



# CLEAN AIR COUNCIL'S GREENFEST PHILLY EVENT CELEBRATES 13 YEARS OF SUSTAINABILITY & FUN

Presented by Toyota Hybrids | Sunday, September 9, 2018 | 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Clean Air Council is excited to host the 13th annual Greenfest Philly on Sunday, September 9th at the beautiful tree-lined Bainbridge Green (Bainbridge St between 3rd and 5th). The region's largest sustainability festival is returning with dozens of new vendors, live music, delicious food and family-friendly fun. With over 100 exhibitors and vendors, Greenfest is the place to have fun while learning impactful ways to live sustainably!

From live local music, to crafts and activities in the Kids' Corner, this year's Greenfest continues a tradition of creating a space for Philadelphia area residents of all ages and all interests to enjoy. The event kicks off at 10am with a free outdoor yoga class for everyone regardless of skill level. If you stick by the stage you can kick back with some sustainable grub from Philly's best food trucks and local craft beer while enjoying the area's most exciting up-and-coming musicians. Past Greenfest attendees have been amazed and entertained by great Philly bands such as The Districts, West Philadelphia Orchestra, Ron Gallo, and Ill Fated Natives! 2018's lineup is guaranteed to impress!

In addition to outdoor fun in the city, Greenfest's opportunities for learning are endless. Toyota

Hybrids is offering test drives of their entire line of hybrid vehicles including the all-new hydrogen fuel cell powered Mirai. If food is more your focus, you can enjoy vegan cooking demos with the area's greenest chefs, including Rachel Klein from Miss Rachel's Pantry. And if you enjoy getting your hands dirty, don't miss the popular DIY workshops. Workshops include "Cactuses and Crystals" and "Macrame Plant Hangers."

To support your "buy nothing" or "zero waste" lifestyle, Greenfest will once again feature its signature clothing and goods swap. Bring your gently used clothing and walk away with fantastic new-to-you items for your wardrobe and home. After you've driven, danced, ate, and swapped, stroll through the festival and visit the dozens of exciting activities at our wide variety of exhibitor booths. Even young environmentalists will enjoy the day with specially designed crafts and activities across the festival ranging from seed plantings and face painting to an outdoor rock climbing wall!

Greenfest Philly is always growing and changing, and there's much more to be found at the festival than we can fit in just one article. So come out to Bainbridge Green and join the

20,000 environmentalists that find their home at Greenfest, and check out what's happening on Philly's sustainability scene.

For more information about Greenfest Philly, the green vendors you'll find there and a schedule of programming, go to [www.greenfestphilly.org](http://www.greenfestphilly.org). You can also find the event on Facebook, with real-time information on this year's Greenfest as it unfolds. If you want to get involved in this year's Greenfest as a vendor or volunteer, please contact [events@cleanair.org](mailto:events@cleanair.org).

## the event

WHEN: Sunday, September 10, 2017  
WHERE: Bainbridge Street, between 3rd and 5th Street  
TIME: 10:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

Greenfest Philly is the largest outdoor environmental festival on the East Coast

LEARN MORE:  
[www.cleanair.org/greenfest](http://www.cleanair.org/greenfest)

## COUNCIL INTERNS: THANK YOU!

This summer was an extremely busy one for the Council staff. Fortunately reinforcements arrived in the form of amazing help from its six summer interns: Katherine Orr (Temple Law '20), Joe DeQuarto (University of Pennsylvania Law '20), Kelsey Lessard (Widener University Law '20, Alex Tablan (University of Pennsylvania Graduate School '19), Annie Fox (Temple University Law '20), Eleanor White (Franklin and Marshall '19) and Serena Livingston (Jack M Barrack Hebrew Academy '20). Katherine, Joe, Kelsey and Annie were embedded with the Council's legal staff and were invaluable in working on the Council's many lawsuits. Alex worked to evaluate Philadelphia's energy policies

and wrote a blueprint of suggested improvements. Eleanor worked with one of the Council's lawyers to promote recycling efforts in Philadelphia with a focus on getting restaurants to stop giving out straws unless asked for one. Serena worked directly with Executive Director and Chief Counsel Joe Minott on how to reduce plastic waste in schools and other public buildings. Serena also wrote two letters-to-the-editor published in local newspapers. To all of the Council's interns, thank you so much for your hard work! You have made a difference and left the Council better than when you began here.

