As we grow, we plan to continue our work for community mobilization, advocacy, and education to both protect our region from unconventional gas development and promote a sustainable and regenerative future for all. Although we have had several notable successes in our short tenure, there is still much work to be done. Curtailing all pollution from future fossil fuel extractions as well as cleaning up environmental impacts from past activities will keep our staff, members and foundation partners busy for years to come.

As we continue to work toward ensuring safe, sustainable energy for the future, we will work with energy providers to hold all current and planned programs accountable to the Pennsylvania Constitution.

ABOUT Protect PT

Protect PT was founded to protect our Penn-Trafford community and Pennsylvanians from harmful environmental impacts of fossil fuel activity and related infrastructure.

We are a community-based nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring residents’ safety, security, and quality of life by engaging in education and advocacy to protect the economic, environmental, and legal rights of the people in our member communities across Pennsylvania and downstream regional impact areas.

We focus on the three Es: Educate, Empower, and Engage in our communities to ensure that all residents can realize the right to clean air, pure water and the preservation of natural resources.
VISION & MISSION

At Protect PT, we envision a world where public health and safety are protected rights and the most vulnerable residents are safe from pollution and its impact. Every person has the right and freedom to live, work, and play in a clean, safe environment.

We believe that home is a sacred place and we want all people to feel secure and safe to breathe the air, drink the water and enjoy their community and its natural resources. By promoting a more viable communal future, we advance environmental justice principles with the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

Our mission is to realize the constitutional right to clean air, pure water and the preservation of natural resources for all Pennsylvanians. We seek to ensure the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic, and aesthetic values of the environment, where natural resources are the common property of all people, for today and generations to come. Because public access to a healthy, natural environment is often segregated by race and class, Protect PT works to expand opportunities for sustainable systems, education, industry, jobs, and projects.

**Environmental Justice** - Environmental Justice (EJ) is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.
Protect PT’s 2021 Financials came from public contributions, corporate contributions, and grants.

- Corporate Contributions: $161
- Donated Public Support: $1,921
- Fiscal Sponsorship Grant: $35,037
- Fiscal Sponsored Donations: $19,281
- Sale of Merchandise: $911
- Foundation Grants: $456,805
- Individual Contributions: $22,050.69

2021 INCOME

85.2% for Foundation Grants
6.5% for Fiscal Sponsorship
3.6% for Fiscal Sponsored
4.1% for Individual
2021 GRANTS

Protect PT’s programs and initiatives are funded by a variety of grantors that help to make community efforts possible through providing resources.

Foundation Partners

- The Pittsburgh
  - 4.6%
- Community
  - 7.4%
- Community
  - 4.6%
- Mosaic Rapid COVID
  - 2.2%
- Energy Foundation
  - 18.4%
- 11th hour Project
  - 27.7%
- Center for Health, Environment & Justice (2020/21)
  - $10,279
- Center for Health, Environment & Justice (2021/22)
  - $19,484
- Colcom Foundation 2021
  - $75,321
- Community Foundation for the Alleghenies (2020/21)
  - $15,000
- Community Foundation for the Alleghenies (2021/22)
  - $24,000
- The Pittsburgh Foundation ReImagine Food Systems
  - $15,000
- Rockefeller Foundation
  - $4,000
- Direct Support Funding/ Mnt Watershed Assoc
  - $5,000
While expenses vary across different initiatives, Protect PT prioritizes funding its people-power, the most valuable resource we have in tackling our community-centered goals.
In addition to individual contributions and membership dues, Protect PT receives in-kind donations from volunteers and Catchafire professionals who give their time to capacity-building projects like promotional videos or strategic planning.

**VOLUNTEER HOURS**

![Bar chart showing volunteer hours](image)

- **Home Resource Guide**: 53 hours
- **General Education**: 194 hours
- **TCWAC**: 660 hours
- **Monitoring**: 66 hours
- **Catchafire**: 382 hours
- **Board**: 632 hours
- **SWOT Extended Project**: 95 hours
In addition to individual contributions and membership dues, Protect PT receives in-kind donations from volunteers and Catchafire professionals who give their time to capacity-building projects like promotional videos or strategic planning.

