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Anniversary Celebration

On April 26th, we gathered with friends, family, and members at B-Y Park to celebrate 10 years of Protect PT. With live music, screen printing, and LOTS of food, we basked in the joy of all we accomplished over the last decade. Special thanks to all of our supporters and allies as we protect our communities. Here's to 10 more!



Pictured (left to right): Ryan Graber (Secretary), Gillian Graber (Executive Director) and Siobhan Sullivan (Founding Member) at the 10th Anniversary

Summer Tabling

Protect PT has begun summer tabling! We had so much fun meeting new and old supporters at the Back to Roots Native Plants Fest in Monroeville on Memorial Day and Solarpunk Future on May 29th. Getting out into the community and engaging is core to our work. This summer, we will be tabling all over the area. Keep an eye out and come say hi!



Pictured: Dave Mintz (Treasurer) and Natalie Ford (Project Manager)

Paint & Plant

On May 3, our Project Coordinator, Natalie Ford, hosted a Paint and Plant at our Community Education Center. The event was a complete success! With the whole room packed full of long-time and new supporters, there was not one terra cotta pot that looked the same! It was thrilling to see everyone's creativity shine, and to share a bit of greenery as well! We hope to hold more events like this in the future, so keep an eye out!

Environmental Science Monitoring Funding

There have been recent funding cuts to our monitoring program which is one of the most important tools we use to make sure that your air and water are safe and that your quality of life is not being negatively impacted by multiple kinds of pollution.



Pictured: Environmental Science Assistant, Mina Kimak, working on air monitors at a monitoring participant's home.

Already, we've raised \$1,380 out of the \$10,000 we need to fund our environmental science program! We are grateful to every donor and appreciate their kind contributions. You can support these essential programs now at <http://protectpt.info/scidonate> to contribute!

Upcoming Events

- **Jun 27:** Fracking The System Screening @ Patagonia | 6:00 PM | Patagonia Pittsburgh
- **Jul 12:** Swissvale Farmers Market Tabling | 9 AM - 1 PM | 7301 Schoyer Ave
- **Jul 12:** Pittsburgh Environmental Action Day | 9 AM | City-County Building
- **Jul 14 :** PA Methane Plan Comment Writing Workshop | 7:00 PM | Online
- **Jul 26:** Goat Fest PGH Tabling | 12 – 4 PM | Arlington Ball Field behind Fire Station
- **Jul 29:** Lunch & Learn w. Protect PT Interns | 12:00 PM | Online

Scan to see all upcoming events!



protectpt.org/events

New Staff

Communications Manager

Our Communications Manager, Emily Nissley moved to New Jersey and we wish her well. Welcome our new Comms Manager, Bili O'Hara. They received their MS in Geoscience from the University at Buffalo. They are passionate about ecosystems impacted by climate change and advocating for the wellbeing of their friends, family, and community.



Pictured: Amabilis O'Hara (Communications Manager)

Summer Interns

Connor Sayers

Environmental Science & Research Intern - Connor is entering his senior year at the University of Pittsburgh, studying Environmental Science. Through his love of nature he has developed a strong commitment to working for the planet and protecting the city of Pittsburgh from environmental hazards.



Pictured: Connor Sayers (left) - Brooke Forney (right)

Brooke Forney

Environmental Science and Research Intern - Brooke is entering her senior year at the University of Pittsburgh, studying Ecology & Evolution with a certificate in Sustainability. She has developed a strong passion for wildlife and the roles animals play in maintaining a healthy environment.



Pictured: Sofia Shields (left) - Mackenzie Linderman (right)

Sofia Shields

Policy and Advocacy Intern - Sofia is entering her senior year at the University of Pittsburgh studying environmental science and political science. Through her academic experience, she has developed a deep passion for environmental law and policy. The environment has always played a critical part in her life, through her love for running, biking, and being at the beach. She hopes to help protect the right to a clean environment through her role at Protect PT.

Mackenzie Linderman

Legal Research & Writing Intern - Mackenzie will be a second year law student at the University of Georgia this fall, and she hopes to specialize in environmental law after she graduates. She is drawn to environmental law and conservation because of her love of the outdoors and interest in sustainability.

Meet our interns on July 29th at 12 noon for our July Lunch and Learn!

