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News and Events

Governor Josh Shapiro and the Fossil Fuel Industry: Abandoning Climate Science for Industry Support

As Pennsylvania's Attorney General, Josh Shapiro championed clean air and water. He promoted a 2020 Grand Jury [report](#) that found the state's Department of Environmental Protection failed to protect Pennsylvanians from the health and safety risks of fracking.

However, after he assumed office as Governor in January 2023, Shapiro radically changed his environmental policy priorities and began to court fossil fuel companies. He failed to enact any of the recommendations put forth by the Grand Jury that he had previously promoted. He no longer publicly discusses the public health danger of the fossil fuel industry in the state. Instead, he has made dangerous side deals with fossil fuel companies instead of tightening badly needed state environmental regulation.

Read the entire article [on PSR PA's blog](#).



Now more than ever, it is crucial that we see strong voter registration numbers and significant turnout in November. We're approaching August, deemed Civic Health Month, **so there is no time like the present to join PSR's Civic Health Team!**

With the help of some incredible partners, members of the Civic Health Team have been registering folks to vote and contacting voters via phone banking and writing letters. The Civic Health Team also receives special access to a toolkit that can assist in writing letters to the editor, engaging institutions, and talking to friends, family, and neighbors about the upcoming election.

PSR PA is not in the business of telling you who to vote for; that decision is solely your own. It is worth mentioning some of the things that are at stake in this election, most notably clean air and water, questions about the future of voting rights, equality for marginalized people, acceleration of climate change, and civility in a time of deep polarization.

With just over three months until Election Day and Civic Health Month on the horizon in August, let's work together to register voters and Get Out the Vote this November!

[Join the Civic Health Team to start receiving updates and resources today.](#)

Tips for People Who Want to Monitor Pollution in Philadelphia



First, get to know what is normal in your neighborhood: What smells, sights, or sounds (good or bad) are normal?

Now, do you see something unusual? Storm water or other run off that is an unusual color? Unusual industrial activity? Do you smell something off or different? It may be steady or intermittent.

Trust your senses.

Examples:

- > Storm water or other runoff that is an unusual color or has an oil sheen.
- > A sulfur smell (which could be a gas leak) or other odd smell.
- > Dust or things being kicked up into the air, smoke, or something visible rising up from the ground. If construction equipment is digging up the ground, it could cause long-dormant industrial pollutants in the soil to become airborne.
- > Waste being dumped into a stormwater drain.

What should you do if you see or smell something?

1. Stay safe!

Make sure you don't touch the substance or let it touch your skin. Don't let children or pets near it.

2. Document it!

Photograph the problem with your phone, both close-up (if safe to do so) and with its surroundings. Write down exactly what you saw, in detail, with the date and time. You can do this on the notes app of your phone. (See [PSR PA's video](#) for more information about documenting an environmental problem). If you have time, do a little investigation. Where does the runoff go? Does it empty into a storm drain? Did you know that substances that run into a storm drain empty into our creeks and rivers ("street to stream")? That substance may violate the [Clean Streams Law of 1937](#) and pollute our drinking water.

3. Report it!

Contact the Philadelphia Water Department if it's a liquid or sludge. The Water Department's Emergency Hotline (24 hours per day, /7 days per week): (215) 685-6300.

Report it to the [Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection](#).

Report it to the [US Environmental Protection Agency](#) (sometimes the state agency drops the ball, so it's good to include the EPA).

For More Information, check out our fact sheet: [The Importance of Being a Watchdog](#) and our video, [The Importance of Being a Watchdog](#).

Stand with Dimock Day
August 16th - 1pm to 6pm

Stand with Dimock Day

August 16, 2024 - 1pm to 6pm

Dimock Environmental Research Center
11081 State Route 3023, Montrose, PA

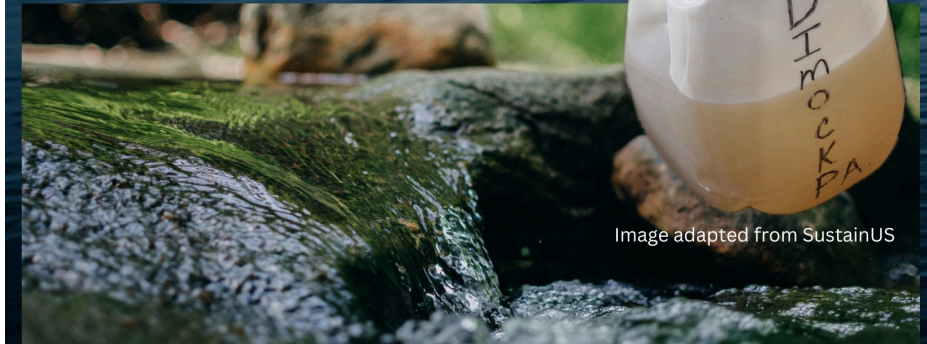


Image adapted from SustainUS

PA Constitution Article 1, Section 27 (May 18, 1971)

The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.

