



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, New Jersey, 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 Run for Clean Air presented by Toyota Hybrids. 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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HOW I SEE IT: JOE'S CORNER

This summer, the Council is excited to approach the official launch of a brand new website for green commuters in the Philadelphia region. After several years of work, GoPhillyGo.org is almost ready for its public debut. GoPhillyGo will not only help users discover new environmental and cultural resources in the region, but it'll also show the greenest route to get there. Many of these destinations fall on or near the Circuit (the regional trail network) or near SEPTA routes. The goal of the website is to help users reach these destinations without a car – instead travelling by foot, bicycle, public transportation, or a combination of these.

What really sets GoPhillyGo apart is that it allows customized options for your route choices. For example, you can pick a less hilly bicycle route, or a public transportation route that allows you to incorporate equal parts on the bus and walking. With most trip planners, you have to pick one mode of transportation and stick with it. The options for how the route is picked also tend to be based on hard-headed efficiency – quickest route, least tolls, etc. You can't pick the scenic route, or select precise levels of difficulty for their your option. Oftentimes, if the route's too complicated or challenging, even the most environmentally minded people give up and use a car.

Through this new website, the Council aims to make connecting these trips easier without a car, in addition to helping people discover new and beautiful places in the region. Cyclists planning new trips will have plenty of dependable information about route safety and difficulty. New users of bikes, public transit, or combining the two can learn from how-to's and other users' recommended itineraries. While users can use GoPhillyGo to plan multimodal trips to anywhere in the greater Philadelphia region, using GoPhillyGo doesn't require having a destination in mind. Have a couple hours and want to see how far you can go? The website will show you your options, including upcoming events at featured destinations. GoPhillyGo comes at a perfect time with Philadelphia launching its bikeshare program. These short, last-mile and connecting trips are the perfect way to use bikeshare, and our website can help with the planning.

More bicycling and public transit use means less traffic congestion and better air quality for everyone. And cyclists and public transit users get extra rewards: besides improved physical fitness from biking, studies show that biking and taking public transit instead of driving have mental health and cognitive benefits. I hope you will make use of GoPhillyGo when it launches. When you do, be sure to tell us about your favorite routes and destinations, as well as your positive and negative feedback so we can make this website a valuable tool for our region.

Joe Minott is the Executive Director of Clean Air Council

Staff Profile

Nick Rogers

Nick Rogers has been with the Council for the past 5 years, and is currently the Council's Transportation Program Director. He oversees the planning, design, and development phases of some of the multi-use trails throughout the region; promotes biking, walking, and public transportation in the region; and heads up the Council's Cleaner Commute Philadelphia project.



As you'd expect, Nick bikes to the office almost every day (he'll occasionally take the bus if the weather's just too rough). But what you may not know is that he's also an increasingly-successful competitive racer. He's won a number of local races, two bronze medals at the U.S. National Championships last summer, and in January traveled to Canada to participate in his first international competition where he took first place. This past February, though, Nick took part in his biggest competition to date when he was selected to attend the Union Cycliste Internationale's world championships in France as part of the U.S. national team. He competed against some of the best racers in the world in the points race, an event that involves 160 laps on an indoor track. Nick made an impressive showing in his first world championship, taking 10th place in a photo-finish.

Most impressive of all? The race was on a Friday, and Nick was back at work on Monday.

Nick can be reached at 215-567-4004 ext. 110, or by email at nrpgers@cleanair.org.

News and Information for Members of Clean Air Council

April 2015
Number 20

Protect Our Children Gains Steam

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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.



Now's the time to save the date for 2 big Clean Air Council events this fall! Come experience Philly's greenest street festival on **Sunday, September 13th at Greenfest Philly in Headhouse Square**. A month later, on **October 15th it's our second annual Dine Out for the Environment**. Come out to support a good cause and Philly's greenest restaurants.



