

Center for Health, Environment & Justice
Mentoring a Movement, Empowering People, Preventing Harm

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

A Project of People's Action Institute

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INTRODUCTION

The year 2020 was unbelievable, and at times, overwhelming. A year requiring staff, volunteers, and most importantly, our leaders on the front lines to find ways to cope, often daily, and manage the various crises and incredible suffering across the network. Our staff kept talking about how 2020 just kept on giving, and not the gifts we wanted.

During the first quarter of the year, we thought the work was off to a great start. CHEJ's newest campaign No More Sacrifice Zones' content and strategical approach was drafted and scheduled to be taken to communities to be vetted. Sadly, our first meeting in Houston, TX was impacted by an explosion in Port Neches, TX, a little over an hour away. Two chemical plants exploded causing the authorities to order and evacuate 50,000 people. Ultimately, a smaller number of participants than we anticipated attended the meeting as most were busy aiding workers and families near the explosion site. Four additional meetings were on the calendar, but later cancelled because of COVID-19 in Birmingham, Alabama; Dallas, Texas; Boston, Massachusetts; and Detroit, Michigan.

Adaptation was the key to succeeding in 2020. Our work was much more challenging, but despite the challenges, our network of groups were remarkably successful. It is hard to believe we could accomplish anything with all the crises around us and lack of resources in many of the frontline groups. Of course, so many of the successes were born from years of work.



One of the biggest victories was stopping the 600 mile Atlantic Coast Pipeline that was to be built to go through rural and low-income parts of North Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. Since 2014, the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL) began campaigning to stop the construction of the Atlantic Coast Natural Gas Pipeline. BREDL and its partner organizations succeeded on July 5, 2020 in cancelling its construction. CHEJ was thrilled to contribute to this great victory.

Like others in the network, CHEJ learned to do our work virtually. We assisted community leaders in learning new ways to work and provided resources to fill the needs for hardware/software gaps in low wealth communities. Additionally, our Small Grants Program has grown and can now support the work of small and larger grassroots community-based organizations working on environment, health, and justice issues.

With great enthusiasm we began our new webinar series Living Room Leadership and podcast, "Fighting to Win," in which we held conversations that served several objectives. The series provided an opportunity for leaders to connect and learn from one another, helped interested public learn more about the community efforts we support, and provided a platform to get local leaders' messages out to a larger audience they otherwise would not have reached.

As you read through this report, you will receive some insight into our work, accomplishments, and the strength and passion of community efforts over the tumultuous year. You will read through inspiring community stories and learn more about our Living Room Leadership/"Fighting to Win" series. You will read about our successes with the 11 educational leadership training programs held, training on electronic organizing tools, and our science and technical assistance work which includes our new initiative Toxic Tuesday. We will inform you on our new No More Sacrifice Zones campaign and Unequal Response Unequal Protection. We included a 2020 report on Superfund activities, CHEJ's finances, and the 46 small grants we provided. Additionally, you will read some words from activists in our network and how we aided them in 2020.



CHEJ AT WORK: COMMUNITY STORIES

Several community highlights throughout 2020



They SHALL DENY!

In New Jersey, a groundbreaking environmental justice law was passed in September. The law was pushed by Ironbound Community Corporation, New Jersey Environmental Justice Alliance, and Clean Water Action of New Jersey for 12 years. Originally, the state's Department of Environmental Protection claimed that they did not have the jurisdiction to deny permits based on cumulative impacts. Every factory and industry was viewed as an individual in the permitting process. When each individual goes up to their limit, the combination of their pollution and waste falls upon the community. S232 protects overburdened communities by mandating that the Department of Environmental Protection "shall deny" a permit to an industry that adds burden to a neighborhood. An impacted community is measured by Census block and defined as 40 percent people of color, OR 40 percent monolingual, non-English speaking, OR 35 percent low income. The definition was designed to be inclusive and protect people of color and low-income white communities. If a new facility is planning to settle in an environmental justice/impacted community, a review on cumulative impacts is triggered. Renewals and expansions receive conditions on their permits to lower emissions and pollution.



Six Years of Hard Work and A Massive Victory Over the Atlantic Coast Pipeline

A great victory in 2020 was the decision by Dominion Energy and Duke Power to walk away from the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline project that the two companies had invested more than \$8 Billion in. Since 2014, the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL) began campaigning to stop the construction of the Atlantic Coast Natural Gas Pipeline. After six long years of dedicated work, BREDL and its partner organizations succeeded on July 5, 2020 in cancelling its construction. One of the key tactics leading to BREDL's massive success was uniting community members against the pipeline from across the political spectrum. By reaching out to people who are both conservative and liberal and everywhere in between, BREDL was able to create a cohesive and extremely powerful bipartisan movement, one that you do not see often in today's political climate. CHEJ has worked closely with BREDL over the years including being part of the Stop the Pipeline Tour that covered stops along 367 miles of the proposed pipeline. CHEJ continues to greatly support their efforts.



In a Tea-Party Texas Town, A Win Against Fossil Fuels

A neighborhood in Arlington, Texas had a win against the permitting of wells by a preschool in a predominantly Black and Latinx neighborhood. At the time, the area had the highest rates of COVID-19 infections in Arlington. Livable Arlington was able to convince the city council to oppose the permits by highlighting the link between pollution and higher COVID-19 mortality. Where environmental racism issues intersect with

a racialized pandemic, the disproportionate impact of barriers to health on low-income minority communities becomes far too clear to ignore.



