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Pictured: Protect PT staff at our Holiday Party!

2025 Holiday Party

For this year's Holiday Party we enjoyed a dinner catered by Simpli Italiani, homemade desserts from our board members, jammed out with karaoke, and gave away over \$150 in raffle prizes! We want to thank everyone who came out in the cold to celebrate another great year with us, and all of our members who make this work possible! See you next year!



Pictured: Michele making a custom candle.



Pictured: Some of Protect PT Board members and Director at our Holiday Party!

Give Big Success

On December 2nd, Protect PT joined over 400 other nonprofits to celebrate Give Big Pittsburgh – Southwestern Pennsylvania's largest day of giving! We raised a total of \$1,300 dollars in one-time donations, and gathered four new monthly sustainers. We also want to express our gratitude to two large anonymous donors, who contributed an additional \$20,500 to support our effort! Thank you to everyone who donated to support our Give Big Pittsburgh initiative. If you missed out, don't worry, there is still time to donate! Go to protectpt.org/donate to give for 2026!

Upcoming Events

- **January is Radon Awareness Month!**
- **Jan 10:** Living Near Shale Gas Community Workshop | 1-4:30 PM | UU Church, South Hills
- **Jan 22:** Solar Community Meeting | 6-7 PM | Protect PT Office
- **Jan 24:** Member Breakfast | 9:30 AM | The Blue Room, Claridge
- **Jan 27:** Lunch & Learn | 12 PM | Virtual Livestream on YouTube
- **Feb 24:** Lunch & Learn | 12 PM | Virtual Livestream on YouTube
- **Feb:** Bowling Fundraiser | Time and Date Pending | Lokay Lanes
- **Mar:** Protect PT Mobile App Education | Time and Date Pending

Scan me to see all upcoming events and RSVP!
www.protectpt.org/events



Penn Township Rezone Revisions

Penn Township Commissioners Revise Industrial Zoning



Pictured: The Penn Township Rezone Hearing on 3/27/2025

On October 15th, the Penn Township Commissioners approved a revised portion of the Penn Township Rezoning plan. The rezoning included the elimination of what had been defined as "Industrial Commerce" zones, and the creation of two new zones called "Heavy Industrial" and "Light Industrial and Commerce".

Residents scored a big win when the Commissioners voted to restrict oil and gas operations to areas where they had been permitted in the past, and to not allow those operations to extend into the newly created "Light Industrial and Commerce" near Boquet Street.

We applaud and commend Penn Township community members for their active engagement throughout this long process. Their support has helped to restrict a number of the plan's harms, and that is well worth honoring.



Powering the Future of Rural PA with Solar

We're encouraging the adoption of solar in rural communities

Did you know that just one hour of noontime summer sun is equal to the entire U.S. electricity demand? Harnessing this plentiful, constant resource allows us to generate reliable electricity for our communities, and reduce our environmental impact.

Solar energy has demonstrated numerous advantages for rural communities around the U.S. For homeowners, breaking even on solar installation can lead to free or reduced electricity costs – a benefit that experts estimate can last 15-20 years after a panel has paid itself off. Meanwhile, for electric utility providers, solar has become the quickest and cheapest form of energy generation to install.

Protect PT is eager to begin promoting solar energy for rural communities in Southwestern Pennsylvania, and we'd love for you to be engaged with this work! Our email updates will keep you informed on upcoming events and ways to take action in your community. We are looking for people who have a passion to advocate for this renewable resource – Especially if you yourself have benefitted from solar energy!

Sign up today on our website at [www.protectpt.org/solar!](http://www.protectpt.org/solar)

The Sedat 4A Injection Well Defending residents' victory in Plum Borough

Protect PT has submitted its brief in the Plum Borough Land Use Appeal. This brief defends the victory for Plum Borough's residents at the Zoning Hearing Board that prevented a fracking waste injection well from being installed less than 500 feet from a local resident's home in violation of local law. Oral Argument is expected before the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas in early 2026.

In Penn Township, Protect PT's work has set the stage for renewed consideration of the seven CNX well pads before the Penn Township Zoning Hearing Board, since the original special exceptions for these well pads have expired and the well pads have not been developed. These well pads could be set for hearings at the ZHB in 2026, depending on an upcoming decision of the Commonwealth Court. Zoning Hearing Board meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month



Pictured: The Sedat 4A Injection Well Hearing

Support our legal advocacy!



Thank you to Our Volunteers!

You Help Make Protect PT What it is!

Thank you to all of our volunteers for helping make our work a reality! We owe a tremendous amount of gratitude to each and every one of you – especially our board members – for investing countless hours into assisting us with all manner of programming.

Because of your efforts, we've developed close relationships with communities across Southwestern Pennsylvania to promote action about ongoing threats to our health and environment. You also connected us with upcoming grant opportunities that helped fund our environmental, legal, and organizing work.

For all your help throughout 2026, thank you again! We couldn't have done it without your support!

Pack the Pantry Supporters fill our lobby for Food Bank



In November, we partnered with the Westmoreland Food Bank to Pack the Pantry for families in need across Westmoreland County. At the time of writing, we collected over a hundred and fifty pounds of food – enough to split the donation box open!

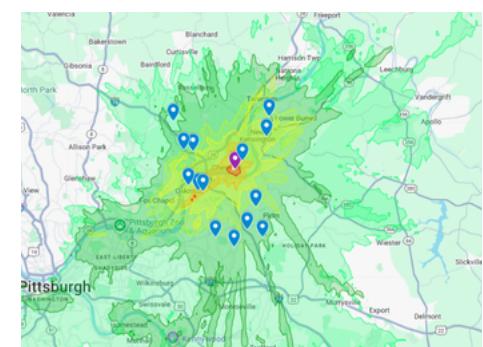
Thank you so much to everyone who has reached out in support of our initiative. We wouldn't be here without the community we're a part of and we're grateful for the opportunity to give back, just in time for the holidays. Westmoreland Food Bank is always seeking donations and volunteers, and we encourage you to visit www.westmorelandfoodbank.org/volunteer/ for more information!

Data Centers Update All Eyes on Springdale

On December 16th, the Springdale Borough Council voted to approve the data center despite multiple protests and efforts from local residents and partners of Protect PT. The Borough Planning Commission and Zoning Hearing Board had already issued a vote to approve all six variances requested by the developer. Please visit our website for an update on the final outcome.

Protect PT pointed out to the Commissioners that the newly drafted ordinance failed to provide regulations for data centers, but the Commissioners passed the revisions anyway, without addressing the data center issue. Protect PT is drafting a supplemental zoning ordinance to regulate data centers, and will attempt to persuade the Commissioners to adopt it. We anticipate making this push at the beginning of the new year.

There is another data center proposed in Upper Burrell that is proposed that we are keeping a close eye on. Visit our website for more details. www.protectpt.org/data-center



Pictured: EHP's Estimated air pollution dispersion from Springdale data center

Why do we care about data centers?

Hyper-scale data centers, like fracking, not only cause disruption to the community's quality of life with lots of noise, light and air emissions but the fracking industry is pushing data centers to be powered by fracked gas. This means more fracking in our community to power something that alone brings more warming of our planet and particulate air pollution to our area. To further educate yourself on this issue, visit our YouTube playlist on data centers.

Learn More About Data Centers!

