. This meeting of over twenty environmentally-conscious organizations is coordinated by the Academy of Natural Sciences. The Council has been involved with the USF since it began over seven years ago.

The USF's mission is to engage and inform the public in order to make Philadelphia the greenest, most livable and most sustainable city in the country. On the third Thursday evening of most months, the USF selects a topic of interest and brings in experts - both inside and outside of the City - to speak as part of a panel. The Council took the lead in planning three USF events since the formation of the program: Philadelphia's Air Quality (January, 2006), a debate on whether nuclear power is green (November, 2010), and interfaith and global warming (April, 2013). On Thursday September 19th the Council and Mom's Clean Air Force will host its fourth USF topic on children's health and the environment. The event is free and all are welcome. For more information contact Eric Cheung at 215-567-4004 ext. 114, or echeung@cleanair.org.

Particulate Matter (2.5) Concentrations During River Wards Environment Tour



In Delaware the Council is working with members of the community to address on-going dust and other air pollution issues. Concrete and asphalt production, as well as industrial trucking, are major causes of this pollution. The Council is working with residents to hold local officials accountable for their lack of vigilance in enforcing zoning and air pollution laws.

For more information on the Council's environmental justice work contact John Lee at 215-567-4004 ext. 105, or email jlee@cleanair.org.

COME ONE, COME ALL!

On November 21st, the Council is hosting its membership meeting at the Montgomery-McCracken law firm, and you're invited! Located at 123 South Broad Street in the heart of center city, the firm's Justice Roberts Room offers a stunning view of the city. Refreshments will accompany updates on the Council's work, the presentation of the Clean Air award (nominees chosen by you, our members), and more. Space is limited at this beautiful venue - call 215-567-4004 ext. 108 (or email jzaikowski@cleanair.org) to reserve your free tickets before they're gone!

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Join Clean Air Council, the most active locally-based environmental organization in Pennsylvania and Delaware with 8,000 members committed to the region's clean air future.

Send this form along with your tax-deductible contribution to:

Clean Air Council
135 South 19th Street, Suite 300
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Yes, I want to protect our air!

- \$40 Individual
- \$60 Family
- \$150 Sustaining Supporter
- \$250 Patron
- Other amount \$ _____

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please charge my credit card: MasterCard VISA American Express

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Membership Services may be reached directly at 215.567.4004, ext. 108.

Or become a member instantly by going to www.cleanair.org

A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling 800.732.0999. Registration does not imply endorsement