



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?  
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News and  
Information for  
Members of  
Clean Air Council

April 2014  
Number 19

# Philadelphia’s Largest Earth Day Event Returns to the Art Museum

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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.



Employees from Philadelphia Insurance Company provide support and a smile at Greenfest Philly. Have fun and give back to the community by volunteering at a Clean Air Council special event. For volunteer opportunities, contact Bobby Szafranski at 215-567-4004, ext. 112 or rszafranski@cleanair.org.



Runners at the start line of the 2013 5k Run for Clean Air.

Saturday, April 19 marks the 33rd anniversary of the 5K Run for Clean Air. The Run has grown to 2,500 registrants, become a certified green event, added a 3K walk, and much more. Located on the beautiful banks of the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia, the Run is a celebration of sustainable and healthy neighborhoods, clean air, and improvements in the region’s overall environmental health. Year after year, sponsors, volunteers, runners, walkers, and their families choose to celebrate Earth Day with Clean Air Council.



The Run has made some exciting changes for 2014. The Run’s start, finish, staging area and Earth Day Celebration will be held at the base of the iconic Art Museum steps. This picturesque location provides an expanded space for more activities, exhibitors, food, and fun. Participants can look forward to seeing cutting-edge hybrid vehicles, complimentary refreshments including cold-brewed coffee from Joe Coffee and pitas from Eat-a-Pita, and more.

Once again, 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 the Council to feature recycling and composting stations, reusable banners, recycled paper products, and more. SCA also sends a large team of employees to participate in the race for Earth Day.

In addition to runners and walkers, Clean Air Council is always looking for dedicated volunteers for the race. Gold Sponsor, Philadelphia Insurance Companies, sends a small army of employees that work hard with a smile on their face.

For more information on volunteering or the Run, please contact Bobby Szafranski at 215.567.4004 ext. 112 or email him at rszafranski@cleanair.org.

To register for the Run or Walk, visit [www.5krunforcleanair.org](http://www.5krunforcleanair.org).



## Staff Profile

### Will Fraser

Meet Will Fraser, the Council’s newest canvass director. The previous Canvass Director, Martin, now works full-time on special events. Before taking the job, Will spent 7 years knocking on doors for Clean Air Council as a canvasser himself.



Will is currently attending Temple University where he studies Environmental Science. After graduation, he hopes to continue working outdoors as an environmental impact researcher.

Will thinks the Council has the best canvass in the area, “both with how effective we are at talking to the public, and in terms of the canvass culture. We don’t have a pre-written script, canvassers learn about the Clean Air Council and when they go door to door they can be themselves when they talk to people.”

In the coming months, Will hopes to grow the size and scope of the canvass. If there’s a way to make the region greener, and it requires public outreach, Will wants to help. The canvass has worked on public outreach around switching to a sustainable energy provider, leasing solar panels, building support for a recycling bill inside of Delaware and other environmental issues.

The canvass is always hiring. If you or someone you know wants to help protect the environment or reach the public about an issue, Will can be reached at 215-567-4004 ext. 123, or by email to [wfraser@cleanair.org](mailto:wfraser@cleanair.org).

## HOW I SEE IT: JOE’S CORNER

Get out your planners; I have some important dates for you.

Do you know how you are going to celebrate Earth Day? On Saturday, April 19th, Clean Air Council will hold its 33rd annual 5K Run for Clean Air and Earth Day celebration. The Run is the first in a series of very special events the Council is planning for 2014. Next, May 22nd will be the inaugural Dine Out for the Environment. Dine Out for the Environment is the first annual city-wide restaurant event highlighting the most sustainable restaurants in Philadelphia. Finally, you can stretch your summer fun by attending Greenfest Philly on September 7th. Greenfest, held at Headhouse Square in Society Hill, is a street festival with sustainable food, vendors, exhibitors, music and more.

These special events are not only a great time, they also generate critical revenue for the Council’s general fund. Revenue from special events and membership supports new ideas and programs, and gives the Council flexibility to respond quickly to pressing issues. Much of the Council’s most important work in helping neighborhoods, educating the public about indoor air pollution or suing the government for not implementing the Clean Air Act requirements is not covered by grants and is paid for directly through event revenues and membership contributions.