Right to Breathe Caravan Calls for Environmental and Racial Justice

During the summer, community organizers in Birmingham, Alabama, coordinated a series of caravan protests calling for racial and environmental justice at the 35th Avenue contaminated site in North Birmingham. People Against Neighborhood Industrial Contamination (PANIC) coordinated the protests alongside the Greater Birmingham Alliance to Stop Pollution (GASP) and other local partners including the Birmingham chapter of Black Lives Matter. The fight comes after facing decades of unabated industrial pollution, and years of fighting for the EPA to intervene. On July 11, members of the Right to Breathe Caravan gathered for a socially distanced rally where speakers shared stories and enumerated demands, most importantly calling for officials to move the site to the EPA's Superfund National Priorities List. Afterwards, the group drove dozens of cars decorated with signs and posters through neighborhoods in North Birmingham to raise awareness about the problem and galvanize the community into action. The events were live-streamed via Facebook and Zoom. On August 27, a second Right to Breathe Caravan traveled from Birmingham to Montgomery, the state capital, seeking a response from Governor Kay Ivey to their demands for justice for those living in and near the Superfund site.



Sacred Water Bundle Project in South Dakota

The Yankton Sioux Tribe in South Dakota held its 4th Water Talks meeting in January as part of its ongoing Sacred Water Bundle Project. The water bundle project is designed to restore traditional Native practices of water and land management. CHEJ is contributing in this effort by identifying key water quality data in coordination with data scientists from Tufts University and Native American leaders. Both CHEJ and Tufts gave presentations at the water talks meeting about their contributions to the project. CHEJ helped determine where surface water samples should be taken, developed a water sampling plan, analyzed the results, and prepared a written report which was presented at the water talks. This work is being done in collaboration with the Native Organizing Alliance and the Brave Heart Society in Lake Andes, SD.



Cleanup of the Housatonic River

Residents in Pittsfield, MA and across the river in Connecticut have struggled for years to get the Housatonic River cleaned up. The river became contaminated with PCBs from operations of the General Electric Corporation. The latest cleanup plan proposed by the EPA has residents frustrated. It calls for a change in the original cleanup plan proposed four

years ago. Now the agency is proposing a two-pronged approach. PCBs removed from the river with more than 50 parts per million (ppm) will be trucked to a licensed PCB landfill facility. Sediment with less than 50 ppm will be disposed in a newly constructed landfill in Pittsfield. Many local residents feel betrayed by the EPA. The agency initially expressed the view that all the dredged soils and sediment removed from the river would be trucked to an off-site licensed PCB disposal facility. This “modification” will save GE millions of dollars in cleanup costs and keep PCBs in the community for many years to come. Residents believe the change of plans is because of this reason and are fighting back to have a clean community.



Houston’s Greater Fifth Ward Works to Achieve Justice

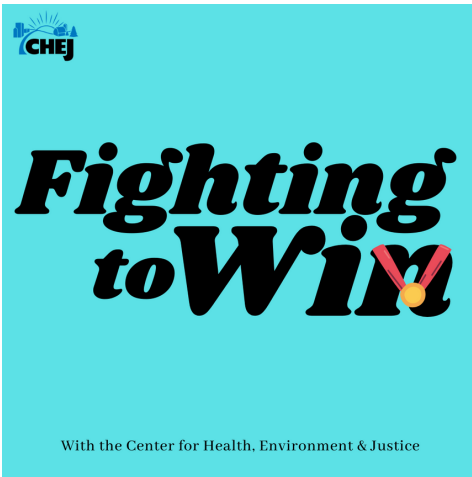
In Northeast Houston, the communities of the Greater Fifth Ward and Kashmere Gardens have been suffering from high rates of cancer and illness for decades. The communities are mostly Black and Hispanic, and a large percentage are linguistically isolated. As a result of the activities of the Houston Wood Preserving Works site, now owned by Union Pacific, a plume of chemicals used to preserve wood has leaked into the groundwater below some of the nearby homes. The chemicals found in the plume include creosote, benzene, naphthalene, dibenzofuran, and 2,4-dimethylphenol. The main suspected pathway of exposure is through vapor intrusion, i.e. vapors from chemicals in the groundwater rising through soil into homes. IMPACT, the local community-based grassroots organization formed to address community issues such as pollution and health, is considering relocation and clinics as possible next steps. CHEJ has provided the group on the ground with technical assistance as well as organizing support.



Symposium for Knowledge

The Ohio River Guardians are battling large petrochemical plants that put the Ohio River and their communities in harm’s way. Many of these communities are of color and low-income. Instead of hosting a conference at the Cintas Center with international experts as speakers and to educate the public on how to effectively organize, they pivoted due to COVID-19, and created a 4-part, 4-month webinar series with each month having a different topic/impact. Invited experts would present photos, videos, statistics, and impacts. Participants would ask questions, get advice on how to deal with issues in their communities, and connect with other activists that are battling similar issues in their communities. With the help of a grant from CHEJ, a successful 3-day symposium was held to present all the information and resources gathered from the webinars. The symposium also included media, music, and art. It covered various aspects of social activism and included how to connect by using people’s talents. They were able to grow a broader community, work with people from Asia and Europe, and pool their resources together to help the broader cause.

LIVING ROOM LEADERSHIP & FIGHTING TO WIN PODCAST



At CHEJ, we connect communities to each other. So when COVID-19 hit, we launched Living Room Leadership, a webinar series aimed to continue sharing the stories of community activists and leaders. We host community leaders from across the country to speak about their strategies, challenges, and wins as activists. These conversations have been rich and inspiring, and we are now sharing them with the world on our podcast, “Fighting to Win.” Find us on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts and through our website at chej.org/fighting-to-win/. To join these conversations live, visit chej.org/livingroomleadership/ and sign up for our next event. Let’s fight to win!

