

3344 Route 130, Suite A
PO Box 137
Harrison City, PA 15636

Our Staff Has Grown

Over the past few months, our staff has grown and we have welcomed several new faces to the team! In November, **Cory Clemente** joined the team as Communications Manager and **Chelsea Buell** joined as Project Coordinator. In January, **Tiffany Allen** joined as Fossil Fuel Community Organizer. In February, **Yvonne Sorovac** joined as Environmental Science Assistant. Our staff has been able to grow in size due in part to increased funding from our funders and donors, and we hope to keep growing in the future! Every member that is added to our team allows us to expand our capacity and broaden our advocacy. Protect PT is also looking for summer interns in a wide variety of fields. Those interested should visit www.protectpt.org/internships.



winter

Protect PT Progress

Winter '23 Edition

Protect PT Holiday Party at Devout Brewing

Protect PT wrapped up 2022 with a holiday party at Devout Brewing in Export. We were glad to see so many familiar faces and thrilled to meet so many new ones! Activities of the night included silent auction, door prizes, food truck grub, drinks from Devout, and delicious dishes made by our board.

We are committed to fighting for environmental justice, but a party is sometimes in order. We aim to hold more fun events to uplift our staff and members in the future! Thank you to Devout Brewing and Protect PT's board and staff for creating a great night.



Left to right: Row 1: Shaina Nicassio, Gillian Graber, Chelsea Buell
Row 2: Jim Cirilano, Jenna Rindy, Cory Clemente

Upcoming Events

- HRG (Home Resource Guide) Workshop: March 11 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Protect PT's Community Environmental Education Center
- Monroeville Planning Meeting regarding the new Monroeville Ordinance at the Monroeville Public Library, March 21 at 6 p.m.
- World Water Day Lunch and Learn with Dr. John Stolz live on YouTube and Facebook, March 22, 12 p.m.
- Monroeville Prep Meeting at the Monroeville Public Library, April 1 at 10 a.m.

Protect PT Member Appreciation Breakfast

On January 25, Protect PT held a Member Appreciation Breakfast to update members on our accomplishments in 2022 and what to look forward to in 2023. Members also voted for Protect PT board executive committee. Thank you to all of our members, those who attended the breakfast, and those who could not attend. We would not be able to do this work without our dedicated member base. Those interested in membership should visit www.protectpt.org/membership.



Protect PT staff inform members of what to look forward to in 2023 and the accomplishments of 2022.

Hermes Well Pad

On Dec. 7, 2022, the Murrysville Council (Council) held a Conditional Use hearing for the proposed Hermes well pad. The hearing was advertised as an opportunity for public comment. In fact, the Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code (MPC) requires a public hearing to be held in accordance with strict requirements, including equal time for citizen objectors to be heard. Yet during the hearing, the Council refused to allow public comment to take place, directly violating the MPC.

Council did not give residents and Protect PT equal time to present their case-in-chief. Protect PT asked for a continuance which was denied by the Council. We will continue fighting for public health and environmental justice in Westmoreland and Allegheny counties. If there is oil and gas infrastructure near you and you need assistance in dealing with it, please call our office at **724-392-7023** or email james@protectpt.org.



Gillian Graber and Tim Fitchett opposing the Hermes Well Pad at the Dec. 7 Murrysville Council Meeting.

ReImagine Turtle Creek Progress

The Native Urban Garden Stewardship Program (NUGS), an initiative to create a biodiverse network of backyard habitats by supplying materials, resources, and education in underserved communities, has selected 2 participants to be part of our pilot program in 2023. The ReImagine Food Systems backyard garden program is bringing on 6 more gardeners to start off 2023.

We've also been having fun with classes, doing yoga, and learning how to winter sow native plant seeds.

Visit reimaginetcwac.org for more info.



Community members at a TCWAC monthly program learning how to winter sow at the Penn Hills Library.

Winter Wildlife with Dr. Maria Wheeler-Dubas

On February 5, Protect PT joined Dr. Maria Wheeler-Dubas to host an educational children's event in the Community Environmental Education Center. At this event, children learned the adaptations that various types of wildlife make in order to survive the cold winter months. The attendees participated in a variety of activities, including making crafts and interactive demonstrations of wildlife adaptations. Thank you to all of the families who joined us and to Dr. Maria Wheeler-Dubas for sharing her knowledge with us! Protect PT values the investment in educating the next generation and we plan to host more children's events in the future. If you have any suggestions of events or topics your child may be interested in, please contact chelsea@protectpt.org. All future events can be found at www.protectpt.org/events.



Attendees gained hands-on experience with fun scientific educational experiments.

Residents of Rostraver Victory with the Hera Well Pad!

In February, Rostraver residents got some exciting news that after almost a year of hearings, their Zoning Hearing Board denied the Hera Well Pad! In March 2022, Protect PT met with Rostraver residents to prepare them for the hearings that were about to begin for the Hera Well Pad. We met with residents monthly and helped them prepare for what was to come. With our help, the residents prevailed in their efforts against Olympus Energy. We will continue to stand up to this powerful industry.

Advocating for Stronger Protections and Ordinances

We call on Penn Township residents to demand their commissioners update the Penn Township Ordinance. We have completed what we consider an ideal update, with many necessary protections for our residents and our Township. This update would relieve the community of the burden of heavy oil and gas operations in Penn Township, and put that financial and safety burden on the operator. If you agree that Penn Township needs these important protections, please call or email your Commissioner, and attend the meetings every second and third Wednesday of each month. Find out more and get a sign for your yard at www.protectpt.org/ordinance.

The Monroeville Council is considering updates to its comprehensive zoning ordinance that would increase the area available to unconventional oil and gas development in the municipality in both an **expanded Landfill Zone** and the **Conservancy Zones**. It is vital that the public engages with Council regarding the proposed changes. Protect PT will host meetings at the Monroeville Public Library on **March 21 at 6 p.m.** and on **April 1 at 10 a.m.** to educate the public about how to take action on these proposed changes and to help prepare residents to address Council at the first public hearing on this subject on **April 4th at 7 p.m.** at the Monroeville Municipal Building.