Dimock, PA is the only place in the United States where fracking industry has been criminally charged (by AG Shapiro) and found guilty [“for their repeated and systematic violation of Pennsylvania environmental law.”](#) Residents have been drinking poisoned water since 2009 and have been suffering under the impact of fossil fuel waste, injection wells, and other infrastructure. Dimock frontline activists invite Pennsylvanians to visit this environmental justice epicenter, and strategize for PA.

The world has been listening to Dimock - with bans on fracking in NY, MD, ME, OR, WA.

Why not our legislators in Harrisburg? Why not Governor Shapiro? Where is the Attorney General Shapiro who defended Pennsylvanian's constitutional rights to clean air & water now that he has become Governor?

Kids Send Postcards to Wimbledon

As part of our campaign to urge Wimbledon to drop the £20million-per-year sponsorship deal with Barclays we asked children send postcards sharing their concerns to Wimbledon's CEO and other executive leadership.



PSR PA in the News

Philadelphians have a right to solar power

Members of our public health group recently buttonholed passersby near City Hall and asked them, "How much solar power do you think PECO includes in your service plan?"

Many guessed 20%, 10% or even 5% solar. The answer? A tenth of that: PECO's default service plan includes only half of 1 percent solar power. Naturally, no one guessed correctly. "You're joking," they said.

Every person we spoke to was incredulous.

In fact, Pennsylvania ranks 50th in renewable power growth, according to a 2023 [report](#) by PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center.

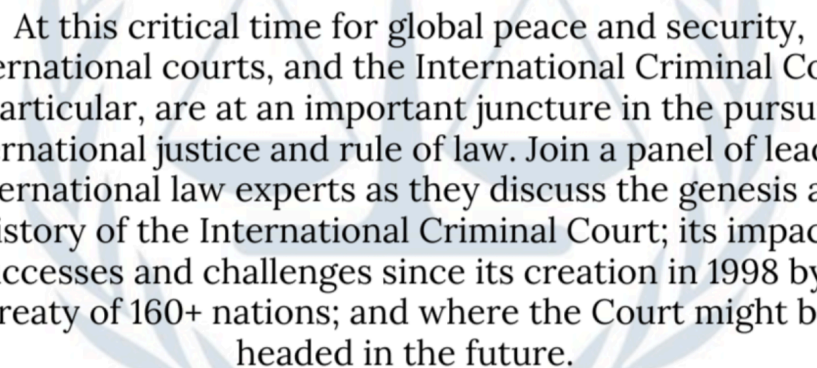
In our city with miles of sun-baked, flat roofs ready for solar panels, there are also thousands of people desperate for good, full-time jobs who could be installing them. Work is an important determinant of health, as it is associated with not just greater income but also healthcare access and in turn improved mental and physical well-being. In addition to providing skills for this rising industry, the recent heat wave reminds us that the health of our communities would benefit from reducing the greenhouse gas emissions that are causing climate change. PECO is missing an opportunity with multiple economic and public health benefits and Philadelphians are suffering.

Read the entire OpEd [here](#).

[Read more articles highlighting PSR PA here.](#)

Other News & Events

Global Justice at a Crossroads? The International Criminal Court's Impact Over 20+ Years

