

# Fresh Air

## GoPhillyGo: Helping Greater Philadelphia Area Residents Travel Farther (Without a Car)

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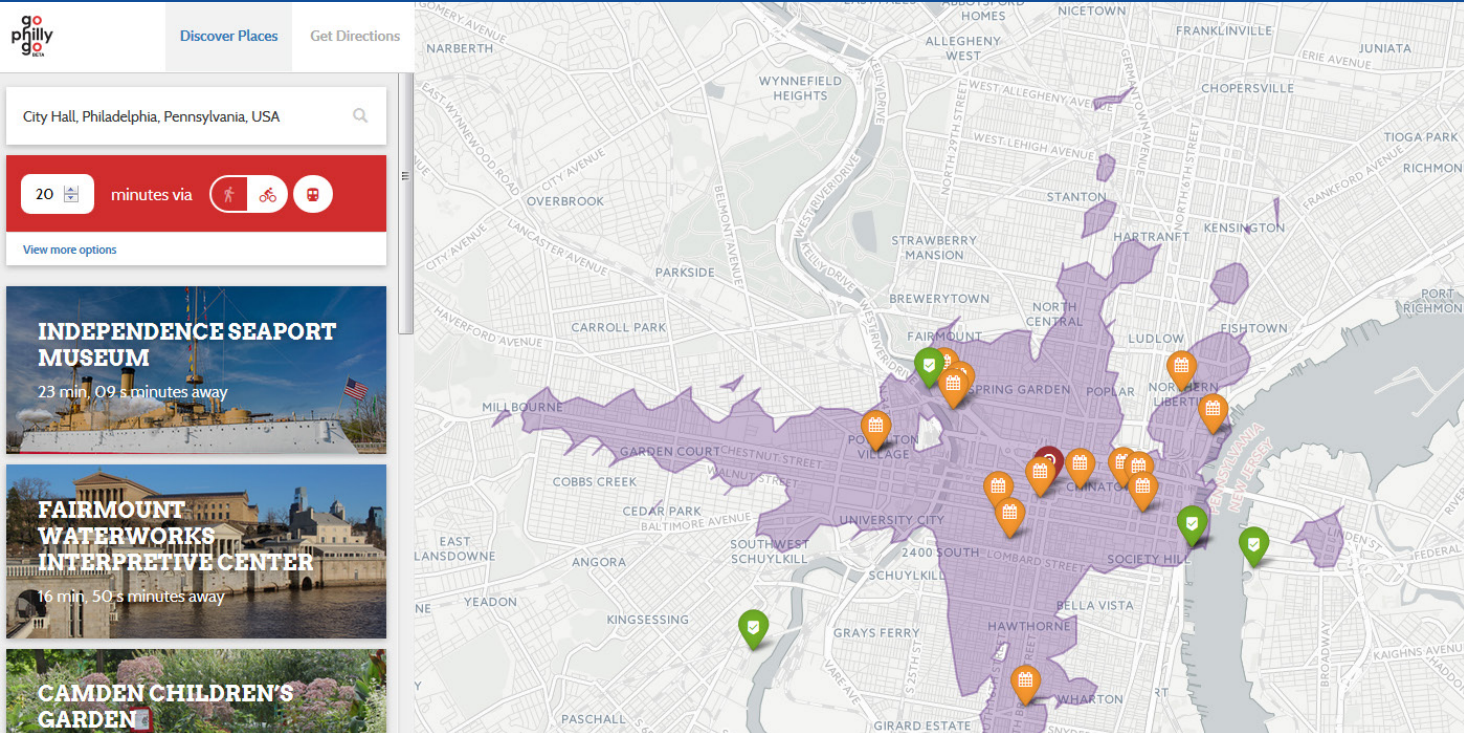
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The Clean Air Council is a member-supported, nonprofit environmental organization dedicated to protecting everyone's right to breathe clean air. The Council works through public education, community advocacy, and government oversight to ensure enforcement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



Thursday, October 15th marks the second-annual Dine Out for the Environment, Clean Air Council's newest fundraising event. Dine Out for the Environment is a restaurant-based event that features the area's most sustainable restaurants, highlighting the creative and unique

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Screenshot of GoPhillyGo.org's 20 min. travelshed map. Green pins represent area watershed destinations and the orange pins represent Visit Philly's events blog, Uwishunu's events.