“When you hear an agency admit that there’s a problem, it isn’t that you’ve suddenly opened their eyes to it, you’ve just created, with your activism, an environment where they have to admit it ... They knew it could hurt my kid, and only now are they admitting it.”

- Dawn Chapman, Episode 1 of “Fighting to Win”

“We found the common ground, the one thing that everyone cared about: children ... That was the cornerstone of our win. You can love fossil fuels, you can buy all the propaganda, but you still don’t want to poison your children.”

- Ranjana Bhandari, Episode 8 of “Fighting to Win”

“You should not have to sacrifice your life to make a living for your family. You have the right to work in a safe and healthy environment.”

- Hilton Kelley, Episode 7 of “Fighting to Win”

“At the heart it’s about community organizing and making sure we’re all connected ... fight together against the forces that would really just bury us.”

- Maria Lopez-Nuñez, Episode 14 of Living Room Leadership

“There were hundreds of thousands of people out there that had the same nagging questions: ‘What happened to me? What happened to my loved one?’ ... And I made it my mission to give them answers. That set me in motion.”

- Jerry Ensminger, Episode 13 of Living Room Leadership

Hear what activists have to say about our new series:

“CHEJ represents and supports an amazing number of individuals and groups around the country working to combat assaults on their communities that have been marginalized by social and environmental justice issues. Weekly support webinars are so valuable to those of us fighting on the grassroots level. Interviews with community leaders who have experienced wins in their communities and for their families are empowering and let us know that we are not alone in the fight to make our lives safe and healthy.”

“I found today's webinar informative, inspiring, and encouraging! I'm hoping you will send out a link of it so that I can pass on to people in my organization (StopEtO in Lake County).
Thanks for these opportunities!”

CHEJ'S LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMS

CHEJ conducted 11 informative training sessions in 2020. More than 590 leaders from 41 states, District of Columbia, and Canada participated. CHEJ training aids environmental activists to strengthen the skills, capacity, and infrastructure required for effective grassroots leaders.

No More Sacrifice Zones

The No More Sacrifice Zones Campaign is centered on community leaders drafting policy/regulations that are protective of public health, not corporate profits. Air pollution from factories, chemical plants, incinerators, coal fired power plants, and more are harming people's health and affecting property values. In areas of industrial clusters, families have higher rates of asthma, respiratory disease, reproductive problems, and cancer. Furthermore, families are trapped because no one wants to buy their homes due to air pollution. Today's regulations are inadequate to protect public health because they are based upon regulating chemical-by-chemical and pipe-by-pipe releases. This session explored ways to reduce pollution in sacrifice zone communities.

Small Grants

CHEJ has a small grants program for grassroots groups working on environmental health and justice issues. The grant program supports groups to move toward building leadership, increasing capacity, and/or providing training and education. Moreover, the program is designed to especially reach people from low wealth communities and communities of color that are impacted by environmental harms. Groups learned how to write a successful application.

Unequal Response Unequal Protection

The federal government has repeatedly failed to protect people exposed to toxic chemicals in communities across the United States. This failure stems from a fundamental lack of structured investigative response capacity by the federal government and inadequate scientific tools/methods for investigating health problems related to widespread chemical exposures in communities. This session discussed this lack of capacity and effective investigative tools. It also explored interest in a community led project to bring together leaders to identify and develop key elements of a new approach for investigating health problems in communities exposed to toxic chemicals.

Community Organizing

This training examined the basic principles and importance of community organizing. When a local polluter moves into town, a concerned resident will spend years raising money, collecting the scientific data, attending public hearings, and fighting in court to no avail. The problem lies in the concept that individuals do not have power. When individuals come together to form a united group with a common goal, they grow in power and ability to take down a polluter. This session focused on conducting a power analysis that gives local activists the tools they need to organize effectively.

Organizing During a Pandemic

Most campaigns and organizational work involve building in-person relationships, hosting conferences, going door to door with petitions and information, etc. Sometimes there are unforeseen events, for instance a global pandemic, that can prevent in-person contact. The training call covered how organizers can continue their important work using a variety of online and over-the-phone tools. It explored the advantages or disadvantages of using online petitions, texting apps, Zoom video meetings, and more. CHEJ also gathered interesting insight into other tools that organizers have used to continue their work online.

Fundraising

Fundraising is essential to being able to conduct activities such as paying rent or holding a training. It also allows leaders to learn how to budget their work and build a base of individual supporters that provide flexible resources. Topics covered include the importance of individual supporters/donors, who gives the most to charitable causes, overcoming the fear and challenges of asking for financial support, and finally, executing a plan.

Pipelines: How to Resist Pipelines on all Fronts

CHEJ had the pleasure of having Sharon Ponton, the Stop the Pipelines Campaign Coordinator from the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL) as a guest speaker. Ponton discussed how to challenge every aspect of pipeline permitting and construction. She also shared how to change the balance of power and build communities and coalitions with protests, marches, and direct actions. While she is not a directly affected landowner, Sharon lives in Nelson County, VA, a community slated to host 28 miles of the 600-mile long Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP). She has organized and worked with communities along the paths of the proposed ACP and the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP). Groups working on the Atlantic Coast Pipeline have claimed victory on the notice that the pipeline would not be built.

Proof of Pollution: Putting Fracking's Threats on the Map

Leann Leiter and Melissa Troutman of Earthworks joined CHEJ for a discussion about the oil and gas industry. The industry is replete with toxic pollution such as radioactive waste and gases which contain known carcinogens. Front line communities bear the brunt of the dangers produced by the pollution. Leiter and Troutman elaborated about the valuable new tools Earthworks created. These tools aid people in understanding pollution in their communities and provides them with resources that can be used to educate elected officials. The training explored digital maps, graphics, and print resources. Leiter and Troutman also spoke to their experiences living in the heavily-impacted shale regions of Pennsylvania.