**TOTAL VALUE OF CONTRIBUTIONS OF GOODS AND TIME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home Resource Guide</td>
<td>$1,501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Education</td>
<td>$5,537</td>
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<tr>
<td>TCWAC</td>
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<td>Catchafire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWOT Extended Project</td>
<td>$18,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In Kind Donation of Goods</td>
<td>$1,029</td>
</tr>
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</table>
2021 GOALS: PRIORITIZING LEGAL STRATEGY

At Protect PT, we organize our goals into the “three E” categories: educate, empower and engage. Through educating our members, partners, and community members, we drive engagement and empower individuals to advocate for their safety, security, and quality of life. These efforts also help us engage foundations and individuals to support our public health and environmental causes.

One of the most important goals of our organization is to bring litigation on behalf of members. This legal empowerment is the primary reason for membership, and one of the most effective tools that the organization can wield to hold energy providers and local government decision-makers accountable to their constituents’ rights and the PA constitution. This legal advocacy is a key strategy used to enable our mission fulfillment.

Protect PT continued our legal strategy to gain justice for our community, neighbors, and region during 2021. We tackled legal issues that address the harmful influx of gas infrastructure in Southwestern Pennsylvania. We sent critical advocacy letters regarding seven types of infrastructure, such as new well pads, an injection well, and special barges to transport fracking waste. These letters were sent to agencies such as PA DEP, the Environmental Protection Agency, the US Coast Guard, and key public officials, notably Pennsylvania’s Governor Tom Wolf and Attorney General Josh Shapiro. Participating in the public comment process with state agencies has resulted in operators getting letters of deficiency and losing their permit guarantee.
GOAL 1: FOSSIL FUEL EDUCATION

We seek to address the invasion of fossil fuel development in the community by extending our knowledge and resources to residents. We educate communities facing fossil fuel extraction and development through our Home Resource Guide Workshops, webinars, and mentorship, offering a strategic template and ways to be successful in their own community. We also share conversations with leading experts on topics ranging from oil and gas waste to tracking fossil fuel money to legislators on our community lunch and learns. In addition to local support, we also participate in statewide campaigns addressing the failures of the PA Department of Environmental Protection to protect Pennsylvanians’ right to clean air and pure water and collaborate with groups across the state to continue working to stop dangerous developments such as the Mariner East Pipeline Project.

Over 400 people attended Protect PT's educational programs in 2021
GOAL 2: COMMUNITY SERVICE AND LEGAL ADVOCACY

Working with legal counsel, PPT advocates for our local communities by participating in fossil fuel development hearings and advocating for protective permit conditions and ordinances. We comment on policies enforced by the PA Department of Environmental Protection and scrutinize new proposed sites for hidden environmental and human harms. Protect PT also seeks to hold operators and government agencies accountable through public pressure campaigns, community meetings, and other methods.

Protect PT conducts file reviews with the PA DEP and other agencies to track permits and violations for operators working in our region. In addition to making our own comments on proposed infrastructure or regulation changes, we provide residents with sample comments and messaging points they can use to make their own comments.

We also encourage residents to file complaints with the PA DEP and other agencies regarding environmental and health impacts from fossil fuel development. In 2021, we launched our reporting mobile application where residents can record environmental impacts anytime through any internet-connected device. In addition to recording observations, the app also directs residents to the proper agencies to report their complaints based on the type of complaint they are making (air, noise, water quality, etc.) and based on their location. The mobile app currently functions for all PA counties, and we are hoping to grow outreach and marketing efforts in the next year to increase the number of users across the state.
GOAL 3: ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING ENGAGEMENT

Working with environmental scientists, we provide evidence on public health and quality of life impacts by conducting air and noise monitoring studies around fossil fuel development in communities in PA. We use these studies to educate and empower local residents to be able to advocate for stronger local policies. In September 2021, we also launched our new Radon Air Monitoring Program (RAMP). Radon gas is the second leading cause of lung cancer in the US and can only be detected by testing equipment. Our RAMP program provides residents with free home testing and education on the health impacts of radon and a list of licensed radon mitigators.
GOAL 4: EQUITABLE SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE ACTION

We promote a vibrant and healthy future for Southwest Pennsylvania through grassroots development that addresses economic, social, and environmental sustainability. Protect PT equitably expands access to sustainable practices and projects through a multi-organizational partnership initiative called ReImagine Turtle Creek Watershed and Airshed Communities.