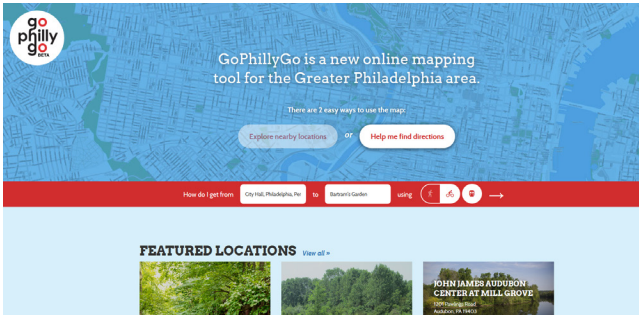
This summer, Clean Air Council launched GoPhillyGo.org, a new trip-planning website for the Greater Philadelphia region. Developed by Azavea with funding from the William Penn Foundation, GoPhillyGo makes it easy for users to plan trips combining biking, walking, and public transportation to go anywhere within the greater Philadelphia area.

GoPhillyGo offers multiple ways to plan car-free trips around the region. Users can enter a starting point and destination and get turn by turn directions with their chosen modes. Users can also enter just a starting point, which transportation modes they are willing to use, and the amount of time they're willing to travel. GoPhillyGo then creates a customized map showing the area a user can get to in that time with their chosen modes. Users can pick how far they'd like to walk to transit, and faster, safer, or flatter bike routes. The map also includes a live feed of the Indego bike share stations and bike availability, as well as fun local events via Visit Philadelphia's official tourism blog Uwishunu.

With GoPhillyGo's launch, dedicated multimodal travelers were excited about being able to plan trips combining bicycles and public transportation instead of manually cobbling together itineraries. Clean Air Council's GoPhillyGo team knew that starting to bike in the city or combine bikes and public transportation can be daunting, so the website includes guides to bicycling on city streets and bringing bicycles on regional public transportation.



Another exciting aspect of GoPhillyGo is its focus on watershed recreation and educational destinations. Part of the William Penn Foundation's mission is to encourage recreation in and appreciation of the Dela-



ware River Watershed's natural and historic areas. The William Penn Foundation saw GoPhillyGo as a great way to encourage people to visit Watershed destinations they might not have known about or thought they needed a car to access. GoPhillyGo highlights approximately 15 Watershed destinations throughout the region, including Fairmount Water Works, the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum, and Palmyra Cove Nature Park. The destinations have attractions for children, history buffs, birdwatchers, hikers, and anyone looking to enjoy the fresh air Clean Air Council works to protect. You can follow GoPhillyGo's social media streams to stay in the loop about destinations' special events, from evening concerts in Bartram's Garden to guided canoe tours of Perkiomen Creek with the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove.

By making it easy to get onto and enjoy the region's trail network, GoPhillyGo furthers Clean Air Council's existing transportation work, including its sustainable commute program, Cleaner Commute Philadelphia, and its work to complete the Delaware Valley's Circuit Trail network. And of course, every car-free trip made with GoPhillyGo keeps our air a little cleaner. Check out GoPhillyGo.org and get exploring!

To learn more, you can reach the Council's Sustainable Transportation Outreach Director Coryn Wolk at [cwolk@cleanair.org](mailto:cwolk@cleanair.org), or by calling 215-567-4004 ext. 107.





## Greenfest Philly – A Game Day Guide

Where can you learn about climate change, test drive an electric BMW, sample delicious food made from local ingredients, enjoy a sustainable beer, and taste-test a cricket on a cracker? At Greenfest Philly of course! 2015 marks the 10th anniversary of Philadelphia's LARGEST Environmental festival and Clean Air Council is preparing for the biggest and most exciting event to date.

