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Fall Festival Festivities



Pictured: Protect PT staff and volunteers at the Fall Festival parade.

In September, Protect PT staff and volunteers had a BLAST at the Penn Township Fall Festival! Did you stop by our booth or see us at the parade?

If so, you heard all about our Radon Air Monitoring Program (RAMP), designed to help local residents protect their families (including their beloved pets!) from the dangers of radon. We aren't just Protect PT—we're Protect PeTs!

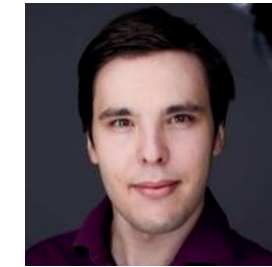
Monarchs on the Move

In September, Protect PT held our annual "Monarchs on the Move" event with environmental educator June Bernard. Participants learned all about the life cycle and migratory patterns of the amazing monarch butterfly, after which they were able to tag and release their own monarchs! Missed it this year? No sweat! This event happens every September!



Pictured: Tagged monarch butterfly from Monarchs on the Move Event

Meet Our New Staff Attorney!



Pictured: Dylan Basescu

Meet Dylan Basescu, Protect PT's Staff Attorney! Dylan graduated in 2021 from The George Washington University with a Bachelor of Arts and graduated in 2024 from GW Law School with a JD, specializing in environmental law and patent law.

Dylan developed a strong interest in the environment growing up along the Hudson River, and has since worked to promote environmental protection through technical and legal research into renewable and nuclear energy technologies. Welcome aboard, Dylan! We are thrilled to have you!

Upcoming Events

- **Oct 20:** Natures Tricks & Treats | 12 PM | PPT's Office
- **Oct 25:** TCWAC Paint 'N Sip | 6 PM | At Art and Soul
- **Nov 26:** PPT Staff Lunch & Learn | 12 PM | Virtual
- **Dec 3:** Giving Tuesday—Donate to Protect PT!
- **Dec 7:** Winter Wreath Fundraiser | 1 PM | PPT's Office
- **Dec 13:** PPT Holiday Party | 6:00 PM | Blue Room at the Slovenian National Home
- **Jan 18:** Annual Member Breakfast | 10 AM | PPT's Office

Scan me to see all upcoming events and RSVP!



www.protectpt.org/events

Tell us what events you want to see in 2025 by filling out this survey!

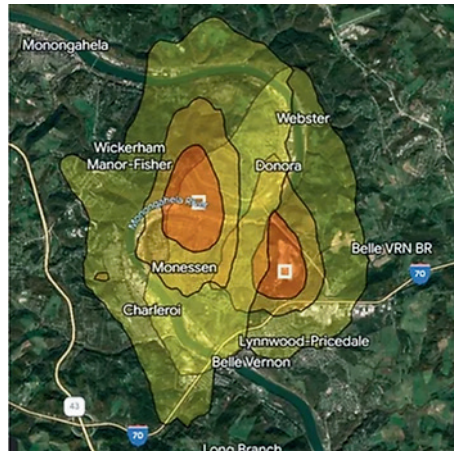
<https://protectpt.info/eventssurvey2024>



Clean Air for All

Air Monitoring Study around Area Polluters

As the Clean Air for All EPA-grant funded project commences in the coming weeks, Protect PT is excited to situate monitor hosts with their new air monitors. Each participant will be set up with a PurpleAir monitor, and one location around each of the monitoring sites — Westmoreland Sanitary Landfill, Monessen Coke Works, and Plum Injection Well — will be equipped with a S-pod and summa canister, a type of advanced air capturing system that will allow Protect PT to analyze air samples for a number of various gasses and pollutants.



Pictured: Model pollution plumes around pollution sources WSL and Monessen Coke Works.

By analyzing what pollutants are in the air, we hope to find how to advocate for stricter regulations that protect people's health by giving them access to clean air.



