

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



Monarchs on the Move



Pictured: A tagged monarch butterfly released outside the Protect PT office

This September we tagged and released 37 butterflies with 25 year Pittsburgh Zoo Staff and Docent Volunteer, June Bernard, for our Monarchs on the Move event! Participants discovered interesting facts about the life cycle of these bright orange and black butterflies, their amazing metamorphosis and their incredible annual 3,000-mile tri-country migration!



Pictured: Attendees release a monarch butterfly during the event



Patagonia & Protect PT: Film Screening



Pictured: Gillian Graber (Executive Director) introduces "Fracking the System"

Last month, Patagonia hosted us with popcorn and refreshments for a screening of "Fracking the System," a documentary about grassroots organizers in Colorado. It was powerful to witness their experiences as they raised awareness around the public health impacts of fracking and challenged the oil and gas industry. Thank you to Patagonia for being a grant supporter of Protect PT!

Upcoming Events

- **Oct 8:** Penn Township **Public Hearing** on ReZoning | 6 PM | PT Municipal Building
- **Oct 10:** Radon Tabling | 1 - 5 PM | Penn Area Library
- **Oct 11 :** Nature's Tricks & Treats **Kid's Event!** | 1 PM | Patagonia Pittsburgh
- **Oct 28:** Radon Lunch & Learn | 12 PM | Virtual **Livestream**
- **Nov 4 & 11:** Living Near Shale Gas Workshop | 6 - 8 PM | **Virtual**
- **Dec 2:** Give Big Pittsburgh Fundraiser | All Day | **Virtual**
- **Dec 12:** Annual Holiday Party | 6 PM | The Blue Room | **Time to Party!**

Scan to see all upcoming events!



protectpt.org/events

New Staff Project Coordinator



Our Project Coordinator, Natalie Ford, started a role with 412 Justice and we wish them well. Welcome our new Project Coordinator, Kyle Zboran. They graduated from Robert Morris University with a BS in Information Science. Kyle is excited to make a difference for the local community they are already a part of!



Pictured: Kyle Zboran (Project Coordinator)

Data Centers Challenging the AI Power Supply

Why are we opposed to large scale data centers? Pennsylvania is trying to promote this development because it means more fracked gas. Let's focus on renewable energy instead. These data centers will power AI chatbots and use tremendous amounts of our energy and water. Your electric bill will go up, all so tech companies can make more money. We're already seeing this happen in states with a lot of data centers like Virginia.



Pictured: Lauren Posey (Environmental Policy Advocate)

We were at the AI Horizon Summit in Pittsburgh on Thursday, September 10th holding a press conference (and signs 🗣️!) to ask that renewable energy be prioritized over fracked gas for proposed Pennsylvania data center developments. Thank you to Breathe Project for all of their assistance to make the event possible, and to Mountain Watershed Association, PennFuture, Clean Air Council, and Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania for speaking at our event. Learn more about proposed data centers in our area at protectpt.org/data-center.



Pictured: Protect PT's Executive Director, Gillian Graber, (left) being interviewed by a member of the media (right)



Scan me to stay up to date on data centers!

protectpt.info/data-centers-interest-form

Fracking Impacts Protective Buffers

The Marcellus shale industry has been allowed to drill dangerously close to Pennsylvania homes, schools, hospitals, and waterways for years. Dozens of scientific studies now confirm this has harmed our health and environment. It's past time for our government to update old laws, which never took public health into account, by requiring greater protective buffer distances to keep us safe. A coalition of nonprofits and resident groups, Protective Buffers PA, is petitioning for statewide minimum setback distances. Our petition has been tabled since April as we await completion of the



Photo: Marcellus Air

state's budget. The PA Environmental Quality Board met on September 9th, its first convening since our petition was heard and tabled for an indefinite future date. Two Marcellus Shale Coalition petitions were on the agenda for September, but these were postponed. DEP Secretary Jessica Shirley commented that the October meeting may feature three petitions. We hope the third will be ours. Email lauren@protectpt.org to join us for a day of action in Harrisburg on October 29th, 2025 to meet with legislators and deliver 1,000 postcards signed by PA residents asking for protective buffers!