Strategic Planning

Strategic planning is critical to winning your fight. This training stressed the importance of solidifying your vision and goals. The key is to avoid nonspecific, too many, or too big of goals. The acronym SMART was used as a tool to remember that objectives need to be strategic, measurable, achievable, realistic, and time-specific. Other key aspects of the meeting were identifying who can make your goal happen and who are the opponents, exploring and using your resources, and setting a timeline of when and where you want to be.

Organizing from a Distance

Reaching people during a pandemic is difficult with all the new barriers that leaders need to overcome. This training went over the many ways to build power in your community and strengthen your campaign without letting distancing hold you back. It also discussed how to use new tools and the same organizing principles you already know.

Messaging and Media

Messaging has always been important. But today, with texting campaigns, social media, and virtual organizing we need to think smarter than ever about our messages. The Messaging and Media training helped participants build skills to create messages that make a difference - messages that inspire, galvanize, give voice, and gather power. To win, messages need to resonate with the people that need to be influenced. This can be done by exploring successful ways to craft messages for a campaign.

Locations of participants in these trainings: AL, AK, AZ, AR, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, GA, HI, IL, KY, LA, MD, MA, MN, MI, MS, MO, MT, NH, NJ, NM, NY, NC, OH, OK, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, VT, VA, WA, WV, WI, WY, District of Columbia, & Canada.



CHEJ LEADERSHIP:
In 1983, CHEJ held the first Leadership Development Conference to strengthen the skills of grassroots leaders across the country.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING ACADEMY:
In 2014, CHEJ established the academy to share our founders' decades of experience and knowledge to train, mentor, and engage the next generation of grassroots leaders.



CHEJ'S TRAINING ON ELECTRONIC ORGANIZING TOOLS

“Well, if we can’t knock on doors or meet in person, we can’t organize, right?” Wrong! In 2020, CHEJ leaders and activists continued to organize, build power and win local, state, and regional campaigns even though the deck was stacked against them (as usual).

There is a lot of talk of resiliency and courage going around, but grassroots leaders are walking the walk. We reached out to over 250,000 people as part of local campaigns this year via telephone and text messages, trained dozens of new and existing leaders throughout the country on new outreach tools, and created new models and systems for campaign outreach that will remain useful even once the days of social distancing are well behind us.

CHEJ leaders are now using the VAN database to canvass neighborhoods and texting platforms like Spoke to spread messages to their neighbors. We are having meetings on Zoom, looking up data on EPA’s EJScreen, and using maps from Google. Yes, the tools may have different names, but we are fundamentally carrying on the traditions that our organization is rooted in, and that are proven to work. As Lois likes to say, “There is nothing a well-organized group of people can’t accomplish.” That remains very much true in this pandemic.

In Dallas, residents have come together to demand cleanup of one of our most egregious Superfund sites. People in Baltimore continue to organize to shut down a trash incinerator that is making people sick. Folks in Alabama are reaching out statewide to get their Governor to finally recognize the plight of North Birmingham residents and get the EPA to intervene on their behalf. Leaders from the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League successfully halted construction of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline that would have endangered their lands and families while providing benefits only to corporate executives and dirty politicians.

We cannot wait to see where we will go and what we will do in 2021. All we know is that we will do it by sticking together.

CHEJ'S REPORT ON SUPERFUND ACTIVITIES

Our efforts moved very slowly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We worked one-on-one with Superfund community groups in their efforts throughout the year to advise, strategize, and train leaders. Led by Charlie Powell, PANIC in Birmingham, AL found creative ways to raise their voices. PANIC organized several COVID-19-safe vehicle caravans around the capital to receive the governor's attention. The caravans were also used around Birmingham to educate residents about the toxic site. Additionally, a text messaging campaign was initiated to have supporters call on the governor to take action.

Our quarterly meetings with the U.S. EPA at headquarters in Washington, D.C. were all cancelled, with the exception of one held virtually on October 2nd. We brought together nine leaders from AL, MA, MO, NC, TX, and WV for the meeting.

The backlog of orphan Superfund sites awaiting funding for cleanup has now grown to 34, the highest number in 15 years. Moreover, there are still 53 million people living within three miles of a Superfund site, and there remains 1,300 sites on the Superfund National Priorities List.



SUPERFUND BECOMES LAW:
In 1980, Superfund legislation is passed, in part due to the work of the "Mother of Superfund," Lois Gibbs.

SCIENCE & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

An important part of CHEJ's work is to mentor activists and organizations in their efforts to prevent harm. We help them understand the complex science that surrounds environmental health issues and explain technical testing data, health studies, cleanup plans, and site proposals in order to level the playing field. This way people can have a say in the environmental policies and decisions that will affect their health and well-being. At the same time, we educate our constituency about the role and power of science in winning local community battles, and the connections between the environment, our health, the economy, and social justice.

In addition to answering calls and email requests, our science department completed 13 detailed technical reviews in 2020. We did this by analyzing lengthy documents and providing written comments and letter reports. CHEJ also publishes and distributes 140 guidebooks and fact packs that are routinely updated and designed to support the efforts of community groups facing environmental health threats.

Here are two examples of the technical assistance CHEJ provided in 2020.