Photograph courtesy of Kelly Finan

Just over a year ago, the Clean Air Council helped form the Protect Our Children coalition to keep fracking away from children. In that short time, residents from 8 townships have asked for help to stop projects proposed to be sited next to schools, playgrounds, daycares, and other spots where children gather. The coalition itself has also grown to include over 30 groups.

The coalition's growth is due in large part to its successes. In Middlesex Township, Rex Energy (a drilling company) convinced the local zoning board to allow fracking just half a mile away from



area schools, and less than 1,000 feet from people's homes. The Council and Delaware Riverkeeper Network appealed, arguing that fracking would turn the town into a heavy industrial zone and put residents' health and safety at risk.

The intervention worked – no new permits are being issued until these concerns are addressed. To do that, attorneys from the Council and other

groups in the coalition are bringing in residents to testify about what it's like to live near fracking, as well as expert witnesses to discuss land use, air/water quality issues, and public health impacts. Rex Energy was initially planning to start drilling in January of this year, but that's on hold now.

Another major success came from Mt. Pleasant Township. Not long after the fight began with Rex Energy, Mt. Pleasant community leaders reached out to the Council through the POC coalition for information about local land use issues. Range Resources was looking to build 3 well pads within half a mile of the local high school. All they needed was approval from the township.

Council organizers began educating local residents and working with other attorneys in the coalition. Local opposition began to organize, and the coalition challenged Range Resources' permits in court. Range withdrew their application shortly thereafter. Range Resources officially cited a bad market and reduced capital as the cause, conveniently omitting any mention of local opposition.

The Council will ensure that POC offers opportunities for community leaders who have seen some success on protecting schools to collaborate and share advice with newer groups working on the issue. The Council and the POC coalition will continue to work with communities to educate, organize, and provide legal support when necessary to protect children from fracking.

If you have any questions or would like more information, contact Matt Walker at 215-567-4004 ext. 121, or email mwalker@cleanair.org.

We Know Our Earth Day Plans!

RUN FOR CLEAN AIR Presented by Toyota Hybrids

Saturday, April 18, 2015, 8:30 a.m.
Philadelphia Museum of Art

The Council plans to celebrate Earth Day the same way it has been for the past 34 years – with the annual Run for Clean Air Presented by Toyota Hybrids! But this year, we're doing it on a much grander scale.



The Council took what started as a small 5 mile race in the Wissahickon with 100 runners and turned it into the Philadelphia region's largest Earth Day celebration. The run now has hosted thousands of runners and walkers of all ages, participating in 3 events – a 5K run, a 3K walk, a Kids' Fun Run. This year, we're adding a 4th event – a 10K run presented by Philadelphia Insurance Companies! So if you're looking for a more challenging run, training for the Broad Street Run, or just like even numbers, the 10K is for you!

Of course, the Run features more than just running. The Earth Day celebration afterwards takes place in front of the steps of the iconic Philadelphia Museum of Art. Attendees can enjoy a free post-race local craft beer from Victory Brewing, a cold-brewed coffee from Joe Coffee, delicious vegetarian pitas from Eat-a-Pita, and more. The Mom's Organic Market Kids' Corner includes eco-friendly make-and-take crafts, hand-on educational exhibits, and a 25' rock climbing wall.

Staying true to the Council's mission and Earth Day, the Run is a green event. This year, the Run for Clean Air Presented by Toyota Hybrids is being recognized by the EPA Region 3 for all of the efforts it makes to reduce waste, provide eco-friendly materials, and educate participants. Shirts and bags are all made from recycled material, waste is recycled and composted, medals are crafted from local construction and demolition waste, the entire event is powered by solar energy, race bibs are printed on plantable seed paper, and more.



Don't miss your opportunity to be a part of the Council's largest and most exciting Run for Clean Air Presented by Toyota Hybrids to date. Online registration is open through April 15 at runforcleanair.com and day-of registration opens at 7:30 a.m. at the race. The Council looks forward to sharing Earth Day with you.

For more information, visit runforcleanair.com.



