

Fresh Air

Ready, Set, Run For Clean Air!

In this issue:

- 1 Ready, Set, Run For Clean Air!
Bike (Rack) Philly
- 2 Commuter Connections
Marcellus Shale Compressors
Exceed Pollution Limits
Clean Air Council Acts for
Increased Energy Efficiency
- 3 Risks of Biomass Burning
Climate Change Expert Teams
Up With Clean Air Council
Young Lungs at Play
Community Tour
- 4 Toxics Tour
Joe's Corner



2012 was the hottest year ever recorded in America. The ten hottest years in American history have all occurred in the last 15 years. On February 17, Clean Air Council led dozens of activists to the Forward on Climate Rally in Washington, D.C. to make it clear to the President that the majority of citizens are gravely concerned about the damage being done to the environment by corporate polluters.

Mark your calendars. Philadelphia's LARGEST Earth Day celebration, the 5K Run for Clean Air and Earth Day celebration, is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., April 20th, 2013. The certified green Run is a celebration of sustainable and healthy neighborhoods, clean air, and improvements in the region's overall environmental health. The Run, in its 32nd year, has made some exciting changes for 2013. The Run's staging area and Earth Day Celebration will be held at the base of the iconic Art Museum steps. This picturesque location is just a few steps from the start/finish line, but provides an expanded new space for more activities, exhibitors, food, and fun.

Earth Day is an important celebration for all ages. To engage even more participants, the Council has added a Kids' Fun Run, sponsored by Mom's Clean Air Force. The Kids' Run is a fast and exciting ½ mile course along MLK Drive for ages 6-12 and a spirited 250 meter dash for 6 and under.

For the second year, Platinum Sponsor SCA, one of Philadelphia's most sustainable companies, will be providing free registration to all participants 60 & over. SCA has been sponsoring the Run since 2011 and has a strong commitment to sustainability that dates back 80 years to the company's roots in the Swedish forests. In addition to providing registration for runners and walkers 60 and over, their support keeps the Run as green as possible and enables



Participants in the 2012 Run for Clean Air enjoyed a beautiful April day outdoors supporting the environment and the Council's work.

the Council to feature recycling and composting stations, reusable banners, recycled paper products, and more.

Clean Air Council has worked closely with local energy supplier and Gold Sponsor, Community Energy, for years and has once again teamed up with them to offer FREE registration for the 5K Run or 3K Walk! Community Energy's efforts to develop and supply 100% clean, fuel-free, renewable energy generated right here in Pennsylvania have been vital

to building a clean energy future for our local communities. Earn FREE Registration and sign up today at www.communityenergyinc.com/5kRun.

Clean Air Council looks forward to you joining us for the biggest and most exciting Run in event history. Register online at www.5KRunforCleanAir.org. Online pre-registration is open until April 15 and race day registration opens at 7:30 a.m. on April 20th at the Art Museum. If you have any questions or to get a free 60 & up registration code, please contact Run Director, Katie Edwards at 215-567-4004 ext.102 or kedwards@cleanair.org.

Bike (Rack) Philly

Clean Air Council is currently working with businesses to install bicycle parking racks throughout Philadelphia. More than 11,000 bicyclists commute to work every day and seventy percent of bicyclists say they would bike more if secure bicycle parking was more easily available. Clean Air Council has worked to install over a dozen bike racks with business owners who see the benefit in providing a bike rack in front of their store. Secure bicycle parking not only encourages employees to bike to work but also provides parking to the more than 300,000 potential customers who bike in Philadelphia every month during the summer. Attracting the increasing number of peo-

ple who choose bicycling as their transportation option is as easy as installing a rack! Clean Air Council assists businesses in the application process by creating the architectural rendering, taking photographs, and deciding what type of rack would best suit the needs of the business. Installing a bicycle rack enhances your relationship with the bicycling community and encourages people to patronize a business that regards bicycles as a permanent and important part of Philadelphia's transportation infrastructure. For more information on how you or your business can acquire a rack please contact Will Fraser at wfraser@cleanair.org or call (215) 567-4004 ext.123.