Special events raise the Council’s profile in the community, build awareness for the Council’s mission, and provide a fun and memorable platform for public education.

Consistent with Clean Air Council’s mission, our events are produced as sustainably as possible. Both the Run and Greenfest compost and recycle waste, promote sustainable transportation, are powered completely by solar energy, and provide important environmental education. The 5K Run for Clean Air has been a certified “Green Race” since 2010. It features seed-paper bibs, medals made from construction and demolition waste by a local artist, and free registration for all participants who switch their electricity to a PA wind and solar product. Dine Out for the Environment is working with Philadelphia’s most sustainable restaurants – those who source locally, take efforts to reduce waste, and come up with creative solutions to make their operations environmentally-friendly. Greenfest Philly features over 100 exhibitors who demonstrate to festival-goers how to be more sustainable in their daily life, and also includes a clothing swap, water bottle refilling stations, and a bike valet.

Months of planning, developing partnerships, brainstorming, and executing go in to each event. Your participation is the icing on cake. I hope you will join me on Earth Day at the 5K Run for Clean Air and mark your calendars for Dine Out for the Environment and Greenfest Philly.

Joe Minott is the Executive Director of Clean Air Council



# PA’s Outdated Building Codes

Council Staff Attorney Logan Welde recently testified about energy efficiency in front of Pennsylvania’s committee on construction codes. Despite leaps and bounds in energy efficiency processes and building materials, Pennsylvania hasn’t updated its codes since 2009. By not passing new building codes, the committee is denying millions of Pennsylvanians a cleaner environment and savings on their energy bills. The Department of Energy estimates that the proposed energy efficiency updates would save, on average, \$8,632 per household, and that the benefits would far outweigh the costs.

IdleFreePhilly



The Council is proud to announce its newest anti-idling campaign, and is looking for anti-idling enthusiasts to help us with it. The Council has partnered with Textizen to create a real-time monitoring system to report idling violations to participating agencies in Philadelphia. If you would like to volunteer for this campaign please email us at [idlefreephilly@cleanair.org](mailto:idlefreephilly@cleanair.org).

Governor Corbett has been a major roadblock to the update. Prior to Governor Corbett, Pennsylvania automatically updated its codes to match national standards. Now, the committee requires supermajority approval for new codes. Normally this wouldn’t be an issue – what makes it such a problem is that the Governor chooses the committee members himself. Many of his selections are in the construction industry, meaning they’ve essentially been asked to regulate themselves.

Environmentalists are fighting back against Corbett’s maneuvering. One proposal has been to resume automatic updates and only grant the committee the power to opt-out of specific parts of the new standards, but nothing more.

The Council believes that energy efficiency is one of the most important means available to keep our air clean. All energy production requires some degree of harm to the environment, so the best thing we can do is reduce our energy use.

If you have any questions or would like further updates, please email Logan Welde at [lwelde@cleanair.org](mailto:lwelde@cleanair.org), or call 215-567-4004 ext. 126.

# Save Energy Philly

In addition to efforts to convince lawmakers to increase energy efficiency requirements in buildings, the Council has been working directly with residents to cut down power consumption. Insulating a home, installing new energy efficient appliances, and replacing old incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs all work to dramatically reduce a home’s base load electrical consumption.

The latest Council project, Save Energy Philly, is dedicated to helping residents and home owners reduce their energy consumption and save money. The webpage ([SaveEnergyPhilly.org](http://SaveEnergyPhilly.org)) launched recently and features important information on energy savings, helpful tips on how to improve the energy efficiency of your home, rebates offered by utilities, and simple life changes that will reduce your energy consumption wherever you go.

To find out more about energy efficiency, check out the webpage at [SaveEnergyPhilly.Org](http://SaveEnergyPhilly.Org).



Every winter, Logan personally insulates the Council’s windows. It makes a big difference!

# Wind Power for Lake Erie

The Council is currently putting its organizing, policy and legal expertise to work pushing for an offshore wind installment on Lake Erie. The lake is an excellent potential source for wind energy, and other states are beginning to consider building their own wind projects.