North Carolina Asphalt Project

Anderson, North Carolina is a town of about 2,000 people. Its residents have received national attention for their fight against building a new asphalt plant nearby. They asked CHEJ for an analysis of what the health effects of the plant may be. Asphalt plants release cancer-causing chemicals and particulate matter into the air that can cause respiratory diseases. Anderson is a largely Black community, and studies show that Black people bear a disproportionate share of the health and economic burden of facilities emitting particulate matter. CHEJ highlighted how these existing risks – and the racial disparities associated with them – are now compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, a recent study determined that particulate matter in a region's air was linked to increased COVID-19 fatality. CHEJ advised that it is a particularly dangerous time to expose Anderson to air pollution from the proposed asphalt plant, and we hope the community can use our research in their fight to keep their air safe.

Lake County Ethylene Oxide Project

Lake County, Illinois is a diverse county north of Chicago where residents have been exposed to high levels of ethylene oxide. Ethylene oxide is a gas produced in medical manufacturing facilities and can cause cancer. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) recently updated its toxicological profile of ethylene oxide, including new environmental measurements and safety guidelines. Ethylene oxide levels in Lake County were above those deemed safe by ATSDR, indicating residents may be at increased risk for cancer. CHEJ provided the community with technical assistance, summarizing the ATSDR report, so residents could learn more about this toxin and submit remarks

during the report's public comment period. Additionally, we provided a letter detailing the scientific and health information about ethylene oxide, the results of environmental monitoring studies done in Lake County, and comparisons to existing safety guidelines. We hope this information will help Lake County residents fight for the clear air they deserve.



STOP DIOXIN:
In 1995, CHEJ fought for clean air by launching the Stop Dioxin Campaign, resulting in a 90% reduction in dioxin emissions.



TOXIC TUESDAY

Toxic Tuesday is our new initiative in which our science team researches and prepares scientific information that is used to educate our supporters about toxic chemicals that communities around the country are exposed to. Every other Tuesday we post on our website (chej.org/toxictuesdays) about one toxic chemical, including how it gets into the environment, how people become exposed, and the health effects of exposure. Each post also spotlights a community dealing with exposure to the chemical and describes how CHEJ is helping them fight to protect their health. We had 12 Toxic Tuesday posts in 2020. Highlighted are some widely-known chemicals such as arsenic and lead, as well as some that are more obscure such as ethylene oxide and polychlorinated biphenyls. Some posts are related to current events; for instance, trichloroethylene and perchloroethylene contamination at the Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base was tied to the observance of Veteran's Day. Toxic Tuesday is continuing in 2021, and we hope it is a useful resource for learning about toxic chemicals and the work CHEJ does to make sure all communities have the healthy environment they deserve.

Hear what activists have to say about our assistance:

“It was pretty refreshing to hear from someone who understands the true scope of our opposition and how rampant the environmental injustice issue is in this country. I was pretty cynical since many of the groups that we have reached out to have given us meaningless busy work, asked us to attend pointless webinars, etc. - essentially asking us to boost their efforts in place of real help...I hope we can make a difference together.”

“We mobilized our members and the community with the help of CHEJ, the only entity willing to help, and who would clarify to the community that butadiene was absolutely a toxin and a carcinogenic. Immediate victories were won: training and equipment for firefighters, limits to hours that tank cars could be parked in the community, and finally a successful class action lawsuit that won thousands of dollars for each family in the area. We are grateful today that we can, and do, still call on CHEJ, and they still take our calls and help the people.”

UNEQUAL RESPONSE UNEQUAL PROTECTION

The federal government has repeatedly failed to protect those exposed to toxic chemicals in communities across the United States. This failure stems from a fundamental lack of a consistent structured investigative response capacity by the federal government along with inadequate scientific tools for investigating health outcomes related to community-wide chemical exposures. Often, this results in an uncoordinated multi-agency investigation with little attention given to the specific health concerns of local residents. That being said, there are existing structured responses for many public health exposure situations. If the public is exposed to an infectious disease or contaminated food source, there is an immediate and urgent response by federal agencies to investigate, identify, and eliminate the exposure. Both the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have programs with clear proactive protocols that can be activated to respond immediately to a health concern. The National Institute for Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also have structured response programs in place.

In contrast, in the case of a neighborhood exposed to environmental chemicals, the government's response is not clear nor well defined. If the public is at risk from exposure to widespread toxic chemicals in a community, there is no rapid response capacity, and the ensuing investigation is uncoordinated and often reactionary. These investigations typically take years to complete and rarely lead to action. Even if an investigation determines that a disease cluster does exist, there are no guidelines to direct federal or state agencies on how to effectively respond. This often results in the government taking no action to address or further investigate elevated rates of disease. Meanwhile, the community is left with many unanswered questions as well as ongoing exposure to undetermined health hazards.

CHEJ is proposing to address this lack of capacity and effective investigative tools by bringing together community leaders, scientists, and policy analysts. Together we will identify and develop key elements of a framework for a systematic approach to investigating the cause of health problems in situations where there are community-wide exposures to toxic chemicals. This past year we held six virtual meetings with community leaders to begin exploring key elements of a new response model for community exposures to toxic chemicals. CHEJ is excited at the substantial progress and look forward to continuing this effort in 2021.



NO MORE SACRIFICE ZONES

“No More Sacrifice Zones!” is our campaign to organize all people who are poisoned by corporate greed to end the sacrificing of our health and planet.

Every day, we all become exposed to a toxic mixture of chemicals in the air we breathe in. Poisonous wastes are released in unknown quantities by energy plants, dirty factories, landfills, and CO2-emitting vehicles. These chemical wastes are not dumped equally everywhere in our country’s air. They are highly concentrated in areas where people have lower incomes and are people of color.

These have become known as America’s “Sacrifice Zones.”

We are uniting people suffering from cancer, moms whose kids are born with physical impairments, and residents who simply cannot afford to live anywhere else to share their stories, name the solutions they need, and build the power necessary to enact change.