Walkers of the World, Unite!

Walking is the greenest, healthiest, and least expensive way to get around. That's why the Council founded Feet First Philly (FFP), a pedestrian and walkability advocacy group. In center city Philadelphia, construction often forces pedestrians into "cattle chutes," under scaffolding, or, even worse, directly into the street.

Is this really necessary? Are these the best options available? In 2015, FFP will seek to answer these questions and more, as well as push for better enforcement of existing regulations to keep sidewalks clear for pedestrians. To help spread the message, FFP is about to publish its first pedestrian newsletter. FFP is also available to make presentations on walking and walkability to neighborhood and community groups.

To organize a presentation or subscribe to the newsletter, please email Dennis Winters at dwwinters@cleanair.org.

Clean Air Council Assists Allegheny County with a Persistent Polluter

Travel to Pittsburgh and you'll find a stunning city consistently ranked as one of the nation's most livable. Long steeped in a steel making tradition, Pittsburgh has transformed itself to more of a healthcare, education, finance and technology economy.

Outside the city, though, it's a different story. In surrounding Allegheny County, steel industry operations remain. And just as before, these remnants of the industry are big polluters.



Photograph courtesy of Allegheny County Clean Air Now and Carnegie Mellon CREATE Lab

One of the worst violators of the Clean Air Act is the Shenango Coke Works. Coke is a fuel used to generate the extremely high temperatures needed to produce steel. Over the past 30 years, the Shenango Coke Works has produced approximately 350,000 tons of coke per year. It has also consistently violated the Clean Air Act and other environmental laws in that time. During a 432 day stretch from 2012-2013, the plant broke the law on 330 of those days. This streak of illegal pollution forced the Allegheny County Health Department to act. The Department had two options – sue the plant and force them to pay substantial fines until they comply with air pollution laws, or work with the plant to create a plan to fix the problems. Allegheny County chose the second option. Unfortunately, the Shenango facility hasn't upheld its end of the deal, and the illegal polluting continues.

As a result, the communities around the plant are still bombarded with unhealthy air. Over a third of the children in the nearby Northgate School District have asthma. That's more than triple the national and state averages.

As one resident said, "my children can't play outside because of this." Another explained how "during good weather we like to sit out on our porch and watch the sunset, but all too often we're forced back inside of the house by the sickly smell and we're forced to close down all the windows. You start to live a kind of bunker mentality out here."

As part of the Breathe Air Quality Collaborative based in Pittsburgh, Clean Air Council is working with community members to create public awareness of the plant's serious effect on public health. Last December, Clean Air Council collected over 500 signatures on a petition for clean-up of the Shenango Coke Works to be presented to Shawn Garvin, Regional Administrator for EPA Region III. The Council also arranged a meeting on February 4, 2015 for a group of nine Allegheny County residents representing Allegheny County Clean Air Now (ACCAN) to present over 1000 petitions collected by the Collaborative to the Administrator and eight of the Air Quality staff. The meeting also gave the residents an opportunity to express their concerns about the plant to Mr. Garvin. Perhaps most important, he committed to visiting their community around the plant by the summer of 2015 at the latest.

The Council and the Air Quality Collaborative will continue to pressure the plant to comply with the law, and for regulatory agencies to strictly enforce it. For more information, contact Mollie Simon at 215-567-4004 ext. 128, or email msimon@cleanair.org.

High Tides in Delaware

In recent years, sea level rise has become a central part of the discussion around climate change. As earth's temperatures go up, so do ocean levels. For coastal states, this is a major threat. Delaware is particularly vulnerable due to its large coastline and low elevation.

That's why this past September the Council collaborated with 19 other environmental organizations to present the second annual Sea Level Rise Awareness Week in Delaware. The kickoff event on September 10th was held at the Dupont Nature Center in Slaughter Beach, Sussex County. Fittingly, the roadways to the event were nearly impassable due to tidal flooding.