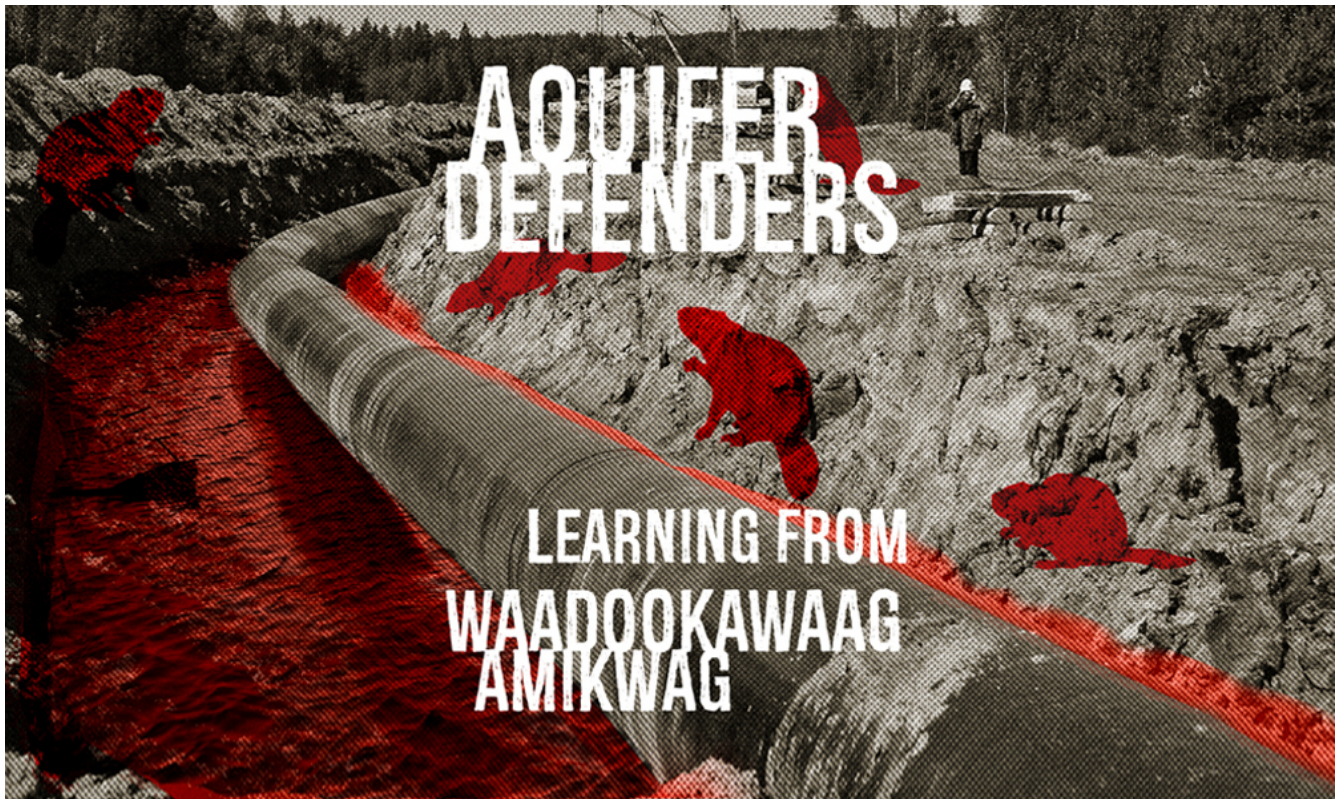


At this critical time for global peace and security, international courts, and the International Criminal Court in particular, are at an important juncture in the pursuit of international justice and rule of law. Join a panel of leading international law experts as they discuss the genesis and history of the International Criminal Court; its impact, successes and challenges since its creation in 1998 by a treaty of 160+ nations; and where the Court might be headed in the future.

Global Justice at a Crossroads? The International Criminal Court's Impact Over 20+ Years

Wednesday, July 31, 7:00-8:30 PM EDT

Pre-registration required to attend this event. [Register here](#).



Thursday, August 1, 2024 | 7pm ET / 4pm PT

[RSVP for Zoom Link](#)

Across the American Midwest, water protectors and land defenders are using both Indigenous knowledge and Western science to re-evaluate new pipeline constructions and expose damage caused by existing pipelines. Waadookawaad Amikwag (“Those Who Help Beaver”) is a diverse community group of water protectors, scientists, drone pilots, field monitors, and grassroots organizers that is gathering and interpreting evidence of environmental destruction from the Enbridge Line 3 pipeline, expanded in 2021 after a decade of Native-led resistance. The group’s work reveals how water protectors are fulfilling obligations to the land and water enshrined in the region’s founding treaties, and pressuring state and federal agencies to do the same.

Join members of Waadookawaad Amikwag and critical geographer Kai Bosworth for a Zoom Webinar discussing their troubling findings, including aquifer breaches, lack of tribal consultations, and inadequate state regulation enforcement. This event will explore how Indigenous knowledge and Western science can be mobilized to halt the destruction caused by pipelines, stop future projects, and protect the land and water for future generations—in Minnesota and beyond.

Is Radioactivity the Key to Holding the Fracking Industry Accountable?

“There is no one federal agency that specifically regulates the radioactivity brought to the surface by oil and gas development.”

In June 2023, attorney Lisa Johnson entered the Washington County Court of Common Pleas in the heart of fracking country in southwestern Pennsylvania, armed with a novel legal theory she believed could be used to hold the oil and gas giant Chevron accountable.

One year later, the Supreme Court [has overruled](#) its landmark 1984 decision in *Chevron v. Natural Resources Defense Council*, making it harder for regulatory agencies and environmental law firms to hold large industry accountable. But in her own fight against Chevron, Johnson believes she is opening up an entirely new legal front in the countrywide fight against the oil and gas industry.

Read Justin Nobel's article [here](#).

Dream on the Farm "Conference for Those Still Living"



A group of people are summoned to a farm by their mutual friend, a world-class ornithologist, for a weekend Climate Change conference. His guests include international artists, scientists, and activists. When the ornithologist does not show up at his own conference, the event is disrupted, and a mystery ensues as to his whereabouts. As the attendees navigate the conference in the absence of their friend, anxiety and loss become tangible themes both in the climate change discussion and in their response to his disappearance. The conference becomes something nobody quite expected.

Conference for Those Still Living is play #5 of Farm Arts Collective's decade-long climate change series called DREAM ON THE FARM. It is an immersive and site-specific play that concludes with a shared meal to offer space (and nourishment) to continue the conversation inspired by the performance.

Farm Arts Collective, 38 Hickory LaneDamascus, PA, 18415

Learn more and purchase tickets [here](#).



A sustained campaign of nonviolent civil disobedience to end financing for fossil fuels.

The clock is ticking. That's why during the Summer of Heat, we're taking joyful, relentless nonviolent direct action to end fossil fuel financing.

Wall Street is bankrolling the coal, oil and gas companies that are polluting our communities and killing our planet. **But we're going to stop them.**

We're going hard all summer long. Week after week. Month after month. We're taking the party to the streets and we won't stop. See the schedule [here](#).

PSR PA appreciates your support!

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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