

Center for Health, Environment & Justice

Mentoring a Movement, Empowering People, Preventing

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Center for Health, Environment & Justice Mid-Year Report January 2019 – June 2019

The first half of 2019 has come to an end, and CHEJ is excited to report that despite an unfriendly administration, we are winning in dozens of community fights across the country. Thanks to our donors and our supporters, we were able to provide leadership skills, facilitate strategic action plans, supply scientific analysis, and so much more to dozens of groups, including those shown here.

Although Washington is rife with conflict and gridlock, our field is moving forward, and local community groups are winning significant goals. Community leaders understand that they need to create change and find the solution to their problems closer to home because the federal government is not likely to take action or can't, due to EPA budget cuts and efforts to reverse regulatory protections.

As you read through this report, you'll get some insight to our work, our many accomplishments and the strength and passion of community efforts the past six months. From 800 people attending the People's Action Institute's Convention to finally, after 30 years of struggle, the leaders in Minden, West Virginia succeeding in getting on to the National Priorities List, it has been a successful 2019 so far for CHEJ.

The second half of the year we hope to have our new organizing staff onboard to launch our nationwide water related campaign and we are researching a nationwide focused effort around industrial sacrifice zones. Our report on Superfund activities since President Trump's EPA announced the program as a high priority will also be released late summer early fall. Stay tuned.



April 28th – **The People Marched on Washington** 800 leaders traveled from across the country to attend the People's Action/CHEJ convention in Washington, D.C.

People loaded buses and traveled to EPA Headquarters. We gathered outside the EPA and demanded that Andrew Wheeler meet with us and hear the stories of the real people who are sick and have died at the hands of the EPA. We put a complete stop to business as usual while people told the stories of the people in their lives who have passed away from environmental pollution. Some staff members

from the EPA came down and listened. As a result of this protest, EPA has agreed to meet and talk with leadership about our demands.



June 8th --- March For Minden, WV

Over 150 Minden residents and allies marched through Minden to mark the 30th anniversary of living with PCB exposure. They took to the streets to memorialize the Minden residents who they believe lost their lives to PCBs, to support those who are currently suffering from PCB-related illnesses and to pay tribute to the activism that first brought attention to toxic dumping in Minden in the 1980's and 1990's. The Concerned Citizens to Save Fayette County first tried to get something done in the late 80's, and thirty years later in response, the EPA designated the community as an Emergency Cleanup under the Superfund Program.



With The Right People in Office - Good Things Happen!

NJ Attorney General Gurbir Grewal, appointed last year, took on a big polluter. He sued chemical giant DuPont on March 27th seeking financial damages for widespread pollution that contaminated air, soil and water at four sites across the state and endangered the health of thousands, including residents of a Pompton Lakes neighborhood who have had to endure cancercausing solvents beneath their homes for decades.

"We allege that DuPont's leaders knew or at the very least should have known that its actions were contaminating New Jersey's resources and

harming the local community," Grewal said. "The state has told DuPont since the 1980s to figure out just how far the contamination goes and to clean it up ... but DuPont has not lived up to its responsibilities.

In 2008, at a pack hearing, it was announced that the solvents were vaporizing up through the soil into some basements. CHEJ worked with the local group trying to get then Gov. Christie to list the site on Superfund. The neighborhood, which was also contaminated with mercury and lead, has elevated levels of non-Hodgkin lymphoma and kidney cancer among residents. More than 300 homes have had ventilation systems installed to remove the hazardous vapors. When the community was hit by SuperStorm Sandy and lost power, their homes filled with toxic vapors.



North Carolina Orders Duke Energy to Dig Up Nine Coal Ash Ponds.

Duke had proposed to either cap the material in place — in leaking, unlined landfills — or to develop a "hybrid" of excavation and cap-in-place. Residents across the state demanded that the state force the utility to fully excavate all the material and place it in a lined landfill.

Where will these new landfills be located? The Blue Ridge

Environmental Defense League said, "this is great news for the communities that have been impacted by Duke Energy's coal ash. It also presents an opportunity for North Carolina to have a conversation about just disposition of this dangerous byproduct. Historical precedent indicates that rural low-wealth counties and communities of color will be targeted for mega coal ash landfills. Creating new toxic sites and victimizing more communities is not the answer."