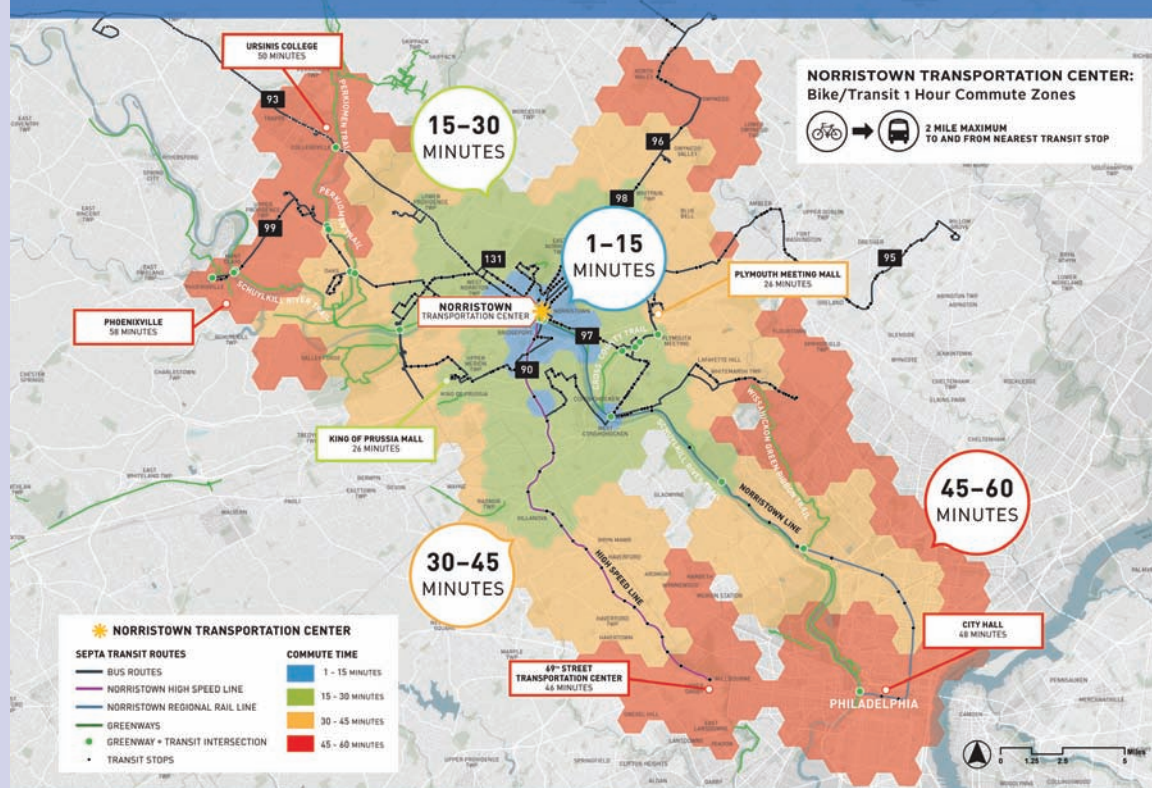


Let the Commuter Connection Program show you the safest, easiest way to bicycle and take public transit to work!

Keep an eye out for the Commuter Connection program at local events, too. We'll be demonstrating how to use SEPTA's bike racks to load your bike on to busses.

Contact Nick Rogers at nrogers@cleanair.org or (215) 567-4004 x110 to learn more about the Commuter Connection PA program and get your FREE personalized commuter map!

WHERE CAN YOU GO IN 1 HOUR? Call or email today for a personalized bike-transit map! ☎ 215-567-4004 x110 ✉ nrogers@cleanair.org



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Marcellus Shale Compressors Exceed Pollution Limits

Natural gas infrastructure is a complicated and often vast network containing pipelines that move natural gas from wells to compressor stations that pressurize the gas, processing plants that separate the gas from water, and other components. Air pollution is emitted during every step. To date only a limited amount of monitoring and modeling has been performed to determine how serious a problem the pollution is.

Clean Air Council has repeatedly requested that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) require modeling for larger compressor stations to ensure that they do not cause pollution that will exceed the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), the federal health-based standard, in nearby areas. PA DEP, however, responds that because these sources are classified as “minor sources” of emissions they are not required to perform modeling and that by virtue of being a minor source the facility will not impact the NAAQS.