Residents Prevail! Injection Well Blocked

On June 11, 2025, Plum Borough's Zoning Hearing Board voted unanimously to deny Penneco Environmental Solutions LLC's application to construct a fracking waste injection well that would have dumped nearly seventy thousand gallons of fracking wastewater into the ground every day, less than five hundred feet from local residents in Plum. This decision came after more than three years of legal arguments, dozens of Plum's residents speaking

out to defend their local environment, and continuous cooperation between Plum Borough and Protect PT to keep toxic fracking waste out of residential communities.

The Board found that the injection well did not meet the standards of the ordinance after carefully considering the health, safety, and welfare of the community in its decision. Penneco has implied it will ask a court to overrule the Board's decision, but today, Plum's residents can rest easier knowing that more tanker trucks, noise, and pollution will not be coming to their community.

To increase protections for residents across Westmoreland county, we created a threat map of potential injection well sites and have reached out to municipal leaders to share those locations in each municipality. We are working to educate municipalities by inviting them to a virtual workshop where they can learn from other municipalities and work to craft a protective well ordinance.

Local Well Pad Trial

Drakulic Decision

On June 3, 2025, the Environmental Hearing Board ruled against an appeal by Protect PT for permits for CNX Resources (formerly Apex Energy LLC) to drill two fracked gas wells just hundreds of feet from homes in Penn Township. At the same time, the EHB imposed new conditions on the permits that force the Department of Environmental Protection to protect nearby residents from nuisances and adverse health impacts such as noise, light, air pollution, and heavy industrial truck traffic. The fight over these wells is far from over; Protect PT is determined to protect the constitutional right of every PA resident to clean air, clean

water, and environmental preservation.

Protect PT's Board has voted to appeal the decision to the Commonwealth Court. On top of these efforts, Protect PT is continuing its work to organize Penn Township's residents, educate the public about the dangers from the Drakulic wells, and find a resolution that will keep fracking wells away from our local communities.



Pictured: Metis well pad in Penn Township



Scan me to support our legal fund!

protectpt.info/givelegal

Hazard Mitigation Westmoreland County Includes Protect PT's Recommendations in the Plan Update

For the first time, fracking is addressed as an environmental hazard in the Westmoreland County Hazard Mitigation plan thanks to Protect PT! At the last plan update three years ago, we were ignored. Then, in February 2023 we commented on the PEMA (state) Hazard Mitigation plan, and the state implemented many of our comments into the state-wide plan. Now the new Westmoreland County Plan includes these new sections as well. The plan was finalized in June of 2025.

Water Concerns Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County

We haven't forgotten about our petition to MAWC, and they won't either! We successfully attained fairer rates for frackers, who can no longer purchase our water in a bulk discount, but now it's time for MAWC to implement our other 3 asks:

1. Creating a long-term strategic water conservation plan
2. Capping the annual amount of fracking withdrawals at half the amount in 2023
3. Pausing fracking withdrawals during drought

We held a community meeting to discuss this issue with residents in April. We're running a campaign for residents to submit letters to Michael Kukura, the Resident Manager for MAWC, restating those requests. We're well on our way to 150 residents participating!

Maybe you have seen our posts on social media! If so, please share!

Lauren and Jim also attended the MAWC board meeting on June 18 to talk about water conservation and ask for a timeline for the implementation of our asks. We gave them a proposal for water restrictions for oil and gas usage during drought that would bring MAWC into alignment with the Westmoreland County Mitigation Plan. If you would like to add your voice to ours, consider helping us reach our 150 resident letter goal!



Scan me to send a letter to the Municipal Authority!

protectpt.info/MAWC-lettercampaign

PT Rezone Update Planning Commission Begins Process Anew

At a meeting on April 9th, Penn Township announced it plans to continue with rezoning efforts, but will be starting afresh with a new plan different to the one previously proposed. Thank you to the residents who showed up to hearings and expressed their concerns about expanding Industrial Commerce zones into Rural Resource areas. Stay tuned for updates!



Scan me to learn more about the PT rezoning!

protectpt.org/rezone

Ohio River Valley Participatory Fund

PPT Executive Director to serve another year on Steering Committee



Pictured: Gillian Graber (Executive Director)

We are proud to share that Protect PT's Executive Director, Gillian Graber, is honored to continue to serve on the 2025 Steering Committee for the Ohio River Valley Participatory Fund! The Steering Committee is a group of nonprofit leaders chosen to award grants to organizations who serve communities experiencing fossil fuel impacts in eastern Ohio, Pennsylvania, or West Virginia. For any questions about the Fund or accommodations you need if your organization would like to apply, contact orvpf@cfalleghenies.org.