Yankton Sioux Tribe & CHEJ Mapping Water

CHEJ is working with tribal members to develop a database of water quality and pollution sources that impact the Yankton Sioux tribal reservation. The goal of the project is to develop a co-management plan for the Missouri River Bioregion and to define the current water quality to fall on if future pollution occurs. Our technical assistance staff is working on a targeted 180-mile area of the Missouri River that borders the Yankton

Reservation to first identify and gather existing water sampling data. The Data Center at Tufts University is helping to input and analyze that data. CHEJ, working work with indigenous leaders, will develop a sampling plan for additional sites in the targeted area once the data base is complete and analyzed.



Way to Go Governor Justice and Senator Joe Manchin!

EPA Admin. Wheeler, Gov. Justice and two Republican Representatives made the announcement on May 13, 2019 that Minden is now listed on the Superfund National Priority list. This came after Senator Joe Manchin, WV sent a powerful letter to the EPA restating his support for adding the town of Minden to the Superfund Priority List. Residents exposed to PCBs have shown a significantly higher rate of cancer than other people in Fayette County.

Headwater Defense has been working to get this site on the priority list for decades. The residents are demanding relocation as the area is completely contaminated with PCBs and floods regularly.



Baltimore Clean Air Act to Force Closure of Two Huge Waste Incinerators.

In February Baltimore's Mayor signed the Baltimore Clean Air Act. The new law is expected to force the closure of two major waste incinerators in the city, since they can't afford to meet the strict requirements. One is the city's largest air polluter, the 2,250 ton/day Wheelabrator Baltimore trash incinerator the other is the nation's largest medical waste incinerator, Curtis Bay Medical Waste Services, which accepts medical waste from about 20 states plus Canada.

Fighting for environmental health and justice is a marathon, not a sprint. Many of you may remember CHEJ's Stop Dioxin Exposure Campaign and Health Care Without Harm that spun out of that effort. That began in 1999. Both incinerators were targeted for shut down by leaders in those efforts. Today because of continued efforts in the field, with many extraordinary Maryland citizens and organizations they will be closed. Big congratulations to all that played a role in this very long tedious fight.



Detroit Incinerator Will Permanently Close.

The Breathe Free Detroit Campaign have been working for years for Detroiters' right to breathe clean air, for just transition for workers and residents once the incinerator closed, and movement toward zero waste. March 28th they were celebrating the closure of one of the world's largest incinerators, a facility that has been a bad neighbor for over 30 years, unable to comply with Clean Air Act laws and odor

restrictions. This is a great victory for the community and public health. Breathe Free Detroit said, "We will continue to pursue environmental justice with our goals of protections for the workers and residents and working toward serious reducing, reusing and recycling efforts to produce zero waste."



CHEJ's Leadership Training Programs

CHEJ held six successful training sessions so far this year with **286 leaders** many attending several sessions from **38 states** across the country.

Our training sessions are both about leadership skill building and tools and education on specific issues. Several highlights include:

Media Messaging – Focused on how to sharpen leaders skills in communicating with the media and the public. This training was very helpful in building grassroots leaders skills to move messages that make a difference, inspire, galvanize and give voice. How to reach out to reporters, framing organization's issue, and how to pitch groups story.

Building an organization - Getting people involved - Learn how you can build and strengthen your group's membership and spirit! Hear expert organizers talk about ways you can re-energize your organization and improve your group's outreach, activate members, improve publicity and refine organizing tactics and strategies. Bring your questions and concerns to the call, and CHEJ staff will help you troubleshoot and refine your group's plans.

Fundraising – What you need to know. Fundraising not only provides resources to pay the rent or hold a training, it also forces you to plan your work out beyond next month and build a base of individual supporters that provide flexible resources. Training will cover what leaders need to understand about researching and applying to foundations and how to build a successful individual donors campaign.

PFAS in Drinking Water: A Grassroots Perspective – PFAS is a man-made group of over 4,000 chemicals found in common products such as Teflon pans, microwave popcorn bags, and fire-fighting foams. Grassroots groups around the country are working together for proactive national change to get the chemicals out of the drinking water.

Fighting Pipelines on Every Front -- Local, state and federal exploring ordinances on the local levels that can be changed such as floodplain ordinances, or the ordinance which allowed the compressor stations. How to pass laws that require state environmental quality to complete individual stream crossing, using 401 permitting.

Small Grants Training -- CHEJ has a small grants program for grassroots groups working on environmental health and justice issues. This grant program supports projects that help groups move toward their goals by building leadership, increasing capacity and/or providing training and education. Learn how to write a successful application.