In an effort to determine whether PA DEP’s claim that “minor sources” could not trip the NAAQS was right, the Council hired a consultant to model the nitrogen dioxide emissions from the Barto Compressor Station in Penn Township, Lycoming County. The modeling results showed that the Station itself causes nitrogen dioxide

pollution 278 percent over the health standard. The modeling showed that exceedances of the federal health standards for nitrogen dioxide can be measured a mile away from the Station.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set a new 1-hour nitrogen dioxide NAAQS in January 2010. The standard was established at a level determined to protect the public from adverse health effects associated with short-term exposure to elevated levels of oxides of nitrogen. Health impacts include increased asthma symptoms, difficulty controlling asthma and increases in respiratory illnesses. Furthermore, nitrogen dioxide contributes to the formation of ground-level ozone which can trigger a variety of health problems. While modeling is not required for a minor source, Pennsylvania law gives PA DEP ample authority to request modeling. The Council’s recent modeling study makes clear that these “minor sources” are having a major impact on local air quality and PA DEP must address this serious pollution.

The Council is hopeful that its modeling report will persuade PA DEP to protect public health and take serious measures to reduce the harmful oxides of nitrogen pollution from natural gas operations across Pennsylvania. A copy of the report can be found on the Council’s website www.cleanair.org. For more information on the Report and the Council’s work reducing pollution from natural gas operations, contact Jay Duffy at jduffy@cleanair.org or 215-567-4004 ext.109.

Clean Air Council Acts for Increased Energy Efficiency

Clean Air Council has long been a proponent of energy efficiency. Energy efficiency is one of the easiest, fastest, and cheapest ways to reduce air pollution. So when the Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission (PUC) solicited comments on the proposed second phase of utility scale energy efficiency programs, the Council jumped right in.

Pennsylvania’s utility scale energy efficiency programs were enacted under Act 129 of 2008. Phase I of Act 129 programs was a huge success, with many utilities exceeding their given targets for energy savings. Under the proposed Phase II of Act 129 programs, utilities in Pennsylvania were tasked with reducing energy use by 2% over three years. Unfortunately, the utilities were unhappy with the proposed 2% target and many submitted comments to the PUC claiming that the proposed goals were too costly or overly burdensome to implement.

Clean Air Council, having worked with several local utilities and being familiar with energy efficiency programs in other states, saw the opportu-

nity for even greater energy savings than those proposed. The Council coordinated with its allies throughout the state and submitted several sets of public comments challenging the utilities’ assertions.

In its final order, the PUC declined to increase the Phase II energy savings targets and instead left them at the originally proposed levels. When the utilities appealed the final ruling, the Council intervened in the proceedings before the PUC. In the end, the Council’s involvement in this process did not result in an increase in Phase II energy savings targets, but it did prevent them from being weakened as the utilities had initially sought.

The Council plans to participate in the design of Phase III of Act 129 programs in the coming year with the hopes that more aggressive energy savings targets can be established. For more information on the Council’s energy efficiency work contact Thurm Brendlinger at brendlinger@cleanair.org or 215-567-4004 ext.104.

Risks of Biomass Burning

Across Pennsylvania, companies are proposing to build or expand facilities to burn wood and wood waste and convert it into electricity. Proponents of this kind of biomass claim it is a “green” energy and that it should be considered in the same category as solar and wind energy. Most environmental health advocates, however, would not put burning wood in the same category as wind or solar. But is it really greener than coal or natural gas?

When it comes to emissions from burning wood there are two separate but intertwined issues: Is burning wood carbon neutral, and what are the other emissions released in burning wood?

Determining the carbon footprint of wood burning is a difficult task. Proponents argue that burning wood releases sequestered carbon that can be replaced by replanting a tree. They also point out that wood waste products left on the forest floor would decompose over time and the carbon would then be released anyway. But the math is not so simple. There are many arguments against the “burning wood is carbon neutral” argument. The two most important are: (1) The kind of trees cut down for burning must be replaced by trees that have a similar sequestration potential and in sufficient quantity and (2) it takes little time to burn wood but many years to grow a mature tree. That creates a carbon release surplus.

All environmental health advocates agree that burning wood, no matter how clean the wood stock, releases health threatening emissions and pollutants that wind and solar do not. The pollutant of greatest concern is fine particulates. Those small particles (less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter) because of their small size (approximately 1/30th the average width of a human hair) can lodge deeply into the lungs. Fine particles are known to trigger respiratory problems such as asthma attacks and even heart problems. Fine particles are considered especially dangerous for young children with developing lungs, the elderly, and people of all ages who have asthma, bronchitis, other respiratory problems, and cardiovascular disease.