Drakulic Well Pad Permits Expired!



Pictured: Sign with details of a court hearing over permits

On September 12, 2025, the DEP moved for the Commonwealth Court to declare Protect PT's pending Drakulic well pad permit appeal and associated history of litigation moot, as CNX did not begin drilling when the permits were granted by the EHB on June 3rd, 2025 and the permits in question have now expired. The ongoing litigation at the Commonwealth Court would have settled matters once and for all as to whether the Department violated the

law when it issued the permits. Instead, WCAA (CNX) could apply for entirely new permits to do the very same drilling, avoid complying with protective conditions the EHB added to the now-expired permits, and force community groups and local residents to restart the appeal process.

"It is 'radically transparent' that CNX would like to drain community resources while failing to comply with regulations by allowing these permits to expire while there is ongoing litigation, the outcome of which could have protected the health and welfare of our community," said Gillian Graber. It is critical that the DEP stop similar future permits at the same site from being granted, forcing perpetual appeals, expirations, and new applications.

Protect PT will continue its work to organize and educate area residents about the public health impacts of the Drakulic wells, and find a resolution that will keep fracking away from our local schools, homes, playgrounds, and places of worship for good.

Radon on the Rise The best time to test!

Even though it's invisible to the eye, it's no secret that Radon Gas is harmful to human health as exposure is the leading cause of lung cancer in US non-smokers. While Halloween brings many myths and fables, myths about radon gas are easy to contest. Come by our table outside Penn Area Library on October 10th from 1 PM - 5 PM to speak to us in person, or attend our virtual October Lunch & Learn on October 28th at noon, to learn more about the effects of Radon and see if you are eligible for our free monitoring. Home heating and closed windows as temperatures cool mean higher radon levels. Now is the ideal time for testing! For more information: protectpt.org/radon 📞 🗺️!

Water Concerns Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County

Earlier this summer, Protect PT Community Advocate, James Cirilano, and Environmental Policy Advocate, Lauren Posey, attended a MAWC Board Meeting to advocate for stricter regulations surrounding the sale of water during periods of drought from the Beaver Run Reservoir to gas companies for fracking. Water that is used for fracking can never be used again, or ever returned to the water supply, due to radioactive contamination and chemical pollutants. MAWC has not yet taken up our suggested ban on water sales for fracking during drought and we continue to pursue this protection for residents. Learn more at protectpt.org/beaver-run.



Scan me to send a letter to the Municipal Authority!

protectpt.info/MAWC-lettercampaign

PT Rezone Update Penn-Trafford's Maps



Pictured: Residents attending one of the past public meetings about Penn-Trafford rezoning

At the last Penn Township Business Meeting, we got a first look at the proposed maps. There are designated "Mineral Overlay" zones where oil and gas development currently occurs and is limited to.

Other "Light Industrial Commerce" zones have been proposed, though what is allowed in the zones is still to be determined. Because of diligent participation by residents, progress has been made. While these adjustments addressed many concerns, we still plan to advocate for anyone who still could be affected by these changes. Please reach out to us if so! The next zoning hearing board meeting on this matter should be announced in late September or early November. To view Penn Township's proposed maps on their website, visit protectpt.info/rezonomaps-fall25. To stay updated, sign up for emails at protectpt.info/rezone-fall25.



Scan me to learn more about the PT rezoning!

protectpt.org/rezone

Give Big ❤️ 24 Hour Fundraiser



Pictured: Protect PT staff thanking a recent donor for our Environmental Science Program

Save the date! Help us raise \$6,000 on Tuesday, December 2, 2025. Our goals are \$2,000 each for: legal work, environmental monitoring, and education outreach. If you would like to pledge a large donation to use as a match for these goals, please reach out and be the first to be the big match! This makes a big impact as donors are more likely to give, and give more, if there is a match! Other ways to participate include providing testimonials of how our work has supported you or sharing our donation page on December 2nd. Contact bili@protectpt.org to get involved!