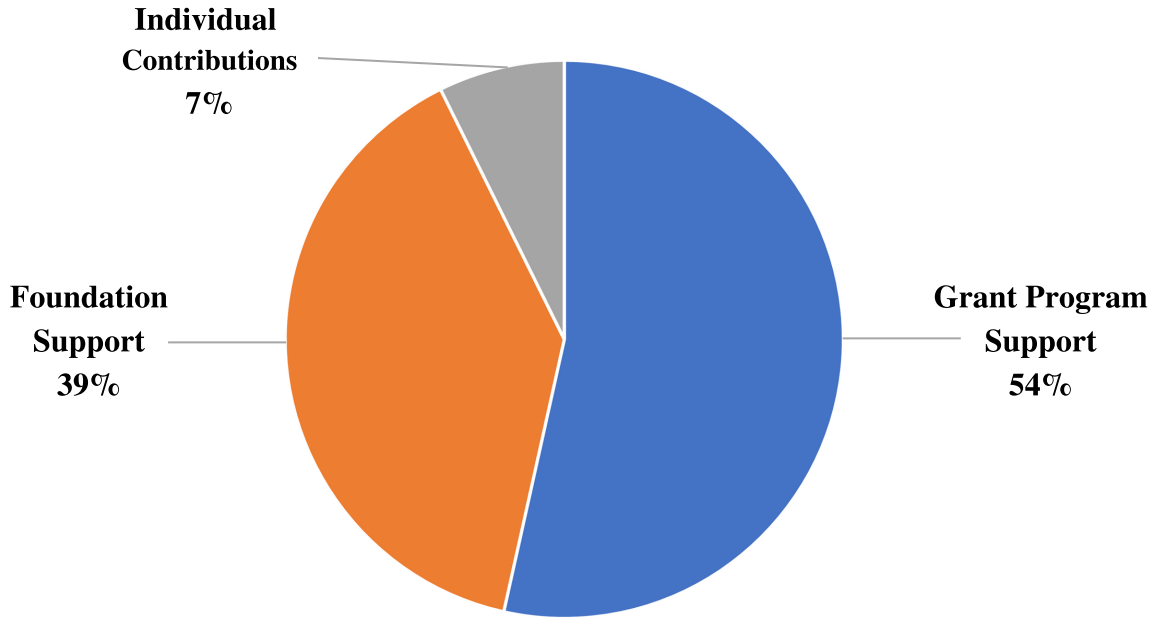
Everyone deserves to breathe clean air. But, in America, and especially during this global pandemic, it has become clear that we are not all “in the same boat.” We may be all at sea, but some are riding luxury yachts, some are piled up on rafts, and too many are drowning.

Polluters try to divide us economically and racially to make us weaker. They try and pit residents against workers, but we understand that what we really need are good-paying decent jobs that do not make us sick. That is why residents of Sacrifice Zones throughout the country are coming together to fight back and WIN!

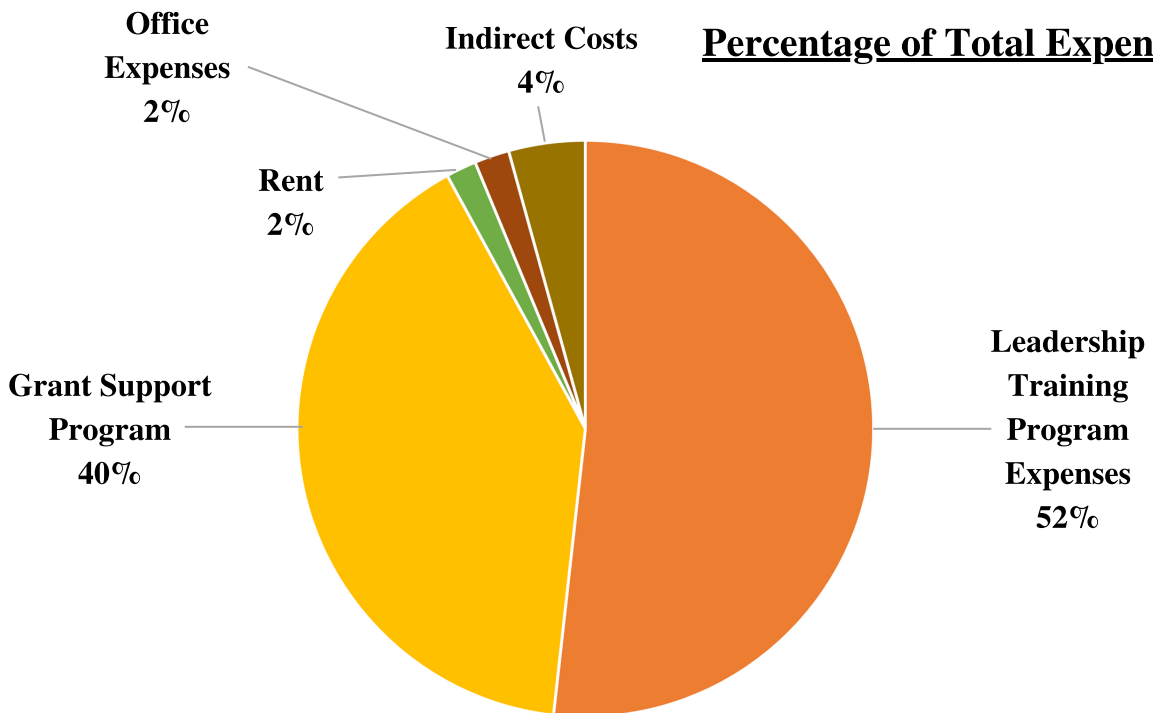


CHEJ 2020 FINANCES

Percentage of Overall Revenue



Percentage of Total Expenses



CHEJ SMALL GRANTS SUMMARY

CHEJ’s Small Grants Program aids in getting resources into the hands of grassroots groups that are fighting for a clean, healthy community. We received 293 grant applications. 91 applications qualified for review and support. We were able to provide 46 grants, which are listed below. CHEJ was able to give a total of \$334,975 to grassroots grantees. We are excited to be able to continue to provide this service to groups fighting for a healthy community and environment.