Start your day at Greenfest with some sun salutations, as the festival hosts a FREE outdoor yoga class for all ages on South Street. This new feature is a great way to kick off your festival experience, and will be appropriate for all ages and levels. After your yoga class, take a quick break and cool off in the Rest and Recharge tent. You can even grab a complimentary cold brew iced coffee from Joe Coffee!

Once properly caffeinated, it's time to hit the vendors and shop for some one-of-a kind eco-goods. Environmentally friendly and all natural body products and cleansers made in Philadelphia, handcrafted chemical-free children's toys, even upcycled pet toys can be found at the festival. Browsing can work up an appetite, so grab some delicious food from one of Greenfest's popular food trucks like Farm Truck or Kung Fu Hoagies and relax in the beer garden with a sustainably brewed Philadelphia Brewing Company beer. The beer garden even has games like ping pong and bean bag toss to get some friendly competition going while you listen to the Greenfest Stage and popular bands like The Lawsuits and Levee Drivers play live.

MOM's Organic Market Kid's Corner provides hours of fun and activities for the young and young at heart. You can play the trash dash recycling game and learn about what items go in what bins. Or learn about climate change and how Philadelphia can prepare for a hotter, wetter climate by simulating your own rainstorms and watching how vegetation helps absorb runoff and prevent flooding.



Consolidated Solar's Mobile Solar Generator single-handedly powered last year's festival.

As always, Clean Air Council is committed to minimizing the festival's environmental footprint. Solar panels provide all power, and water bottle refill stations can be found throughout the festival (as well as recycling and composting bins). New for 2015, there will be an unlimited Indego bike share docking station at 2nd and South during the festival. Philadelphia Insurance Companies also sponsors a free bike valet at 3rd and South. It'll be easier than ever to hop on two wheels and use pedal power to get to Greenfest.

## Northampton Fights Back Against Lead

Lead is easily one of the most harmful air pollutants on earth, which is why it was outright banned from almost all gasoline and consumer products in the US. But for the residents of Northampton, PA, they've been exposed to high levels of lead pollution for years now from the Northampton Generating Plant. The facility burns coal waste, tires, and other miscellaneous scraps to generate electricity. Currently, the facility emits between 15 and 40 pounds of lead a year.

Residents are angry that the company wants to be allowed to emit over 20 times MORE lead into the air than it's currently permitted for. One resident at a recent hearing aptly summarized the situation when he said that, if officials really had Northampton's interests at heart, then "this meeting would be about shutting that plant down — not about letting them spew more crud."

The Council supports the residents in their concern about how increased lead emissions will impact their health and welfare. Council community organizer, Russell Zerbo, has been working hard with community residents to oppose the plant's new permitting. Russell recently testified that lead is known to cause neurological disorders (there's a cluster of childhood autism spectrum disorder cases around the facility), and the facility's only reason to want such a higher limit is so it can burn even dirtier fuels.

In addition to providing testimony, the Council has gathered over 1,800 residents' signatures on a petition asking State officials to reject the company's request.

Russell Zerbo can be reached at [rzerbo@cleanair.org](mailto:rzerbo@cleanair.org), or by calling 215-567-4004 ext. 130.

For more on what Greenfest has in store, visit [www.greenfestphilly.org](http://www.greenfestphilly.org) and follow the festival on Twitter ([twitter.com/greenfestphilly](https://twitter.com/greenfestphilly)) and Facebook ([facebook.com/greenfestphilly](https://facebook.com/greenfestphilly)). If you'd like more information about the festival, either as a vendor or visitor, get in touch with Katie Edwards at [kedwards@cleanair.org](mailto:kedwards@cleanair.org), or call 215-567-4004 ext. 102. We'll see you there!

## Thursday, October 15th marks the second-annual Dine Out for the Environment

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steps they take to reduce their environmental impact. Restaurants participating in Dine Out for the Environment pledge to donate a percentage of their sales for the whole day to Clean Air Council.

In its first year, Dine Out for the Environment boasted participation with Philly flavor-favorites including Earth Bread + Brewery, Harvest Seasonal Grill, Pure Fare, Square 1682, and Standard Tap. Expanding on last year, the 2015 Dine Out for the Environment will be larger, featuring more sustainable restaurants both in the city and the suburbs.

