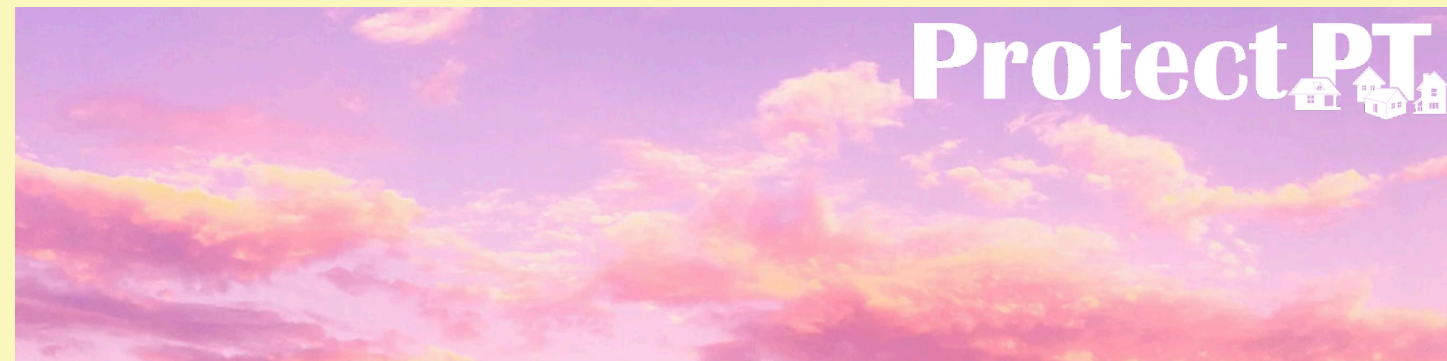


3344 Route 130, Suite A
PO Box 137
Harrison City, PA, 15636



Spring/Summer

Protect PT Progress

Spring/Summer '23 Edition

Meet our Summer Interns



We take great pride in nurturing education and skill development through our intern program at Protect PT. This summer, we are thrilled to welcome a dynamic group of 10 interns who bring a diverse range of backgrounds and expertise to our team. By working closely with our staff, these talented individuals will have the unique opportunity to acquire invaluable, hands-on experience in their respective fields.

Our Past & Upcoming Events

Over the past few months, Protect PT has been actively organizing a series of engaging events aimed at fostering community involvement and promoting environmental awareness. We are thrilled to update our member base on the successful initiatives that have taken place.

For a list of all upcoming events, please visit www.protectpt.org/events.

To cultivate a love for nature and inspire the next generation of environmental stewards, we hosted a Junior Biologist Hike esigned especially for children. This interactive event allowed young participants to explore the wonders of the natural world while learning about local flora and fauna. Through hands-on activities and educational discussions, we aimed to instill a sense of curiosity and a ppreciation for the environment in our future leaders.

In our efforts to restore and enhance local ecosystems, we collaborated with native plant enthusiasts and the Audobon Society for a seed-sowing event. Members of the community joined us in sowing seeds of native plants, contributing to the conservation of biodiversity and the restoration of natural habitats.

Art has always been a powerful medium for conveying environmental messages, and we were delighted to showcase the talents of local artist Allison Wallace. Our art gallery event provided a platform for Allison to showcase her stunning artworks inspired by nature and environmental themes.

Through her thought provoking creations, we aimed to inspire reflection and spark conversations about the importance of protecting our natural heritage.

In addition, we continued our Living Near Shale Gas Community Workshop series, focusing on informing community members about the potential impacts of shale gas development.

We will continue this workshop series in the future. For help dealing with oil and gas infrastructure in your community, *please* contact us at: **724-392-7023**



HRGS Living Near Shale Gas

Protect PT is dedicated to educating residents of communities affected by oil and gas activities through our ongoing Living Near Shale Gas workshop series. These workshops aim to provide valuable information on the health, safety, and financial implications associated with such activities. We plan to continue hosting these workshops in the foreseeable future. If you have concerns about oil and gas in your community, please reach out to us. We are here to assist you and your community.

Rostraver

Protect PT, in collaboration with the Environmental Health Project (EHP), recently organized an informative session at the Rostraver Public Library to address the health impacts of the Westmoreland Sanitary Landfill and share crucial findings from local air monitoring efforts. By teaming up with EHP, who deployed air monitors in Rostraver Township, Protect PT aimed to shed light on the landfill's detrimental health consequences and highlight flaws in its proposed leachate evaporator installation.