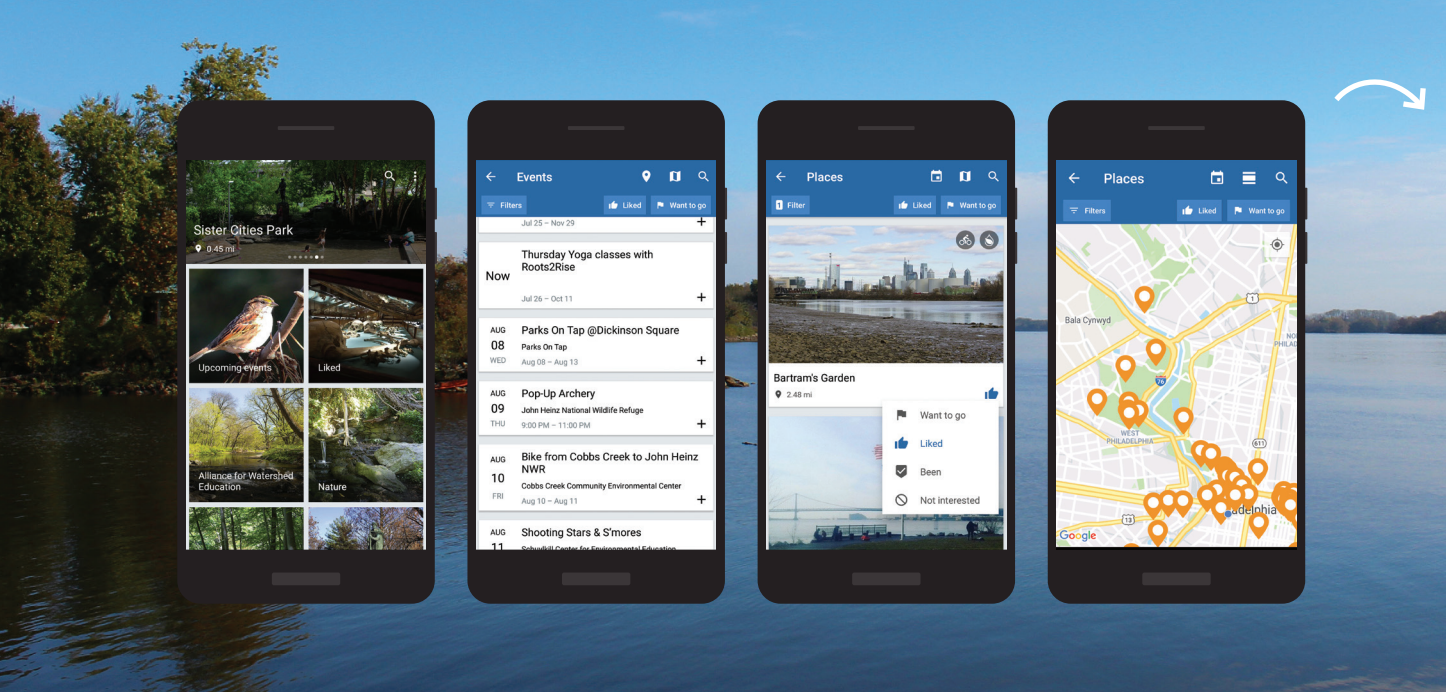


If you or someone you know is interested in a legal, engineering or general internship with the Council, please reach out to John Lee [jlee@cleanair.org](mailto:jlee@cleanair.org)

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Screenshots of the new GoPhillyGo app.