Participating in Dine Out for the Environment is as easy as eating at one of the many participating restaurants on Thursday, October 15th. For a full list of participating restaurants, just visit [www.DineOutForTheEnvironment.org](http://www.DineOutForTheEnvironment.org). If you know of any restaurants possibly interested in this, email Bobby Szafranski at [rs@cleanair.org](mailto:rs@cleanair.org), or call 215-567-4004 ext. 112.

## Let the Council Help You Plan for I-95 Construction

This year, PennDOT began work on rebuilding the portion of I-95 that runs through Philadelphia, from I-676 to Cottman Avenue. This is a process that will take more than a decade to complete, and one that will have considerable impacts on transportation in the region. It will be important for people and their employers who use I-95 for commuting to evaluate alternatives. Not only will the traffic delays be inconvenient, but the heavy congestion will also create more air pollution than usual.

Clean Air Council's Cleaner Commute Philadelphia program works with employers and their employees on ways to reduce congestion and promote sustainable commuting options. The Council is partnering with PennDOT, DVRPC, and other stakeholders to reduce environmental impacts of increased congestion during this project. Part of the Cleaner Commute program includes promoting RideECO – a tax free incentive to use public transportation; Share A Ride – the region's

database of people looking for commuting carpools; biking and walking to work; and creative options like flex time and telecommuting.

PennDOT will be keeping a website updated to keep the public informed on the project's progress, and includes a section of the website devoted to commuting and commute alternatives: [www.95revive.com/your-95/commuting](http://www.95revive.com/your-95/commuting). Interested commuters can also visit [cleanair.org/program/transportation/sustainable\\_commute](http://cleanair.org/program/transportation/sustainable_commute) anytime to get information on the Council's programs.

If you or your coworkers use I-95 to get to work, help us reduce air pollution and get you to work on time! Please have your employer contact our Sustainable Transportation team today. You can reach Nick Rogers at [nrogers@cleanair.org](mailto:nrogers@cleanair.org), or by calling 215-567-4004 ext. 110.



## Pennsylvanians Say NO to More Pipelines

One of the most common ways to transport fracked gas is to pump it through pipelines. With the fracking boom, local communities in Pennsylvania have become enmeshed in numerous proposals to build new pipelines to transport the fuel throughout the region. In March of 2014, the Williams Company proposed the Atlantic Sunrise Pipeline Project. This pipeline would run 178 miles and carry gas from Pennsylvania to Washington, DC and export facilities in the area.



From the annual Millville Firefighters Fourth of July Parade

Williams has been very aggressive in its pursuit of this project. Their landmen (company representatives who deal with landowners) have resorted to threatening to use eminent domain against landowners who don't allow them to survey their property. Residents have called such threats bullying, and even called the police and filed trespassing charges.

The Council organizing staff joined other groups to organize residents and help them understand their rights and how to assert them. The groups have begun door canvassing to provide residents with information, resulting in a number of property owners sending notarized letters to Williams rescinding their permission to enter their property. Group members even drove anti-pipeline floats in the local 4th of July parade. Perhaps most significantly, resident organizing has led to a number of townships in Lancaster, Lebanon, and Luzerne passing resolutions of opposition to the proposed pipeline.

The Atlantic Sunrise proposal is split into two halves, the "Central Penn Line North" and the "Central Penn Line South." Along the northern half of the route, fracking is already taking place. Many residents are trying to stop the seemingly unending extraction of natural gas, and now they have a new major threat to consider. A number of residents claim that fracking has already created problems with water and air contamination, and the EPA has repeatedly confirmed this. In the southern half, there's not much drilling, so residents are working to protect historical farmland from industrial development. Residents of the 10 counties impacted have all united to say NO to Atlantic Sunrise!

You can reach the Council's Atlantic Sunrise field organizer, Deirdre Lally, at [dlally@cleanair.org](mailto:dlally@cleanair.org).