Organization's Information	Organization's Purpose	Project Goals
<p>Education, Economics, Environmental, Climate and Health Organization (EEECHO) 605 Rosemary Dr Gulfport, MS 39507 Contact: Katherine Eglund Web: eeechogulfport.wixsite.com/eeecho Facebook: facebook.com/EEECHO-391349767730212/</p>	<p>A coalition of diverse, consensus-based group of educational, economics, health, environmental justice, climate justice, religious and policy advocates that represent the interest of building a better Gulf. Based in Gulfport, Mississippi, we advance our mission through policy analysis and grassroots leadership, while collaborating with different grassroots and national organizations. Envisioning a future that is just, sustainable, and resilient to educational, economic, and environmental injustices.</p>	<p>To prepare and implement a strategic plan for EEECHO that: engages the leadership and partners, identifies community issues, needs, gaps and policies, develops strategic objectives, identifies resources needs, holds regulatory agencies and decision-makers accountable, and sets priorities and timelines.</p>
<p>The Alliance for Appalachia PO Box 1450 London, KY 40473 Contact: Christa Faulkner Web: theallianceforappalachia.org Facebook: facebook.com/theallianceforappalachia/</p>	<p>Mountaintop removal is on the decline, but the damage and impact is increasing. Coal companies are filing for bankruptcy at alarming rates and are leaving the cost of reclamation to communities. Addressing legacy pollution and holding corporations accountable is an important piece to the transition to a more just Appalachia.</p>	<p>To coordinate and support grassroots enforcement efforts across the region to hold corporations accountable for water pollution and its impacts on communities.</p>

Organization's Information	Organization's Purpose	Project Goals
<p>Coshocton Environmental & Community Awareness 18998 CR3 Warsaw, OH 43844 Contact: Nick Teti Web: cecaware.org Facebook: facebook.com /cecaware/</p>	<p>Our mission is education, civic action promoting health and environmental justice, and coalition-building with like-minded grassroots organizations. We are informing our neighbors about the serious impacts of the continued development and use of oil, gas, and coal and joining statewide and national efforts to oppose and replace carbon based energy generation.</p>	<p>1. Capacity Building – Mobilizing around the issue of radioactive brine spreading. 2. Coalition Building – Working with diverse groups to further our agenda, build solidarity, and use our larger numbers to strengthen our influence on policy matters.</p>
<p>Clean Air Action Network of Glens Falls PO Box 7 Glens Falls, NY 12801 Contact: Tracy Frisch Web: N/A Facebook: facebook.com /groups/CAAN.GF/</p>	<p>Reduce air pollution and protect human health and the environment. We are working to shut down Wheelabrator Hudson Falls (one of the 10 garbage incinerators in New York State), as well as working on other anti-air pollution initiatives</p>	<p>Train leaders in door-to-door canvassing to organize an impacted community. Hold an air pollution watchdog training. Provide board and leader orientation about environmental justice movement, as well as effective organizing and board training. Sponsor strategic planning workshop for incinerator campaign next steps.</p>
<p>The Ohio River Guardians 10036 Cedarwood Dr Union, KY 41091 Contact: Claire LaPorte Web: N/A Facebook: facebook.com /OHRiverGuard/</p>	<p>To expose threats and costs to those impacted by the environmental devastation of the Ohio River. We build power, empower communities, and build relationships nationwide as well as in the Ohio River Valley in order to mediate threats from industry.</p>	<p>Plastic workshop will educate, mobilize and organize impacted communities around threats from the construction of petrochemical plants and other industries in the Ohio River Valley. We will bring communities together to determine solutions and actions necessary to protect their health and wellbeing.</p>
<p>People Against Neighborhood Industrial Contamination (PANIC) 110 74th St South Birmingham, AL 35206 Contact: Charlie Powell Web: N/A Facebook: facebook.com /PANIC.Bham/</p>	<p>PANIC is working to bring relief to neighborhoods (such as Fairmont, Harriman Park, Collegeville) in the North Birmingham area who are suffering from historic and ongoing contamination..</p>	<p>Bring relief through relocation for those who desire by persuading governor Kay Ivey to support the NPL for the 35th Avenue Superfund site, and to continue to pressure the City of Birmingham to take action. To do this, PANIC must increase membership participation and support at PANIC meetings by 50%.</p>

