



Pennsylvania

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## News and Events

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### Justin Nobel Book Signing and Discussion



PSR PA recently hosted the Philadelphia launch and discussion of science journalist Justin Nobel's new book *Petroleum-238* at The Wooden Shoe, a local bookstore. *Petroleum-238* reveals the story of a radioactive waste crisis caused by the fossil fuel industry. PSR PA Executive Director Tonyehn Verkitus moderated the discussion, which also featured former Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection press secretary Jamar Thrasher.

Nobel told the crowd that the fossil fuel industry knowingly creates millions of gallons of radioactive waste every year - enough barrels to go to the moon and back 28 times - but wants to avoid the high expense of proper disposal. Instead, companies employ vulnerable recent ex-inmates and drug users to do clean up. These workers, who are exposed to radiation levels hundreds and sometimes thousands of times higher than levels accepted by the Environmental Protection Agency, are not told that the sludge covering their clothes and boots is radioactive.

Read more on the [PSR PA Blog](#).

To purchase a copy of *Petroleum-238* while supporting your local bookshop, visit:  
<https://bookshop.org/p/books/petroleum-238-big-oil-s-dangerous-secret-and-the-grassroots-fight-to-stop-it-justin-nobel/20873986?ean=9798989546237>

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## Poisoned While Playing Artificial Turf Fact Sheet

FDR Park in South Philadelphia is undergoing a multi-year, multi-phase, \$250+ million redesign. As part of this plan, athletic fields for youth and adults are proposed. Unfortunately, the proposed plan wants to use artificial (synthetic) and or allegedly turf free of “forever chemicals” instead of natural grass, creating a significant health hazard to the youth and adults that use the fields, to the people who maintain these fields, to the community and ultimately all Philadelphians. **We oppose the use of artificial turf for these fields because of their health hazards and request a revision to the plan that only natural grass playing fields be installed.**

### What is artificial turf?

Artificial turf is a synthetic product that is manufactured commercially in a variety of different ways. Depending on the industry the turf will contain plastic (nylon, polypropylene, or polyethylene), infill made from recycled tires (“crumb rubber”) or similar untested plastic materials; a drainage layer; and other padding layers. It degrades over time needing replacement periodically and will need to be disposed of at the end of its life. The “recycling” of synthetic turf has been shown to be problematic due to a myriad of hazardous chemicals often exceeding the established limits. The European Union has taken substantial steps to limit the fields’ chemical components to which the public and environment are exposed.

Read or download the fact sheet [here](#).

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**PECO is proposing to procure ONLY 0.5% of its energy from solar in their default service...*until 2029*.**

**Call Your State Reps: "Tell the PUC: PECO Needs More Solar In Its Default Service Plan"**

Context: PSR PA is one of six organizations legally intervening in the process by which PECO's default service from 2025-2029 gets approved by the Pennsylvania Utility Commission. The plan for procurement that they have put forward has only 0.5% of its energy coming from solar energy, which is what their current plan is and the state legal minimum. With POWER, Clean Air Council, Vote Solar, Sierra Club, and PennEnvironment, we have filed testimony in opposition of their plan, underscoring that we need affordable energy that responds to the immediacy of our climate crisis.

Instructions:

1. Find your state reps [here](#) and then call the office number listed when you click on their name.
2. **State your name, that you are a constituent, and that .5% is too little solar for PECO to be procuring for its default service from 2025-2029.**
3. Recommend that your state rep write a letter expressing their support for increased renewable procurement in the Default Service Program to the Pennsylvania Utility Commission that can be filed on PECO's DSP Petition (which is Docket No. P-2024-3046008).
4. Say "Thank you" and hang up. Let us know that you took action!

Contact [linnea@psrpa.org](mailto:linnea@psrpa.org) if you have any questions.

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## Other News & Events

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Join PSR PA on July 3rd as we take part in a summer of heat road trip to Malvern, PA, to visit the HQ of Vanguard, one of the world's largest investors in fossil fuels, to support our friends at the Earth Quaker Action Team in [a mobilization to demand Vanguard divest from fossil fuels and invest in a livable future](#).

**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](#).

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THE GLOBAL  
CLIMATE & HEALTH  
ALLIANCE

## What is the World Health Assembly (WHA)?

WHA is the annual meeting of the world's ministries of health, hosted and convened by the World Health Organization to set global health policy.

Delegates make decisions on health targets, financing and strategies that will guide their own public health work.

As the [World Health Assembly](#) (WHA 77, May 27-June 1) opened in Geneva, the Global Climate and Health Alliance called on World Health Organization (WHO) member states to adopt a [proposed resolution on Climate Change and Health](#). The [draft resolution](#) clearly states that climate change is a major threat to global public health, and sets out a framework to promote health and build climate-resilient and sustainable health systems [1]. The key global health meeting takes place just ahead of next month's [UN technical negotiations on climate in Bonn](#) (SB 60).

Read more [here](#).

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## TAKE ACTION! Write your legislator today

**Expand Transit in Your Community! [Send A Letter](#) to your legislator to pass Governor Shapiro's \$282 million dollar budget proposal for All of PA!**

Whether we live in Harrisburg or Pittsburgh, Wilkes Barre or Erie, rural towns or Philadelphia, all Pennsylvanians deserve safe, reliable, dignified access to the places they need to go. While travel patterns are changing, public transit services operate in every single PA county. These services bring millions of residents to jobs, local business, healthcare, schools and healthy food every week. Public transit keeps seniors connected to healthcare, families connected to grocery stores, and neighbors connected to each other.

You can make a difference this budget season. We ask that you join our campaign and send a letter to your legislators urging them to pass this new transit budget, without raising taxes on constituents throughout the Commonwealth. [Can you join our campaign and take action?](#)

As a coalition we will keep fighting to expand transit for all of our neighbors. We have the opportunity for a big win for transit expansion by passing the \$282 million dollar budget proposal from Governor Shapiro to increase funding in every county. Let's make this final push together for a budget that will change the lives of all communities of riders across Pennsylvania!

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**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](mailto:info@psrpa.org).

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