## Don't Smoke Out Your Neighbors This Fall

Soon it will be fall, with its beautiful colors and cooler weather. With the change in seasons, more people look towards recreational wood burning without fully understanding the consequences. While wood fires may evoke happy memories or seem "natural," they actually pose a threat to public health and welfare. Wood smoke contains dozens of toxic air pollutants such as benzene, toluene, methane, formaldehyde, and naphthalene, many of which are found in cigarettes. Fine particulate matter in wood smoke has been linked to numerous health concerns, all of which disproportionately affect our most vulnerable citizens; children, the elderly and those with a preexisting lung or heart disease.

Pennsylvanians emit over 23,000 tons of wood smoke every year, and it's especially bad in the Pittsburgh area. The beautiful valleys and hills trap the pollution, aggravating this problem even further. An estimated 18% of fine particulate matter pollution in Allegheny County is due to wood smoke. One third of all health complaints about air quality are related to wood burning. This is a health hazard that can easily be prevented.



Just one of many examples of illegal burning.

It's no surprise that the Council's ISeeSmoke app has seen the most reports come from Allegheny County. The Council has also been active in pushing the Allegheny County Health Department to take strong steps to protect public health. While there are some steps in the right direction, such as prohibiting open burning on particularly bad air quality days, there are still significant problems. For instance, the County Health Department supports purchasing cleaner burning devices. Even EPA-certified wood burners have negative effects, and it's why many urban areas have chosen to prohibit burning altogether. The Council plans to continue fighting for stricter regulations until air quality in the region reaches federal air-quality standards.

Learn about the regulations in your community and what you can do to keep your neighborhood smoke free by visiting [ISeeSmokePA.org](http://ISeeSmokePA.org). You can also reach the Council's Southwest Outreach Coordinator Mollie Simon at [msimon@cleanair.org](mailto:msimon@cleanair.org), or by calling 215-567-4004 ext. 128.

## Legal Update: Council Teams Up with the ACLU

For the first time in the Council's long history, it was hit with a SLAPP suit—short for Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation. Industry uses SLAPP suits to try and scare public watchdogs into not challenging unlawful pollution in the courts. In effect, the Council was sued because it was doing what it does best: protecting everyone's right to breathe clean air.

The SLAPP suit came out of the Council's litigation in Middlesex Township. In the fall of 2014, Middlesex Township passed a zoning ordinance that opened up more than 90% of the Township to natural gas fracking. Shortly thereafter, the Township approved Rex Energy's Geyer Well Site, a six-well fracking operation within a half-mile of the area's school district, and less than 1,000 feet from a residential community. The Council, in partnership with the Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) and four local residents, challenged the zoning ordinance and the permit for the Geyer Well Site. The case was heard by members of the Middlesex Township Zoning Hearing Board (ZHB). Believe it or not, all 3 members of the board had gas leases at some point during the dispute. While the Council's legal challenge was before the ZHB, the Township could not issue new fracking permits and Rex Energy could not drill its wells.

Five days before the case was to be decided by the ZHB, on May 22, a developer and a group of gas leaseholders brought their SLAPP suit. They claimed that the Council and its partners were intentionally interfering with their gas leases. But given the timing of the lawsuit, the true intent was clear. They wanted to silence the Council and the local residents' concerns about opening most of the township to drilling.

As expected, on May 27, after initially recusing themselves due to their conflicts of interest, the ZHB voted to deny the Council's challenge. And at least in part, the SLAPP suit had its intended effect. One of the local residents who initially joined the challenge decided not to participate in the appeal of the ZHB decision, out of fear for the family's financial security.

Recognizing the significant free speech implications of the SLAPP suit, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) stepped in. The ACLU has demanded that the suit be withdrawn, otherwise it will seek sanctions.

Meanwhile, the underlying case regarding the zoning ordinance and Geyer Well Site is on appeal before the Butler County Common Pleas. The Council efforts have already been met with early success. The Judge granted the Council's request for a stay, which continues the freeze on further fracking in Middlesex Township.

If you'd like to learn more, contact Aaron Jacobs-Smith at [ajs@cleanair.org](mailto:ajs@cleanair.org), or call 215-567-4004 ext. 109.