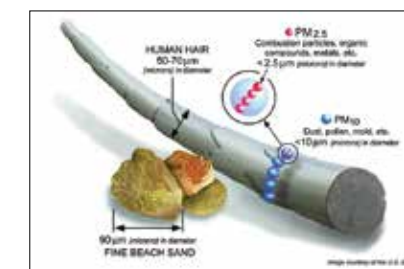
Delaware's sea levels have risen approximately 13 inches over the last 100 years. Sea levels are expected to rise another 13 inches in the next century. In the worst case scenario, the IPCC estimates sea levels could rise almost two feet in the next 100 years. If the IPCC is correct, approximately 10% of Delaware would flood. The social and economic costs would be devastating.

The Council continues to work in Delaware to mitigate and adapt to rising sea level. It has promoted clean energy initiatives, along with energy efficiency and conservation. Recently, Clean Air Council has worked with South Wilmington communities in Delaware on green infrastructure to help alleviate flooding in the community. If you have any questions or would like more information, please email Thurm.Brendlinger@cleanair.org, or call our Delaware office at 302-691-0112.

Health Effects Scrutinized in Monaca

Do you know what an ethane cracker is? It's a large industrial facility that uses ethane (along with other chemicals) to make plastics used for bags, piping, and other similar products. If you live in Monaca, PA, though, you already know that. That's because Shell has been talking about building one there for the past 18 months.

The cracker, if approved, would use ethane found in natural gas from the Marcellus Shale to make these plastics. The facility would also be a major source of air pollution, which is why the Council decided to take an in-depth look at the potential costs and benefits. The result was our latest Health Impact Assessment. The 88-page report provides a comprehensive analysis of the project. It covers everything from public opinion on the facility to steps Shell should take to make it safer. A full copy of the report is available at tinyurl.com/n15q3go. If you'd like more information, or to request a physical copy, please email John Lee, MPH, at jlee@cleanair.org, or call 215-567-4004 x 105.



Source: http://www.epa.gov/pm/graphics/pm2_5_graphic_lg.jpg

Tired of Traffic? Get a MAP!

How do you commute?

Commuting by car is stressful. In the Philadelphia area, it's about to become much more stressful. PennDOT is working on a long-term, multi-phase initiative to rebuild and improve I-95. This means more congestion, more lost productivity, and a lot more frustration. The Council can help through its Mobility Alternative Program (MAP), Cleaner Commute Philadelphia.

MAP offers businesses free assistance implementing more sustainable commutes for their employees. One major program the Council can help with is RideEco, where pre-tax benefits reduce the cost of commuting by public transit, saving both employees and employers money. Another MAP offering is Share-A-Ride, a free ride-matching program that connects carpoolers who live and work near each other. Anyone interested in this service can visit <http://www.dvrpc.org/asp/sar/> to sign up for Share-A-Ride. Last but certainly not least, the Council works with vRide, a company that organizes vans for groups of 7 to 15 coworkers or neighbors to commute together sustainably. For more information on the full range of options and how they can help you and your company spend less and stress less, please contact Will Fraser at wfraser@cleanair.org or at 215-567-4004 ext: 123

Do you already have a sustainable commute?

Tell us your story, and you could win a free TrailPass, a \$150 gift certificate to your local bike shop, or a green car-detailing. It's all part of our first Clean Air Commuter of the Year Award. The winners will be recognized at our upcoming Run for Clean Air on April 18th. You can nominate yourself, someone else, or even your employer online at www.cleanair.org/program/transportation/sustainable_commute.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Join Clean Air Council, the most active locally-based environmental organization in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, 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
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Philadelphia, PA 19103

Yes, I want to protect air!

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 \$250 Patron \$40 Individual
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Membership Services may be reached directly at 215.567.4004, ext. 108.
Or become a member instantly by going to www.cleanair.org/donate

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.