Reaching this goal will be a challenge. Pennsylvania legislators need to pass a bill to increase the amount of land that can be leased in the lake bed, a developer needs to make the financing work, and a project will have to jump through a series of permitting hoops. While all of this may make the prospects seem dim, the Council is optimistic and has been working hard to make it a reality.

The Council is working closely with the Northwest PA Green Economy Task Force (NWPAGE), a grassroots group in Erie that the Council was instrumental in helping form several years ago. The group aims to promote renewable energy and green development in Northwest PA.

While there is no current proposal from a developer to build a project in the Pennsylvania waters of Lake Erie, the Council is working with Erie political, business, and cultural leaders to develop a long-term campaign to attract developers and push an offshore wind project through the permitting process. Efforts underway in Ohio to install the first offshore turbines in the Great Lakes provide a powerful leverage point for the campaign.

The Council’s Erie staff has been laying the groundwork for the offshore wind campaign through public education and meetings with key stakeholders. For example, Erie organizers recently met with the DEP’s Regional Energy Program Manager to discuss permitting requirements for wind development. Council staff also recently met with Senator Wiley’s staff to discuss opening Pennsylvania waters for wind leases. These efforts build on a number of public forums and educational events the Council and NWPAGE have sponsored since 2010 to help develop a more informed base of citizen support for offshore wind.

While this campaign is in its beginning stages, the Council is working with Erie leaders to strategically focus their efforts to most effectively advance offshore wind in Erie. If you have any questions about this campaign, please contact Joy Knapp at [jknapp@cleanair.org](mailto:jknapp@cleanair.org).



# Protect Our Children

Protect Our Children is a coalition of parents, concerned citizens, and advocacy organizations dedicated to keeping shale gas operations away from schools. A number of schools have recently begun leasing their property to drillers, and there are no laws or regulations aimed at protecting children from fracking related facilities. Because they’re still growing, children are especially vulnerable to air pollution. The Council and Protect Our Children partnering organizations have been working with a grassroots group in Butler County, PA to prevent fracking near a school there. Parents in the Mars Area School District recently had a major victory when they persuaded the School Board to vote against allowing fracking on its property. Despite promises of \$1,000,000 up front, plus royalties, parents convinced school board members that children’s health and safety must be prioritized. Protect Our Children mobilizes communities to keep shale gas infrastructure away from schools by connecting local groups to shared resources and information needed to protect our children’s health and safety. The current goal is to require all fracking infrastructure remain at least one mile from school grounds. Visit our webpage to find out how you can become involved in protecting our children’s health and wellbeing. Check out [ProtectOurChildrenCoalition.org](http://ProtectOurChildrenCoalition.org) for more information.

# Success in Bristol

Route 13 Bristol Partners LLC recently applied to build an industrial waste incinerator in Bristol Township, right on the Delaware River. Local residents reached out the Council for help, and we submitted a letter detailing concerns about the proposed facility’s impact on air quality and public health.



A similar Incinerator to the one proposed in Bristol, although this incinerator in Utah sits in an uninhabited industrial waste zone far from the public. Accessed at <http://clui.org/ludb/site/aragonite-hazardous-waste-incinerator>.

Our organizers were preparing to attend the zoning hearing when the good news came in – Bristol Partners had withdrawn its application!

The group’s attorney said that “the firm needs time to gather more specifics on the proposed plant’s emissions.” The Partners’ initial submission to the zoning board only included one source of pollution: the natural gas needed to burn the industrial waste. This, of course, did not include the actual emissions from the waste itself.

Opposition to the incinerator grew rapidly. Elected officials in Bristol and New Jersey were speaking out against the proposed facility along with those working at the Lower Bucks Hospital.

Reasons to oppose the facility were clear. Route 13 Bristol Partners proposed to burn 60 tons of unknown hazardous waste every day, with the incinerator running 24/7. Incinerators, even when properly operated and maintained, emit toxic pollutants such as dioxin/furans, benzene, formaldehyde, mercury, acid gases, and ammonia. Bucks County’s pollution levels are already above the level allowed under the Clean Air Act, and the installation of a hazardous waste incinerator would only exacerbate the communities’ pollution problems.

The battle is won, but the war isn’t over. Bristol Partners could re-apply with a more specific application or apply in another neighborhood. If it does, the Council will be there again to examine the emissions claims and protect public health.