# GOPHILLYGO IS EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE ITS NEW MOBILE APP!

Bringing GoPhillyGo with you has never been easier. You can now download Clean Air Council's carless trip planning website as a free app for all Android phones in the Google Play Store.

Since 2015, GoPhillyGo.org has taken you everywhere in the Greater Philadelphia area by biking, walking, and using public transportation. Now, discovering GoPhillyGo's favorite destinations and events is as easy as opening your phone.

These are exactly the kinds of places you want to visit without a car. Destinations and events are tagged with categories: Nature, Exercise, and Education. You can search by different activities, membership to the Alliance for Watershed Education, and ADA accessibility.

- See a place you're excited to visit? Mark it as Want to Go. Did you love the last place you visited? Mark it as Liked.
- Looking for plans? Find guided hikes, canoe trips, and more under Events.

- If you prefer a birds-eye view of great places to go, click over to the map view.
- Ready to go somewhere? Click through to GoPhillyGo.org for directions.

Whether you're looking for a museum to visit, a trail to run on, or a park to bike to, the new GoPhillyGo app is here to help. We add new destinations and events every week, so check back regularly!

To download the app on your Android device, search 'GoPhillyGo' in the Google Play Store.

For more information on GoPhillyGo.org and the GoPhillyGo app, contact Olivia Ortiz  
✉ oortiz@cleanair.org



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## Clean Air Council Brings Smoke-Free Housing to Thousands

Clean Air Council has long been a leader in educating the public about and advocating for smoke-free initiatives in Pennsylvania. Since 2012 Clean Air Council has worked with public housing authorities across Pennsylvania to demonstrate the advantages of going tobacco free. The Council successfully assisted the Montgomery County Housing Authority and the Housing Authority of Chester County to implement voluntary smoke/tobacco free policies.

In a major victory for public health, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development published a final rule in December 2016 which mandated all public housing authorities to go smoke free by July 31, 2018. Since that time Clean Air Council has been busy helping remaining housing authorities to implement their policies.

One such case is with the Delaware County Housing Authority with approximately 2500 residents. Their policy officially began on April 1, 2018 which does not allow smoking anywhere in the building or within 25 feet of the structure. The Housing Authority policy took two additional steps to further protect the health of its residents. It included e-cigarettes in the policy and adopted

*"Clean Air Council was instrumental in coordinating resident education sessions at the Authority. They put together a team approach to discuss the advantages of smoke-free living and provided resources for individuals who decided they were ready to quit smoking."*

- Lawrence Hartley, Executive Director, Delaware County Housing Authority.

the Young Lungs at Play initiative to keep tobacco out of its outdoor play areas.

The Council's success centers on assembling a team of professionals to present the benefits of tobacco-free living and to deliver resources for employees and residents who choose to quit smoking.

For more information about smoke-free multiunit housing contact Thurman Brendlinger  
✉ brendlinger@cleanair.org or at 215-567-4004, Ext. 104

## INTERN'S VOICE

Alex Tablan,  
Master of Environmental Studies Candidate,  
2019, University of Pennsylvania

Thanks to a fellowship granted by the Kleinman Center for Energy Policy at the University of Pennsylvania, I have been interning as a renewable energy policy analyst for the Clean Air Council this summer. My focus has been reviewing the series of energy policies that the City of Philadelphia has laid out to achieve important goals, including an 80% carbon emissions reduction by 2050 and a commitment to get 100% of the City government's electricity from renewable sources by 2030. By researching energy and sustainability plans of comparable cities in the United States, I am identifying best practices to improve Philadelphia's policy paths towards decarbonization and a more sustainable future. For instance, studying municipal campaigns to boost solar energy has helped me narrow down a select few policies that are key to spurring residential investment in solar photovoltaic projects, including subsidies for low-income household roofs and ways to streamline the approval process for solar projects.