The Clean Air Council’s lawyers have been reviewing regulations and permits for wood burning facilities across Pennsylvania. At the moment, the Council is looking at existing large permitted facilities. The Council’s findings have raised some concerns. The Council’s research has shown that some wood burning facilities located at factories and even at schools have been operating with expired permits. So far, the Council’s program has uncovered roughly a dozen facilities operating with some kind of permitting error or oversight. This is problematic because it suggests that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) is not monitoring, following and overseeing these facilities adequately.

Over the past few months, the Clean Air Council has issued four notices of intent to sue operators of wood-burning boilers for operating with expired permits. PA DEP has cooperated with the Council in expediting the review of those permit renewals, and the Council is working diligently to comment on those draft permits to ensure compliance with applicable regulations. For more information, please contact David Presley at dpresley@cleanair.org or 215-567-4004 ext.122 or Tom Duncan at tduncan@cleanair.org or 215-567-4004 ext.103.

Young Lungs at Play Community Tour

Clean Air Council conducted the successful regional Young Lungs at Play Community Tour during the week of the Great American Smokeout November 13-15, 2012. The tour highlighted communities which have adopted the successful Pennsylvania Department of Health program that encourages tobacco-free outdoor play areas. It included stops in each of five counties within the region: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster and Schuylkill counties. For more information on the Council’s anti-smoking work contact Thurm Brendlinger at brendlinger@cleanair.org or 215-567-4004 ext.104.

Ephrata Board members Dale Hertzog, President and Thomas Rheinhold plus the Recreation Director were in attendance. Lancaster General, the YWCA of Lancaster and Ephrata coordinated and attended the event.



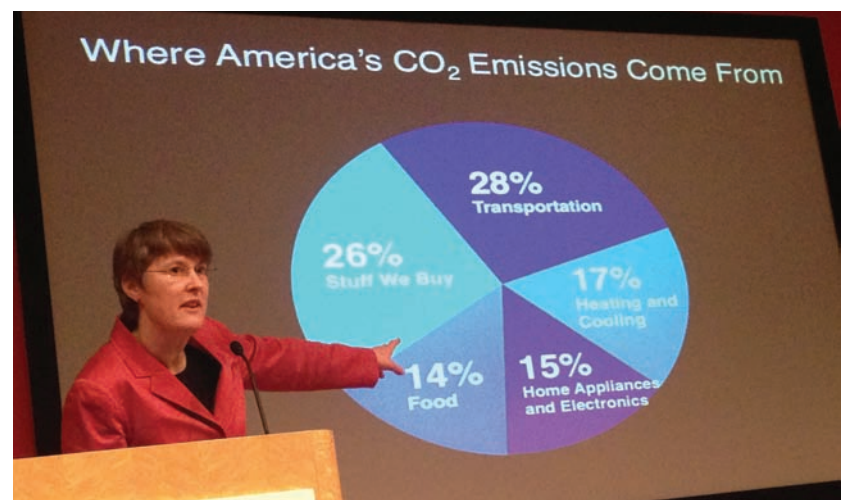
Climate Change Expert Teams Up With Clean Air Council

Coinciding with the three month anniversary of Superstorm Sandy, Clean Air Council hosted Dr. Brenda Ekwurzel, a leading climate scientist from the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS). Over three days in January, Dr. Ekwurzel spoke with Philadelphia business leaders, government officials, and everyday citizens about the serious public health and environmental threat from climate change.

In addition to advocating for elected officials to develop policies to mitigate carbon emissions, the UCS urges individuals to take easy steps to reduce their own carbon footprint. These practical steps for low-carbon living are outlined in UCS’s new book “Cooler Smarter.” Clean Air Council hosted Dr. Ekwurzel for a lunch attended by area environmental organizations to discuss the climate change driven disasters occurring in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Immediately after the luncheon Joe Minott, Dr. Ekwurzel, PA Rep. Greg Vitali, and PA Rep. Steve McCarter held a press conference at Philadelphia City Hall calling on government and businesses to start taking measures to address climate change.

The Council and Dr. Ekwurzel held meetings with local businesses who are driving sustainable business practices including SEPTA, Philadelphia Gas Works (PGW), Yard’s brewery, Subaru Motors, Delaware Valley Green Building Alliance, and the Mayor’s Office of Sustainability. The Council’s last event involved hosting an educational forum at The Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University. This forum was a chance for 30 members of the academic, medical, and scientific community to gather and discuss how their respective organizations are working together in the fight against climate change. For more information on the Council’s work contact Gretchen Alfonso at Galfonso@cleanair.org or call her at 215-567-4004 ext.128.

