



Pennsylvania

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News and Events

PJM is Planning Data Center Expansion Projects Without Community Input

Last month, PJM's Transmission Expansion Advisory Committee [held a meeting to review](#) PPL's current supplemental expansion projects for Northeast PA. All projects covered in this meeting are proposed grid expansions for data centers, with a total of 5,500 Megawatts (5.5 Gigawatts) burden on the grid by 2031. 5.5 Gigawatts is [enough energy to power](#) over five million households, nearly equivalent to the [total number of households in PA](#) at 5.2 million.

Data centers have become a [known culprit in rising energy usage and costs](#) across the country, and could have a severe impact on Pennsylvanians' electricity bills, which is only one of many concerns communities have about the [direct and indirect harms](#) caused by data centers.

Read the entire article on [the blog](#).

SAVE THE DATE



SHALE GAS AND PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE

**OUR WORK, OUR HEALTH: BUILDING A
FUTURE BEYOND SACRIFICE**

**FEBRUARY 19, 2026
FULL DAY CONFERENCE**

DUQUESNE UNIVERSITY
In Person and Online

[League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania \(LWVPA\)](#), [Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania \(PSR PA\)](#), and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Science at Duquesne University invite you to the **2026 Shale Gas and Public Health Conference** on **February 19, 2026**. Since 2013, this annual event has been a cornerstone of the LWVPA *Straight Scoop on Shale* educational initiative, bringing together researchers, health professionals, policymakers, and community leaders to examine the latest science and strengthen public health advocacy.

This year's theme, "*Our Work, Our Health: Building a Future Beyond Sacrifice*," highlights the urgent need to protect workers, families, and communities in regions impacted by oil and gas development. Topics will include:

- New research on childhood cancer and health impacts
- Advances in scientific understanding of shale gas and public health
- Oil and gas policy – loopholes, legislation, and accountability
- Community success stories and strategies for organizing change

The **2026 Shale Gas and Public Health Conference** is **free to attend (in person and online)**, but **registration is required**.

More information is coming soon!

The Polluter Next Door

A report by Laura M. Dagley, BSN, RN

Millions of Americans live in fenceline communities—neighborhoods situated beside refineries, petrochemical plants, gas wells, and other industrial sites. For these residents, daily life is marked by toxic air, unsafe water, constant noise, and diminished property values. Beyond physical illness, the cumulative burden includes anxiety, depression,

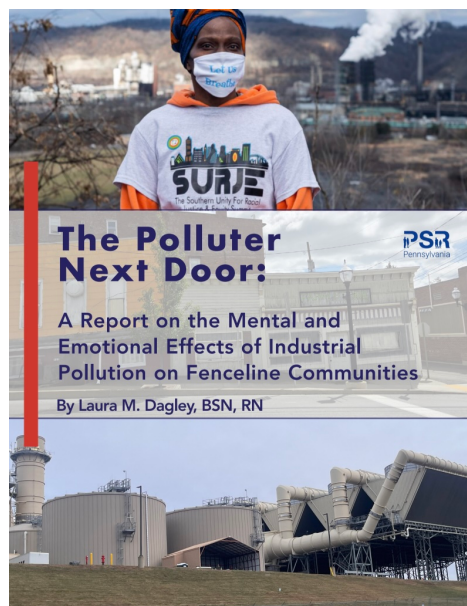
chronic stress, and cognitive decline.

This new report from Physicians for Social Responsibility Pennsylvania (PSR PA) documents the mental and emotional toll of industrial pollution and how these harms disproportionately fall on low-income communities and communities of color, reflecting systemic environmental racism and classism.

Through research, case studies, and personal testimonies, *The Polluter Next Door* sheds light on:

- The interconnected effects of air, water, noise, and light pollution on health.
- The ways environmental stress compounds existing health inequities.
- Community voices from Pennsylvania living in the shadow of industry.
- The critical role of healthcare providers in recognizing environmental determinants of health and validating patients' lived experiences.

Download the report on our [website](#).



PSR PA In The News

[Environmental groups speak out as Trump admin targets climate regulations](#)

[Matt Shorraw: Natural gas not sustainable for Pa.'s data centers](#)

[Doctors speak out against Shapiro energy board plan](#)

[Marietta Ceiling Plant upgrade could increase emissions of pollutants near Marietta, Maytown](#)

[Josephine Gingerich: Gov. Shapiro, don't sell Pa. out to polluters](#)

[Report: Mental health challenged in 'fenceline communities' near pollution](#)

Living with Climate Anxiety: Coping, Connecting, and Creating Meaning in an Uncertain Future



PSR PA presented a timely conversation on the mental and emotional toll of climate change, timed with the release of our new Polluters Next Door report. This webinar explores eco-anxiety, climate grief, and their impacts on youth and adults—particularly in communities already burdened by environmental hazards.

AI: Big Promises or Big Problems?



Food and Water Watch, Protect PT, Physicians for Social Responsibility PA, Mountain Watershed Association, and Move Past Plastic connected with guest speakers about the ethical considerations of AI and the impact the technology may have on our future.

Other News & Events



OVERVIEW

To foster an understanding of how health is intrinsically linked to the way we interact with our environment and how attendees can promote health through climate education, mitigation, and adaption.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

5.75 CME credits will be awarded.

REGISTRATION

\$30.00

DATE & TIME

Friday, October 17, 2025
8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. EST

LOCATION

John H. Ammon
Education Center,
ChristianaCare Newark

Environmental Health Conference 2025
Building a Healthier Tomorrow

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)



Register here

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Make a donation today!



We would love to hear from you!

If you have comments or suggestions to share with PSR PA please send them to info@psrpa.org.

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