One important policy I have explored is how solar energy capacity of commercial building rooftops can be expanded by the City's prospective commercial property assessed clean energy program (C-PACE). In C-PACE, commercial property owners can apply for low-interest loans for clean energy projects through a city-coordinated program and pay off the loan over time through property taxes. This program presents exciting opportunities for the city of Philadelphia to leverage the private commercial sector to increase the use of solar energy and energy efficiency in Philadelphia. Using comparable C-PACE programs as blueprints, the Council is recommending that the City allow businesses who want to install solar or do energy efficiency projects shop around for loans through a C-PACE program with an open market structure. My policy recommendations are tailored to the structural and economic capacity of Philadelphia as well as the social and physical realities of our city in order to best and most efficiently realize the goal of increasing solar energy.

This internship has also afforded me eye-opening civic engagement opportunities in our Commonwealth's capital. On one memorable occasion, I was lucky enough to sit in on private meetings with state representatives and senators during the Clean Air Council's push to ensure strong air quality regulations on natural gas plants in Pennsylvania. I later took part in a lively rally on our Capitol's steps encouraging legislators to protect our right to breathe clean air. As I look back on this summer, I am grateful to have learned so much about energy policy while working with such an incredible team of passionate individuals who tirelessly work to better the lives of Pennsylvanians.



# ACTION REGARDING AIR POLLUTION FROM CLAIRTON COKE WORKS

Clairton is home to North America’s largest coke works facility, which has been in operation since 1904. Coke is a baked form of coal used to fuel blast furnaces, and preparing it is one of the dirtiest jobs in the steel industry. The coke works at Clairton produces 6 million tons of baked coal each year, and the process produces major amounts of sulfur dioxide emissions, which are harmful to the human respiratory system. But sulfur dioxide is just one part of a harmful cocktail, which also includes chemicals known to cause cancer. Toxic air emissions from the plant totaled nearly 970,000 pounds in 2015, according to the most recently available EPA data. The poor environmental performance of the Clairton Coke Works causes Allegheny County to be one of 20 counties across the US to exceed EPA air quality standards, and it ranks third highest for risk of cancer. Its record of noncompliance with the law has resulted in almost \$4 million in fines between 2009 and 2016, with an additional \$1 million fine levied in June by the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD), based on at least 6,700 recorded air pollution violations over a recent three and a half year period. Still, ACHD has not done enough to address the air pollution problem from coke ovens.

The Council has undertaken action to address this problem in two significant ways. First, the Council designed and launched a website to educate the public about the technical and legal aspects of coke oven operations: <http://pacoce-ovens.org/>. The website provides the tools for people to evaluate the air emissions from coke ovens, the technology underlying their operation, and the legal framework for regulation. Second, in April the Council launched its Southwest PA Neighbors for Clean Air campaign. This campaign involves working closely with residents to help them develop the resources and tools for communicating effectively about the air pollution problems in Southwestern Pennsylvania and the need for a solution. While this campaign is not limited to people living near coke ovens, it is important for addressing the air pollution problem in Clairton. The coke oven website is a tool that can be used in this broader campaign.



Unit 2 at Clairton Coke Works, Allegheny County, PA

An example of the Council’s outreach activities with respect to coke ovens is the *Legacy of our Losses* project, run by staff at its Pittsburgh office. Begun in the fall of 2017, the goal is to prepare video interviews with 100 people living in and around the city of Clairton in Allegheny County. Once this is completed, Council staff will post still photos from each of the videos on the window during one of the ACHD meetings, while they inform the department about the pollution in Clairton. To date, all interviewees have stated that the Clairton Coke Works has demonstrably lowered their quality of life. These impacts are felt physically, emotionally and socially. Some of the interviewees have lost friends or family to cancer or other diseases, which are likely caused or worsened by the chemicals emitted from the facility. Others were left behind when their friends, family and children who could afford to move out of Clairton left with no intention of returning.

The Council plans to share the results of these interviews with Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and apply political pressure on him, in response to his recent avoidance of responsibility for protecting the quality of life of the citizens of Clairton.