With the incinerator threat gone for now, the residents of Bristol can breathe a little easier. The Council thanks all of our friends that helped defeat this proposal. For more information, email Russell Zerbo at [rzerbo@cleanair.org](mailto:rzerbo@cleanair.org), or call 215-567-4004 ext. 130.

# 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

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Yes, I want to protect air!

☐\$365 Earth Day Funder

☐\$60 Household

☐\$250 Patron

☐\$40 Individual

☐\$120 Sponsor

☐\$25 Student/ Senior

☐\$75 Friend

☐\$\_\_\_\_\_ Other

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL

Please charge my credit card:

☐ MasterCard

☐ VISA

☐ American Express

CARD #

EXP. DATE

SECURITY CODE

SIGNATURE

Membership Services may be reached directly at 215.567.4004, ext. 108. Or become a member instantly by going to [www.cleanair.org](http://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.

# I See Smoke...

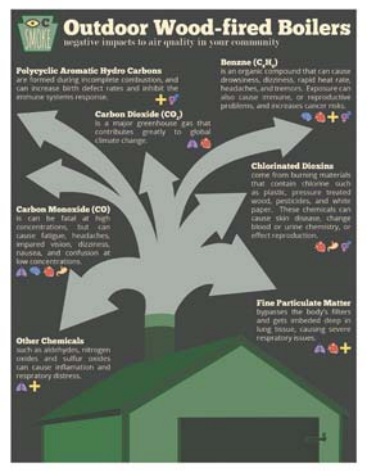
With this past cold, snowy winter you might have used your wood stove or fireplace more often. Unfortunately that warm and cozy blaze may not be as healthy as you think. Scientific evidence is mounting that wood smoke impacts your family and your neighbors’ health. Vulnerable populations like children and the elderly are at higher risk.

The Council has been examining the dangers of wood smoke for a year and a half. Meetings with experts from around the world have demonstrated evidence of the respiratory and heart health hazard associated with wood smoke.

Wood smoke pollution in Pennsylvania is on the rise. In Allegheny County alone, 20-25% of particulate pollution is attributable to wood smoke.

Clean Air Council is working with the Allegheny County Health Department Air Quality Committee recommending a “no burn” model to update their open burning regulation. The Committee recommended changes that the Council feels does not maximizes public health and safety. The Committee will soon take public comments on the proposed regulations. The Council, medical experts and others have an opportunity to recommend more meaningful changes with a “no burn” policy.

To educate the public and regulators about the dangers of wood smoke, Clean Air Council has developed the interactive website [www.iseesmokepa.org](http://www.iseesmokepa.org). The site has updated information from around Pennsylvania about communities that are considering “no burn” wood burning regulations and it also gives tools for you to use if you encounter a wood smoke problem. For more information contact Thurman Brendlinger at [brendlinger@cleanair.org](mailto:brendlinger@cleanair.org) or call 215-567-4004 ext. 104.



# Cobbs Creek Connector Trail Begins Final Design

Clean Air Council recently began the final design of parts of the Cobbs Creek Connector Trail, a paved trail that provides a scenic route for runners, bicyclists, walkers, and more. This section will extend from the existing Cobbs Creek Trail at 70th Street and Cobbs Creek Parkway to the Southern end of Cobbs Creek Park in Southwest Philadelphia.

Bike paths provide two distinct air-quality benefits. First, they provide a means for individuals living in poor air-quality areas to breathe cleaner air. Second, by providing an alternate means of transit they help minimize the number of cars on the road.

The Council hired the experienced engineering team, Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson, Inc. to complete this work, and is partnering with Philadelphia Parks and Recreation Department who is the landowner for the trail. The Council, JMT, and Parks and Recreation met with Philadelphia Streets Department and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation over the past months and received positive feedback on the preliminary designs for the trail, and the OK to move forward with final design documents and permit requests. JMT has prepared some preliminary designs for the trail segment, and the Council is looking forward to moving forward over the Spring and Summer for the final plans.



The Cobbs Creek Connector Trail will make traveling on this section of Cobbs Creek Parkway much safer for cyclists and pedestrians.