Pictured: Particulate Matter Monitor (Purple Air)



Pictured: CAFA Study Team with Study Equipment

Another Hearing For Sedat This Year

In September, the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas issued an order returning the Sedat 4a injection well permit back to Plum Borough Zoning Hearing Board for clarification of its original Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law. The Board had the option to draw conclusions from the original hearing held in 2022, or conduct another hearing. The Board decided to conduct another hearing that will likely take place in November. Protect PT will participate in the hearing on behalf of its members and resident with concerns should attend and plan to voice their concerns.



Pictured: 3rd study Area, Plum Injection Well.

RAMP Ramps Up!

New Radon Testing Capabilities

Protect PT is continuing to help folks identify and respond to dangerous radon levels. Naturally occurring radon is the #1 cause of lung cancer in nonsmokers. In Pennsylvania, roughly 1 in 3 homes have radon levels that should be fixed, according to public health experts. Additionally,

multiple studies have found that radon levels tend to increase in homes near fracking activity, so radon exposure is of particular concern to communities living in this part of the state.



Pictured: RAMP Logo

Through our RAMP program, we now provide professional grade in-home radon tests by our environmental scientist, who is DEP certified to measure radon. This additional form of monitoring will bolster the monitoring being done by our EcoQubes (see Summer Newsletter for more!). These indoor tests are performed with a professional grade monitor called a RadonEye Pro for the purpose of detecting radon levels that pose health risks. Our staff sets up, retrieves and provides a report of the test. Finding out if you have dangerous levels of radon in your home is easy with our help!

Interested in testing your home for radon? Fill out our interest form by scanning the QR code below!



<https://protectpt.info/radontesting>



Pictured: Fabiana Licata (left), Yvonne Sorovac (right)

We Need Your Support Now.

Protect PT is currently in the midst of several ongoing legal battles. The oil and gas industry has not stopped invading our community, and therefore, we have not stopped taking them to court to protect our health, environment, and way of life.

In the cases we are litigating, we assert our right to clean air and water as guaranteed by the Pennsylvania Constitution, Article 1, Section 27. We talk about impacts to water and air that could befall our communities from things like oil and gas waste, PFAS, and radioactive material. In addition to these probable future impacts, we discuss the impacts our community has already felt from existing infrastructure, such as excessive noise, bright lights, dust, and spills of waste that include heavy metals and radioactive indicators like barium and strontium.

Now, more than ever, we need your support. This crucial time can determine the future of whether our communities are thriving and healthy, or are overburdened by pollution. As you can imagine, legal battles can be quite expensive for a small nonprofit organization like Protect PT. We won't allow them to hurt our families or yours, but we can't do this alone. Please consider helping us cover the cost of this litigation by donating at <https://protectpt.info/givelegal> or with the enclosed envelope.

How Much DOES Legal Advocacy Cost?

Here are some numbers for context—and yes, they blow our minds too!

- Our attorney time for ONE Zoning Hearing Board Meeting: \$5,000
 - ONE Expert Witness can range from \$2,000 to \$15,000
 - Average Transcript Fees Per Hearing: \$550



Big Legal Win!

Westmoreland Sanitary Landfill withdraws Leachate Evaporator Plan

In September, Westmoreland Sanitary Landfill (WSL) surrendered an Air Plan Approval for a Leachate Evaporator System that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) improperly approved. WSL relinquishing plan approval is a huge win for the community, and we are so excited to share the news with you!

WSL has accepted fracking waste since 2010 and has frequently failed to safely dispose of the generated



Pictured: Image of WSL taken by local resident

leachate, leaving waste in uncovered piles and discharging contaminated toxic runoff into nearby waterways. The Air Plan Approval was based on unproven technology that would have allowed WSL to “evaporate” leachate at the landfill, resulting in airborne emissions of toxic chemicals, including carcinogens and radioactive particles, ultimately posing a great threat to public health.

This fight is not over, as the landfill continues to generate massive amounts of hazardous and radioactive leachate that is discharged into our environment and harms human health. We believe that the landfill should be shut down, inspected, and remediated by the PA DEP and EPA. In the meantime, Protect PT will continue to take steps to protect the rights of the community.



Pictured: Gillian Graber (left), Attorney Lisa Johnson (right)