While a decision regarding the implementation of the evaporator at the Westmoreland Sanitary Landfill is pending, it is worth noting that the facility has previously faced multiple violations related to leachate management and erosion. We will be continuing our monitoring efforts in the area and ensuring that local residents have the resources they need to protect themselves.



Elle Le June
5th-8th grade winner



Alaina Montgomery
9th-12th grade winner

Monroeville

Protect PT has achieved a major victory in our fight for environmental protection. Thanks to our relentless campaigning and active involvement in Council hearings, we have successfully influenced the Municipality of Monroeville.

Proposed changes to the zoning ordinance, which would have permitted harmful industrial activities in conservation zones, have been revised. Additionally, plans to expand the Monroeville landfill have been withdrawn, averting further risks to the neighboring Pitcairn community. This accomplishment underscores the power of community engagement and emphasizes the importance of preserving our natural resources. Your ongoing support has played a crucial role in this success.



Artist Submissions

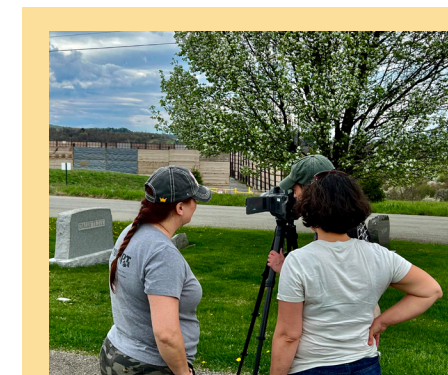
Art Contests

In May, our Environmental Student Art Contest provided an exciting platform for young artists to showcase their talent and bring awareness to environmental issues. Students in grades 5-12 submitted artwork focused on "The Environment/Nature." We were thrilled by the talent and passion displayed in the submissions. Winners were awarded cash prizes, recognizing their outstanding contributions. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all participants and express our gratitude for their efforts in making a positive impact on our environment.

Fracking at Metis and Gaia

In recent developments, the Gaia and Metis wells in Penn Township have remained active. Earlier this year, both wells acquired "Drill and Operate" permits, signaling the continuation of their operations. Notably, new wells have recently undergone hydraulic fracturing on the Metis pad, while sound walls have been erected at the Gaia site in preparation for upcoming fracking activities. Unfortunately, residents have experienced some adverse effects, including heightened traffic, noise, and dust in the surrounding areas.

To ensure the concerns and observations of our community are addressed, we encourage residents to utilize our user-friendly mobile app at report.protectpt.org. This powerful tool allows individuals to report any environmental issues they witness, providing valuable data that enables us to take prompt action. In addition, we advise residents to contact their respective township offices, as they play a vital role in overseeing local regulations and can be an important resource for addressing community concerns related to fracking operations.



Gillian and Yvonne with Melissa Ostroff from Earthworks observing emissions from Gaia using an Optical Gas Imaging Thermographer



Combustion unit in the dehydrator emitting harmful BTEX chemicals—known carcinogens that pose significant health risks

Penn Township Ordinance

We are steadfast in our commitment to advocating for stronger regulations and increased setbacks for oil and gas infrastructure in Penn Township. As we continue our efforts, we are excited to invite residents to a crucial community meeting that will take place on July 13 at 7:00 pm. Hosted at our Community Environmental Education Center, this gathering will serve as an informative platform where residents can learn about the potential next steps to initiate changes to the existing ordinance in Penn Township.

Lunch & Learn

Our virtual Lunch & Learns offer a unique opportunity to learn from experts and thought leaders in the field. From conservationists and scientists to environmental activists and policy-makers, each session will delve into relevant topics and showcase innovative projects and initiatives that contribute to a greener and more sustainable future. Taking place on the last Tuesday of every month, this informative, one-hour session will be streamed live on our Facebook and YouTube channels.

We need **YOUR** help.

Thursday July 13th, 7:00PM
Community Environmental
Education Center

**Penn Township
Ordinance Meeting**

During the meeting, we will provide valuable insights into the current situation and discuss strategies to drive the desired modifications. It is our aim to empower community members with knowledge and resources so that together we can create a safer and more sustainable environment. We encourage you to mark your calendars and join us as we work towards enacting meaningful change for the benefit of all residents in Penn Township.

For a list of all upcoming events, please visit www.protectpt.org/events.