States with Participants in our Trainings: AK, AL, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DC, GA, IA, IL, KY, MA, MD, MI, MN, MO, MT, NC, NH, NJ, NM, NY, NV, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, VT, WA, WI, WV

Center for Health, Environment & Justice – Mid Year Small Grants Program Report

CHEJ's Small Grants Program is about getting resources into the hands of grassroot groups who are fighting for a clean healthy community. Often pitting small low-wealth communities against larger multi-national corporations. We received 101 grant applications through two application opportunities. We were able to support 33 applications which are listed below. CHEJ is excited to be able to continue to provide this service to grassroots fighting for a healthy community and environment.

Baker City (FL) Coalition of Communities for EJ	Educate low-wealth, and communities of color residents
6200 Wayne Ave, #A-102	about (EJ) and the link to human rights and health; (2) to
Philadelphia, PA 19144	acquaint residents with larger struggles (3) to engage
Email: <u>Speter01@Temple.edu</u>	residents in developing actions plan for to eliminate
	present EJ threats and preventing future threats to life
	and property.
Citizens for a Clean Wausau	Develop a strategic plan and a decision-making structure
133 E Thomas Street	model for Citizens for a Clean Wausau, integrated with
Wausau, WI 54401	proper coaching and guidance.
Email: <u>cleanwausau@protonmail.com</u>	
Website: CleanWausau.com	
Facebook: Facebook.com/CleanWausau	
Coshocton Environmental & Community	1) Expand CECA's membership and role in Coshocton
Awareness (CECA)	and in Ohio. 2) Stop the expansion and the
18998 CR 3	continuation of waste operations in Ohio. 3) Monitor
Warsaw, OH 43844	current operations. 4) Prevent and oppose new
Email: <u>nteti@clover.net</u>	development that that threatens our environment and
Website: <u>www.CecAware.org</u>	health.
Facebook: www.facebook.com/cecaware/	
Education, Economics, Environment, Climate and	Engage vulnerable communities in a holistic approach of
Health Organization (EEECHO)	education, planning and advocacy to improve their
605 Rosemary Drive	environment, health and overall quality of life.
Gulfport, MS 39507	
Email: <u>ktegland@aol.com</u>	
Faith Communities Together for a Sustainable	Sponsor statewide summit to help FaCT become better
Future (FaCT)	known. Develop the FaCT Board of Directors by holding a
3437 County Rd 959	Board Retreat to do strategic planning for the next 2-5
Loudonville, OH 44842	years.
Email: cowdenmd@gmail.com	
Website: www.factohio.org	

Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition 1327 Hayes Ave Fairbanks, AK 99709 Email: jessicagirard11@gmail.com Website: www.fairbanksclimateaction.org	build communication and narrative strategy by training leaders within FCAC to learn facilitate narrative strategy workshops in Interior Alaska. A communications strategy will shape and uplift our coalition goals to shift the
Fairbanks, AK 99709 Email: jessicagirard11@gmail.com	workshops in Interior Alaska. A communications strategy
Email: jessicagirard11@gmail.com	
	win shape and apine our countion gould to shine the
	dominant story around economic and climate justice in
	Alaska.
FreshWater Accountability Project	Build awareness on harms of proposed petrochemical
P O BOX 473	build-out on OH River. PTT Global cracker plant and
Grand Rapids, OH 43402	empower and support local community members.
Email: wewantcleanwater@gmail.com	
Website: FWAP.org	
Facebook: FreshWater Accountability Project	
Friends of Calwa, Inc	To empower community residents with different
3980 E. Jensen Ave	perspectives and from different backgrounds to serve as
Fresno, CA 93725	advocates in their communities.
Email: sceledon@friendsofcalwa.org	
Website: www.friendsofcalwa.org	
Facebook: facebook.com/friendsofcalwa	
Upper Green River Network (CO Riverkeeper)	Travel and lodging funds for participants from low
1962 Van Buren St.	wealth communities to participate in SCREE's Moab
Laramie, WY 82070	outreach event June 22-23 2019. Public lands and water
Email: rfulton3@uwyo.edu	event will include members from tribes (Ute Mountain
Website: greenrivernetwork.org	Ute, Uintah-Ouray Ute, Dine, and Hopi Tribes), legal
Facebook: Upper Green River Network	scholars, authors, non-profits, and community members.
Headwaters Defense: Minden Community Action	Project includes empowering our community of Minden,
Team	WV by sharing stories, planning a march, improving
146 Virginia Street	communication, and training ourselves how to
Oak Hill, WV 25901	successfully do these things. Lastly, our goal is to retain
Email: headwatersdefense@gmail.com	skills required to do these actions so they can be used to
Facebook: facebook.com/groups/headwatersdefense	execute future projects.
JAPRI Community Outreach Program	Build capacity within 2 NC counties, addressing emerging
2350 Saintsville Road	health, environmental, and justice issues; ultimately
Greenville, NC 27834-8293	articulating them before the decision makers and media.
Email: woodley50@yahoo.com	Build board capacity, potential staff and volunteers.
Website: www.japri.org	
People Against Neighborhood Industrial	Growing PANIC 2019 is to advocate for the finalization of
Contamination (PANIC)	the 35th Avenue Superfund site on the NPL list. To
1406 4 th Way NW	accomplish this, Growing PANIC 2019 will strengthen
Centerpoint, AL 35215	PANIC in 2019 through increased membership
Email: CharlieMackPowell@gmail.com	participation and support.
Facebook: PANIC-People-Against-Neighborhood-	
Industrial-Contamination	
Protecting Our Waters	We aim to protect community health and safety, climate,
116 Schoonmaker Lane	air and water, by passing 10 moratoria on fossil fuel
Stone Ridge, NY 12484	power plants in the mid-Hudson Valley along Central
-	Hudson's existing fracked gas pipeline.
Email: protectingourwaters@gmail.com	
Email: <u>protectingourwaters@gmail.com</u> Website: protectingourwaters.wordpress.com	