As these initiatives develop further, the Council looks forward to a better future for air quality in Allegheny County.

For more information on the Council’s work in Clairton, please reach out to Dave Smith  
✉ [dsmith@cleanair.org](mailto:dsmith@cleanair.org)

## VICTORY! New Methane Pollution Controls Implemented

On June 9, 2018, in a major milestone, Governor Wolf and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) finalized new “general permits” to control air pollution from new and modified natural gas facilities in the state. These landmark permits, known as GP-5 and GP-5A, will reduce emissions of methane (a potent greenhouse gas and ozone precursor) and volatile organic compounds, which pose significant public health risks to Pennsylvania communities. Pennsylvania is the second-largest natural gas producing state in the country, and methane is the primary component of natural gas. It leaks at every stage along the supply chain, but these general permits introduce — for the first time and at long last — state controls on methane pollution from the oil and gas industry.

Governor Wolf first declared his intent to control methane pollution in 2014 and formally announced his methane reduction strategy in January 2016. Clean Air Council has been outspoken in its support for his plan and has coordinated with the governor’s office and DEP in developing the permits’ language. The Council even drafted a model regulation for the Wolf administration, and many of its requirements were incorporated into the final general permits. The Council’s attorneys also submitted several rounds of technical comments on the permits. Earlier this spring, Council organizers worked with residents from impacted communities to deliver 30,000 comments in support of comprehensive methane pollution standards.

By listening to the needs of his constituents, Governor Wolf has finally delivered some of the strongest protections for new pollution sources in the nation. Given that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is actively seeking to dismantle commonsense clean air protections at the federal level, it is especially important that the Wolf administration is showing leadership and taking responsibility to protect the Commonwealth. GP-5A (which covers unconventional gas wells and remote pigging operations) and GP-5 (which covers compressor stations, processing plants, and transmission stations) will help streamline the approval process for industry operators provided they adhere to the permits’ conditions. The permits will apply to a greater universe of sources than EPA’s federal methane rules, and their requirements will bring Pennsylvania in line with other leading natural gas states like Colorado, Wyoming, and California.

While these permits represent a major step forward, they will apply only to new natural gas facilities constructed after August 8, 2018. That means that the thousands of existing natural gas facilities in Pennsylvania will not be affected by these controls. Governor Wolf has promised to address these existing sources next and, with recent peer-reviewed studies showing that methane emissions are substantially higher than what the industry self-reports to the state, the need for continued leadership on this issue is clear. Pushing Governor Wolf to fulfill his commitment to control existing source pollution will continue to be a top priority for the Council.

For more information on the Council’s work to reduce methane emissions, please contact Robert Routh  
✉ [rrouth@cleanair.org](mailto:rrouth@cleanair.org).

## Staff Profile: CARTER BROWN



Carter Brown joined the Council as its Membership Coordinator in July 2016 before being promoted to Development Officer in November 2017. Carter works as the Council’s primary individual gifts fundraiser. Recently, he organized all aspects of the Council’s 50th anniversary celebrations including raising over \$100,000 for the Council’s Legal Victory Fund. In addition to his fundraising work, Carter can be found coordinating the Fresh Air newsletters, working to integrate the Council’s Board members with its programmatic work and coming up

with creative ways to show the Council’s appreciation for the support of its members.

In his free time, Carter spends the warmer half of the year visiting Philly’s various beer gardens, traveling to visit friends, working on improving his cooking skills and taking ballroom dance lessons twice a week.

Do you have a question about the Council’s fundraising? Feel free to reach out to Carter ✉ [cbrown@cleanair.org](mailto:cbrown@cleanair.org) and he will get back to you quickly.