Fracking's Leaky Pipes

The Council is poised to launch an ambitious campaign to reduce methane leaks from natural gas extraction, processing and transportation. Pennsylvania sits on top of one of the largest natural gas fields in the world – the Marcellus shale. But not all of the gas reaches the consumer. Studies have shown that 4 to 9% of methane is lost in transit. When methane is released it acts as an extremely powerful greenhouse gas. Over a 20-year period, it's at least 86 times more powerful at trapping heat in the atmosphere than carbon dioxide. The gas industry touts that methane causes less global warming than coal. That, however, is only true if less than 3.2% of the gas is leaked.

These leaks aren't just a problem for our climate. Volatile organic compounds (a class of pollutants which cause smog) and hazardous air pollutants (gases that are often carcinogenic) are leaked along with the methane. This means reducing leaks in the gas industry is an important public health issue. One of the most notable examples is Wyoming. Industry emissions there can result in smog levels similar to major cities, including Los Angeles.

Now is the time to regulate methane in Pennsylvania. With the election of Tom Wolf as governor, there's a historic opportunity to enact best-in-the-nation methane regulations. During the recent gubernatorial campaign, Governor Wolf pledged to regulate methane, and acting Pennsylvania DEP Secretary John Quigley has voiced support for stronger gas regulations. What's more, opinion polling has shown that there is broad popular support for methane regulation in Pennsylvania. The people want it, and the planet needs it. What more could you want?

Colorado and other states far surpass Pennsylvania when it comes to regulating the gas industry. The gas industry is enormous, and its impact on the environment and local residents is even bigger. That's why it's time for Pennsylvania to lead by example. Pennsylvania has the opportunity to set the gold standard for methane regulations.

Pennsylvania's current methane regulations are far from top-notch. First and foremost, the Leak Detection and Repair program is voluntary, and excludes certain facilities. Second, the inspections are rare (every 3 months for compressor stations, and only once a year for wells). Lastly, even when leaks are discovered, industry has over 2 weeks to repair them. The Council is pushing for mandatory inspections every month, with 5 days to repair leaks. That's reasonable regulation.

For more information on the Council's campaign to lower methane emissions, please contact Aaron Jacobs-Smith. You can email him at ajs@cleanair.org, or call 215-567-4004 ext. 109.

The Council in the River Wards

If you live in Philadelphia's River Wards, you may have seen the Council's staffers, in collaboration with Drexel University, conducting a door-to-door survey of residents on local environmental hazards. The project began with Council efforts to report illegal burning at Kensington scrap-yards, but it soon took on a life of its own. The Council's Russell Zerbo and John Lee, along with Drexel Professors Ali Kenner and Igor Burstyn, drafted the survey last spring. They spent the summer assembling a team to conduct the survey door-to-door, and in the end recorded 350 surveys. The questions touched on a range of air-quality issues, such as industrial pollution, automobiles, and illegal burning in scrapyards.

The surveyors recorded self-reported cancer clusters in Bridesburg, dust pollution caused by unending construction in Port Richmond, and high levels of poverty and crime in Kensington. The team will present its findings at an upcoming City Council hearing on illegal dumping, offering solutions geared towards easing the reporting process. While the city of Philadelphia uses a centralized, digital system, the survey team found that residents often appreciated hard-copy information on how to access Philadelphia's services and departments. Perhaps most interesting, a number of residents surveyed initially responded that there



Photograph courtesy of Dr. Ali Kenner

were no environmental hazards in their neighborhood, but began to identify a number of environmental health and quality of life issues as the surveyors asked more questions. It soon became clear that most residents don't report neighborhood problems to the city. To fix this, the Council has set up a user-friendly reporting system at www.cleanair.org/ complaints. The more that people report pollution and other air quality problems in their neighborhood, the sooner we can get the ball rolling on fixing them. Drexel and the Council plan to continue this work in other Philly neighborhoods, looking for new issues to tackle. The surveyors are grateful to all that opened their doors and shared their stories. For more information, please contact Russell Zerbo at 215-567-4004 ext. 130, or email rzerbo@cleanair.org.