Alliance to Halt Fermi 3	To host a series of small dollar fundraisers that will help
P O Box 511001	fund a more comprehensive development plan for the
Livonia, MI 48151	Alliance to Halt Fermi 3. These events are designed to
Email: GenerousMuse@gmail.com	capitalize on ATHF3's status as a coalition to reinvigorate
Website: www.athf3.org	professional connections between activist communities.
Facebook: <u>www.face.com/athf3/</u>	
AMMD Pine Grove Project	Engage with community members through
3677 Forest Haven Dr.	neighborhood canvassing, inform and educated
Richmond , VA 23234	household residents, obtain demographic data, and
Email: wkhalligan@gmail.com	enlist their support to stop the proposed huge toxic
Facebook:	landfill from destroying the rich history, ecology, and
AMMDPinegroveproject@facebook.com	social fabric of the historically African American
	community of Pine Grove
Concerned Citizens of Richmond County	Educate people, help with work force, educate the
343 N NC Hwy 177	community on health issues. Going door to door,
Hamlet, NC 28345	membership outreach.
Email: <u>DebraDavid600@gmail.com</u>	
Benton Township Quarry	Protecting Benton Township Water Through Continued
445 N Graytown Rd	Community Engagement and Activism
Graytown, OH 43432	
Email: <u>bweidner59@aol.com</u>	
Website: www.stopquarrydumping	
Facebook: Benton Township Quarry Dumping	
Opposition	
Defend Ohi:yo	Direct action, media/messaging/organization training to
3624 Jollytown Rd.	membership. Purchase supplies for banners needed for
Hinsdale, NY 14743	public outreach/recruitment.
Facebook: www.facebook.com	
/grpi[s/20218112548032842/	
First Peoples' Conservation Council of Louisiana	The purpose is to gather 6 highly at-risk coastal Tribes of
3731 Oak Point Rd	the First Peoples Conservation Council to do planning for
Montegut, AL 70377	adaptation to climate impacts that are already displacing
Email: rpatakapa@yahoo.com	tribe members including health impacts of no-potable
Website: www.fpcclouisiana	water, contaminated soils and water ways- while
	practicing traditions of the tribes.
Genesee County Hispanic Latino Collaborative	Train volunteers to offer bilingual door to door,
PO Box 320494	education, environmental, and safety sessions focused
Flint, MI 48532	around the lead issues and pollutants issues in Flint
Email: sjolivares@gchlc.org	Michigan's Latino community
Website: www.gchlc.org	
Facebook: www.facebook.com/gchlc/	
Liveable Arlington	Continue community mobilization to organize Arlington
903 Loch Lomond Dr	neighborhoods against new gas well permitting. We plan
Arlington , TX 76012	to help and support the community with all aspects of
Email: liveablearlington@gmail.org	the process. We hope to get more gas well ordinance
Website: www.liveablearlingon.org (under	improvements this way.
construction)	
www.facebook.com/LiveableArlington/	