## staying social @cleanaircouncil

### OTHER COUNCIL PROGRAMS TO KEEP UP WITH ONLINE

#### FACEBOOK

DIRTY ENERGY:  
[/protectRchildren](#)

SUSTAINABLE  
TRANSPORTATION  
[@CleanerCommute](#)  
[@FeetFirstPhilly](#)  
[@GoPhillyGo](#)

/CLEANAIRCOUNCIL

EVENTS:  
[/DineOutfortheEnvironment](#)  
[/GreenFestPhilly](#)  
[/RunforCleanAir](#)

#### TWITTER

DIRTY ENERGY:  
[@ISeeSMokePA](#)

SUSTAINABLE  
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# Clean Air Council Still Fighting for Allegheny County Residents

Residents of Allegheny County live near some of Pennsylvania’s most polluting industries. The region struggles to meet federal health standards for many dangerous pollutants. Residents are protesting the outrageousness of the County’s decision to repurpose millions of dollars in Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) funds dedicated to improving air quality to renovate a building-- a building that ACHD does not even own!

Allegheny County has long been known to have devastatingly poor air quality. The Pittsburgh region was once the steel capitol of the world, and, with that title came a reputation for notoriously bad air quality. A recent air quality report from the American Lung Association rated the Pittsburgh region’s air as 10th worst in the country. The County received all “Fs”, the only one in the country outside of California. Knowing all of this, County leaders are still moving ahead with a plan to waste a majority of ACHD funds on one building.

Clean Air Council, along with other organizations repeatedly spoke out against this plan and recently met with the County Executive to try to dissuade him from squandering these funds. Unfortunately, this proved futile. The Council, seeing no alternative, filed a lawsuit (along with Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP)) asking a court to order that the County not waste ACHD funds renovating the building and that the funds be used for their original

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purpose: funding programs that will improve air quality for all local residents.

It is unfortunate that Allegheny County officials do not recognize the importance of using these funds to benefit the residents of the County struggling with dirty air. The Council believes that this

lawsuit will force ACHD to stop wasting resources on lavish projects that have nothing to do with improving air quality, and instead spend the money on improving the health and welfare of the citizens it should be protecting.

For more information, contact Logan Welde  
✉ lwelde@cleanair.org

## the Council

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Joseph Otis Minott, Esq.

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## Joe’s Corner

Commonsense regulations to protect public health and the environment are taking a beating at the federal level. It increasingly appears that any environmental protections adopted under the Obama Administration are simply going to be eviscerated no matter how harmful or unjustified the consequences. There often appears to be little rhyme or reason to these sweeping rollbacks.

Consider a recent example: the US. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed regulations that required automakers to increase the fuel economy of passenger vehicles to **an average** of at least 50 miles per gallon by 2025. These new regulations were developed collaboratively by the EPA, US Department of Transportation and automobile manufacturers. This was a long-term plan developed after years of research and feasibility studies. The technical record underpinning the regulations is extremely thorough, which may make it difficult for EPA to get a court to approve the weakening of these standards. To date, the Trump Administration has not successfully been able to delay the implementation of these regulations, so now it is simply attempting to weaken them.

Transportation is one of the greatest contributing factors to air pollution and climate change in the United States. According to the Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks 1990-2016, personal vehicles like cars and light duty trucks

contribute 60% of all transportation greenhouse gas emissions.

This is not new information. We have known for quite some time that burning fossil fuels contributes to serious public health impacts and to climate change. This is why the Obama Administration took steps to hold carmakers accountable for how many miles their vehicles get to the gallon. Tightening of the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards to limit transportation-related pollution achieved the goal of decreasing vehicle emissions well into the next decade. These regulations will improve public health by cleaning the air, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, saving drivers money at the pump, driving the development of new technologies that will create jobs, and making American cars and light trucks more competitive in world markets. It makes sense any way you look at it.

However, even with the departure of the ethically challenged Scott Pruitt as EPA Administrator, it seems unlikely that new Acting EPA Administrator Wheeler, a former lobbyist for the coal industry, will change course on this decision.

Please stay focused on EPA’s proposal to rollback the CAFE standards and, when EPA’s proposal comes out, look to the Council for suggested comments in opposing this radical, arbitrary approach.



For over five 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 and Chief Counsel.

## contact us

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