Dr. Brenda Ekwurzel explains America’s carbon footprint.



Membership Form

Join Clean Air Council, the most active locally-based environmental organization in Pennsylvania and Delaware with 7,000 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
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Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please charge my credit card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ American Express

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Signature _____

*Cumulative yearly gift of \$150 recognized in newsletter and annual report.

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

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. 116.

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www.cleanair.org

Toxics Tour

The Council’s community health team is developing a “Toxics Tour” in two neighborhoods in Philadelphia’s River Wards, Port Richmond and Bridesburg. In a planning workshop held in late 2012, residents of the two neighborhoods wanted to better understand and identify environmental threats in their neighborhood in order to better communicate with decision-makers on how best to address these pollution sources. Both neighborhoods have an unusually high concentration of environmental hazards, from high volumes of heavy-duty diesel truck traffic to chemical manufacturing facilities.

Over the next few weeks, the community health team will be holding a series of workshops with neighborhood residents to develop the content of the Toxics Tour. Working with researchers and students from the University of Pennsylvania and Drexel University, residents of the River Wards will learn how to access U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) data on local sources of pollution. While these data are available online, they are often in a format not easily usable by community residents. Using these databases to identify sites for the toxics tour will help community members increase their skills in accessing and understanding environmental databases.

During the tour residents will identify additional environmental hazards that are not captured in EPA’s databases such as abandoned piles of tires, illegal dumping, or even something as simple as truck traffic and idling hot spots. Many of these sources of pollution aren’t documented in the EPA database, so the community health team will work with residents to develop maps of environmental concerns that the official data have missed. Residents will also use this mapping process to highlight existing valuable community resources like area parks and public schools.

Through these interactive workshops, residents will choose which pollutants and resources to highlight on the tour, giving more publicity to a prevalent but under-addressed problem in our River Ward communities. For more information on the Council’s community health program contact John Lee at jlee@cleanair.org or 215-567-4004 ext. 105. For more information on the Toxics Tour contact Chris Mizes at cmizes@cleanair.org or 215-567-4004 ext. 111

HOW I SEE IT: JOE’S CORNER

In their most recent Infrastructure Report Card, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) gave the U.S. a “D” grade based on the state of disrepair of its infrastructure.

Historically Americans love to build new roads but pinch pennies when it comes to paying for upkeep of existing highways and bridges, or support for public transportation.

The condition of Pennsylvania’s transportation infrastructure – roads, bridges, and public transit systems – is even worse than much of the rest of the country. Much of this is due to underfunding, and past attempts to address funding shortfalls have generally been failures.

Recently Governor Corbett requested \$1.7 billion for infrastructure improvement in the Commonwealth’s \$28.4 billion budget. The Governor would fund his proposal largely by removing the \$1.25 cap on the tax of the wholesale price of gas paid by oil and gas companies, known as the oil franchise tax. This could generate \$5.3 billion over five years. While the Governor’s plan still falls far short of the funding identified as critically needed by his own Transportation Funding Advisory Commission (\$2.7-\$3.5 billion), it is a step in the right direction. Almost immediately State Sen. John Rafferty (R-44), Chair of the Pennsylvania Senate Transportation Committee proposed increasing the Governor’s transportation set-aside to \$2.7 billion or \$2.8 billion.

Of immediate concern to the Council is ensuring that the needs of the Commonwealth’s public transportation do not get lost in the state’s transportation infrastructure funding debate. That is why Clean Air Council has launched a campaign to secure short-term and long-term funding for a sustainable public transportation system.

The Philadelphia area is very fortunate to have SEPTA, the third most expansive public transit system in the country, serving about 334 million passengers every year. If SEPTA is to continue to operate safely and improve service, it needs predictable and adequate funding to meet its capital needs. Currently its \$300 million capital project funding is woefully less than other east coast transit systems. The New Jersey Transit system, for example has a \$1.7 billion annual budget.

Over the next few months the Council will be reaching out to elected officials, transit riders, and other transportation stakeholders to highlight the need for additional funding for SEPTA and Pennsylvania’s other transit systems. The only way to get Harrisburg’s attention is to come together and show how important efficient, cost-effective transportation is to commuters, their employers, and anyone concerned with vehicle emissions.