ReImagine Turtle Creek, made up of communities in eastern Allegheny and western Westmoreland counties, breaks down barriers to a healthy environment by providing regenerative opportunities, education, resources, and action-based working groups to jumpstart a transition into a regenerative future.

We develop youth programming to uplift youth voices through education, outreach, and organizational support. Too often youth are overlooked when it comes to the climate change movement. Protect PT acknowledges that the youth have tremendous power to effect change; they just need to be provided with the proper resources. In 2021, Protect PT engaged youth through both our Climate Action program and an essay contest with ReImagine TCWAC.
GOAL 5: ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH

Protect PT has grown tremendously since our inception in 2014. However, we recognize the need to continue fostering that growth on multiple levels. In 2021, we focused on organizational growth in the following areas:

**STRATEGIC PLANNING**
With the help of an experienced volunteer, we conducted 2 SWOT analyses (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats). These SWOTs were collected from board members and will be used to assess areas we need to focus more on in the coming years. We plan to continue using and revising the strategic plan as we plan future campaigns and the direction for the organization.

**EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT**
Protect PT's growing staff now includes five full-time positions and one part-time employee. Our Employee Development provides additional benefits for employees such as the HRA Health Reimbursement. Protect PT encourages all employees to attend training relevant to their position and to their understanding of fossil fuel, sustainability, and climate issues.

**FUNDRAISING**
We continue to connect with members and supporters through a combination of events, direct mail campaigns, emails, phone banking and social media. Our members are also invited to join special events such as our annual member appreciation breakfast and holiday parties. Members also have special privileges, including voting on the board officer positions and making suggestions for the direction of the organization.

**FUTURE GROWTH IN ADVOCACY**
In 2022 we plan on drafting and implementing a Policy & Advocacy Plan to influence future work.

**BOARD DEVELOPMENT**
Our Board and Executive Director continue to recruit new board members, creating a greater need for board training. PPT staff and our board chair work together in developing training programs to help board members navigate PPT systems for tracking projects. Through a development project in 2021, our board chair facilitated greater communication between the board and PPT staff as well as increased the volunteer hours contributed by the board. Calculated board hours were broken down into input and output hours; input hours was time spent assimilating PPT information, training, and board meetings while output hours was time spent on deliverable actions on behalf of PPT.
The last seven years have taught us that truth is on our side and if we keep pushing forward to find those vulnerabilities of the industry as well as strengthening or work with allies, we will move the needle forward. With our generous foundation partners that allow us the financial stability to keep growing, we have proven we are not small ants for the large fossil fuel industries to squash but that we are mighty and formative opponents that will not back down. We send a clear message to all level of governments that if they do not fulfill their mission to protect us, we will hold them accountable and demand the justice the people in our region deserve.

I imagine that we will need to keep fighting until our elected officials start making the people and natural resources they took an oath to protect their top priority. We can begin to partner with our government and agencies to build a better future. With the right funding and allies, we will find a path forward that promotes climate and environmental justice while improving life for us and our home, the earth.

GILLIAN GRABER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Acknowledgments

Protect PT Staff

Gillian Graber: Executive Director, Co-Founder
Mary Obringer: Outreach Manager
Annie Deely: Community Organizer, ReImagine Turtle Creek Watershed & Airshed Communities Plus
Jim Cirilano: Community Advocate
Joe Franckiewicz: Environmental Scientist

Protect PT Board

Lois Drumheller: Board Chair
David Mintz: Vice Chair
Darlene Leslie: Board Treasurer
Ryan Graber: Board Secretary
Patricia Emich: Board Member
Patricia Wendell: Board Member
Jackie Nixon: Board Member
Oliver Drumheller: Board Member

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