## 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 the air!

☐ \$365 Earth Day Funder

☐ \$60 Household

☐ \$250 Patron

☐ \$40 Individual

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☐ \$20 Student/ Senior

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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/give](http://www.cleanair.org/give)

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.



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  
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Learn more by calling  
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[www.cleanair.org](http://www.cleanair.org)

Staff Profile

Albert Trujillo

Albert Trujillo joined the Council in September 2014 and is currently the Council’s Development and Fundraising Coordinator. Albert writes and submits grant proposals across all programmatic areas; researches and engages new funding prospects using a variety of databases; and assists in developing a long-term strategic plan for the Council.



Albert’s arrival at the Council was both his first job out of college and his first time stepping foot onto the east coast (he’s originally from Southern California). After receiving his job with the Council, Albert was thrilled to make a cross-country move—a move that gave him a valued crash-course in independence, resourcefulness, and responsibility.

As a member of the Latino and queer community, Albert is trying to figure out ways to further empower these communities on environmental issues. One program that Albert is currently trying to get off the ground is *Líderes Verdes* (Green Leaders), which would act as a resource for Latinos in Philadelphia concerned about climate change.

Albert also enjoys frequenting music venues to support smaller bands and DJs, keeping a sketchbook, and exploring new technologies.

Albert can be reached at 215-567-4004 ext. 103 or by email at [atrujillo@cleanair.org](mailto:atrujillo@cleanair.org).

HOW I SEE IT: JOE’S CORNER

Have you heard the discussion lately about making Philadelphia a fossil fuel “energy hub”? If not – don’t be surprised. Most of the conversation and planning has been taking place behind closed doors between business leaders and elected officials. But neighborhood leaders, environmental health advocates, and religious leaders have not been allowed to participate.

So let me bring you in on the secret: the proposal is to import huge amounts of Bakken Oil, natural gas liquids, and natural gas to the city to process into other products, refine, or use as a fuel source. Some of the products will be shipped overseas. To try to make their troubling vision a reality, companies are increasing the number of trains carrying Bakken oil coming into the City and building or expanding pipelines to bring natural gas and natural gas liquids into the city from other parts of the state. It is being touted as a plan to create a manufacturing renaissance in Philadelphia.

Our elected officials and business leaders are falling over themselves trying to make it happen as quickly as possible. Feasibility studies are being conducted, two token public meetings were held, and 5 of the 6 Democratic mayoral candidates this spring strongly supported the development of a fossil energy hub as part of their platform.

The Council is of course extremely concerned about this plan. What we are not hearing about is the downside to expanded fossil fuel infrastructure. City elected leaders seem to have skipped discussing “if” this should happen, and gone straight to “how” and “when” it will happen. Is becoming a major fossil fuel manufacturing energy hub really the best vision for Philadelphia? Why is there no discussion about spending scarce public resources on making Philadelphia a green energy hub, focused on energy efficiency and solar energy? Clean energy is low-polluting, moves the country away from greenhouse gas-emitting fossil fuels, creates substantially more local jobs than other energy sources, and will not impact the city’s tourism and educational reputation.

Processing more fossil fuel means more smog, more greenhouse gasses, more harm to public health, fewer long-term jobs, and increased potential for a major incident. We need to keep in mind that the Philadelphia region already does not meet federal air quality standards. Furthermore, 25% of the city’s children have asthma exacerbated by polluted air, and the refinery where some of the fossil fuels would be processed already emits 70% of the city’s toxic emissions. In fact, the refinery is on an EPA watch list for its repeated Clean Air Act violations. Let’s also not forget that the city has seen two oil train derailments recently.

The Council has been testifying, rallying, and organizing residents to make our voices heard. To help this cause, we’ve joined with over a dozen other groups to form the coalition Green Justice Philly. The coalition will soon begin hosting community forums to raise awareness and demand to be heard. To get involved yourself, you can contact our Community Outreach Director Matt Walker at [mwalker@cleanair.org](mailto:mwalker@cleanair.org), or by calling 215-567-4004 ext. 121. Together, we can stop this bad idea from becoming a reality.

Joe Minott is the Executive Director of Clean Air Council