Nash Stop the Pipeline (BREDL)	To stop the Atlantic Coast Pipeline by building local and
540 Sandy Cross Rd	statewide people power through education, capacity
Nashville, NC 27856	building, training, ad placements, media events, and
Email: marvinwinstead@gmail.com	rallies.
Website: nopipeline.net	rumes.
Facebook: Nash Stop the Pipeline	
Northampton County Citizens Against Coal Ash	Determine if two prior coal ask placement and a reported
(BREDL)	illicit dumping in a local river have contaminated soil and
PO Box 532	water and to promote means of preventing further
Seaboard, NC 27876	environmental and health harms.
Email: aw6kwas@embarqmail.com	
Facebook: Northampton County Citizens Against	
Coal Ash	
Rabun Gap (BREDL)	Strategic Plan Development to educate our Southern
24 Chechero St Suite 3 PMB 122	Appalachian community on Rabun County Water and
Clayton , GA 30525	Sewer Authority's (RCWSA) operation of a newly built
Email: reweaving@yahoo.com	drinking water treatment plant on a GA EPD Designated
	Level 1 Hazardous Waste Site, formerly Burlington Mills
	and Rabun Apparel, LLC.
Southern Illinoisans Against Fracturing our	Raise awareness and stop the Pond Creek mining permit
Environment	for building a pipeline
PO Box 1325	which seeks to discharge 3.5 million gallons daily of
Vienna, IL 62906	untreated mining waste water, that has chloride and
Email: SavelLwater@gmail.com	sulfur in excess of allowable limits, into the Big Muddy
Website: www.don'tfractureillnois.net	River.
Twin Ports Action Alliance	To create a community safe from the threat of Hydrogen
2121 1/2 Vermilion Rd.	Fluoride, a disaster chemical used at the Husky Superior
Dulith, Mn 55803	Refinery in Superior, and to engage and educate the
Email: grjuel10@gmail.com	community about the impact of this refinery on their
Website: twinportsactionalliance.org	lives.
Facebook: TwinPortsActionAlliance/	
Del Amo Action Committee	Develop a strategic plan laying the foundation for the
4542 Irone Ave	next decade. Two components will include Board
Rosamond, CA 93560	Development and Volunteer Training. During last year's
Email: delamoactioncommittee@gmail.com	door to door outreach we increased the area served. We
Website: www.delamoactioncommittee	now need to increase our board's representation, review
	by-laws and train new volunteers.
Citizens for a Healthy Community	Build capacity to respond to a changing and challenging
211 Grand Avenue, Suite 118	strategic landscape now that Colorado has passed
Paonia, CO 81428	sweeping oil and gas reform which puts community
Email: natasha@chc4you.org	activism in the middle of contentious federal preemption
Website: www.chc4you.org	issues and private property and mineral rights.
Facebook: /citizensforahealthycommunity/	
Glenn Environmental Coalition	Educate subsistence fishers, educators, and health care
4472 New Jesup Highway, C	providers on how to mitigate health risks from
Brunswick, GA 31521	consuming seafood caught within the local seafood
Email: Rachael@glynnenvironmental.org	consumption advisory area.
Website: www.glynnenvironmental.org	
Facebook: facebook.gom/GlynnEnvironmental/	

Midwest Environmental Justice Organization 1311 Lake View Ave Madison, WI 53704 Email: mariapowell@mejo.us Website: www.mejo.us	The project's purpose is to reduce exposures to PFAS through effective community and political advocacy in Madison, Wisconsin by creating the People's PFAS Action Team (PPAT)
People for Community Recovery 13330 S. Corliss Chicago, IL 60827 Email: Courtney.irene.hanson@gmail.com Website: peopleforcommunityrecover.org Facebook: facebook.com/PCRChicago/	The purpose of Powering Up PCR is to improve organizational capacity and impact through board leadership development and strategic planning.
PhillyThrive 4840 Walton Ave Philadelphia, PA 19143 Email: <u>A.ROSS1520@gmail.con</u> Website: PHILLYTHRIVE.ORG Facebook: PHILLY THRIVE	To develop the leadership of key movement leaders within PhillyThrive among African American women who are already key community leaders in South Philadelphia.