Organization's Information	Organization's Purpose	Project Goals
<p>Ashtabula County Water Watch 2889 East Maple Rd Jefferson, OH 44047 Contact: Dr. T. Gallo Web: acww.us Facebook: facebook.com /ashtabulacountywaterwatch/</p>	<p>ACWW works to address issues around water quality, ecosystem health, and the wellbeing of rural and urban communities in Ashtabula County.</p>	<p>The purpose of the project is to hold a public forum to educate and engage the community about public health and environmental threats posed by construction of a pig iron plant in Ashtabula Harbor.</p>
<p>Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice 10 Jefferson St, Ste. C-1 Hartford, CT 06106 Contact: Sharon Lewis Web: cceej.com Facebook: facebook.com /Connecticut-Coalition-for-Environmental-Justice-109711843855441/</p>	<p>To promote fair and meaningful involvement of Connecticut's urban residents in environmental policies that impact where they live, play, and work.</p>	<p>To derail the current state efforts to sign a contract by October 15, 2020 to redevelop the state's trash incinerator at huge cost to our health and pocketbooks (\$333 million plan).</p>
<p>Chester Residents Concerned for Quality Living 801 Barclay St Chester, PA 19013 Contact: Zulene Mayfield Web: chesterresidents.org Facebook: facebook.com /ChesterEnvironmentalJustice/</p>	<p>Win environmental justice for the City of Chester, PA by organizing and building new student and community leadership against waste facilities in our small city.</p>	<p>We aim to starve the incinerator by cutting off the largest source of their waste: their contract with Delaware County, Pennsylvania. We then plan to work with the county to adopt a local Clean Air Ordinance, like Baltimore did, to set standards to force the incinerator to close.</p>
<p>Liveable Arlington 903 Loch Lomond Dr Arlington, TX 76012 Contact: Mary Brandt Web: liveablearlington.org Facebook: facebook.com /LiveableArlington/</p>	<p>To oppose the expansion of fracking by preventing the permitting of new gas wells throughout Arlington, with an emphasis on areas near schools and preschools.</p>	<p>To mobilize neighbors, preschool administration, and parents to oppose the french energy conglomerate. Total in obtaining permits and initiating drilling for 7 new gas wells at Rocking Horse Drill site, located near an Arlington preschool.</p>

Organization's Information	Organization's Purpose	Project Goals
<p>GASP 2320 Highland Ave S, Ste 270 Birmingham, AL 35205 Contact: Michael Hansen Web: gaspgroup.org Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/gaspgroup/</p>	<p>Operating under the principle that everyone deserves healthy air to breathe no matter their race, ability, health status, gender, religion, class, or zip code, GASP works to reduce air pollution, educate the public on the health risks associated with poor air quality, and encourage community leaders to serve as role models for clean air and clean energy production.</p>	<p>To deepen outreach and community organizing in the 35th Avenue Superfund Site in Northern Birmingham. Work with PANIC to use novel approaches to community organizing such as Zoom strategy meetings, old-fashioned “phone trees,” and SMS. Continue building community consensus around “reimagining relocation” for residents, and to reduce industrial pollution in the area through education and clean air advocacy trainings.</p>
<p>Texas Health and Environment Alliance 262 Westheimer Rd #142 Houston, TX 77098 Contact: Jackie Medcalf Web: txhea.org Facebook: facebook.com/TXHEA/</p>	<p>In order to promote a safe, equitable environment for all in Houston, THEA works to establish an informed and engaged public movement to protect public health and environmental resources from toxic contamination by combining grassroots organizing, strategic media exposure, and scientific research.</p>	<p>THEA’s environmental movements focus on contaminants in the environment negatively impacting public health near the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site, the Jones Road Groundwater Plume Superfund Site, and Houston’s Historic Fifth Ward. THEA intends to build on their past success, clean up toxic waste at its source, and make Houston a better place to live.</p>
<p>Unite North Metro Denver 1840 W 40th Ave Denver, CO 80211 Contact: Frances Aguirre Web: unitenorthmetrodenver.com Facebook: facebook.com/Unite-North-Metro-Denver-647131728647990/</p>	<p>To organize the community/neighborhoods with existing community leaders. To empower residents to take action to eliminate the injustices that are identified, since this area in Northeast Denver is one of the last remaining areas in Denver where lower income people can live.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To form a network of block captains to hold block meetings to discuss block concerns and to develop plans to alleviate them. 2. To empower the community to take action by holding press conferences, meeting with local and state politicians and regulators. 3. To promote legal and regulatory reform that addresses community injustices.

Organization's Information	Organization's Purpose	Project Goals
<p>Citizens for Public Awareness 3754 Cooter Creek Rd Elberton, GA 30635 Contact: Bill Hood Web: cpaelbert.org Facebook: facebook.com/nolandfillelberton/</p>	<p>To prevent the degradation of natural resources in Elbert and surrounding counties in Georgia.</p>	<p>To ensure that the proposed Sweet City Landfill is not permitted in Elbert County, GA by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increasing public awareness about the threats of the proposed landfill. 2. Ensuring that county commissioners and town mayors hear from their constituents regarding this issue. 3. Developing stronger avenues of communication and collaboration among the African American community In Sweet City.
<p>Concerned Citizens of Richmond County 343 N NC Highway 177 Hamlet, NC 28345 Contact: Debra Davis Web: N/A Facebook: N/A</p>	<p>To educate the community about the several local sources of pollution and their cumulative health impacts, to assist the workforce, and to conduct outreach.</p>	<p>To organize a healthy community by increasing membership, promoting awareness of local pollution, conducting workshops, fundraising, and continuing board development.</p>
<p>350 Spokane 25 W Main Ave Ste 222 Spokane, WA 99201 Contact: Erica Dellwo Web: 350spokane.org Facebook: facebook.com/350Spokane/</p>	<p>The mission of 350 Spokane is to support, build, and organize an effective grassroots movement for bold climate action in the greater Spokane area, promoting a just transition to 100% fossil-free energy and a low-carbon economy that works for everyone.</p>	<p>Under the guidance of a CHEJ consultant, all ten Board members of 350 Spokane will participate in building a 3-5 year strategic plan. This plan will provide timely and much needed direction to reach 350 Spokane's goals of combating climate change, growing the number and diversity of activists, and strengthening the organization's administration for greater efficiency and effectiveness.</p>

Organization's Information	Organization's Purpose	Project Goals
<p>Concerned Citizens of Charles City County 20000 Morris Creek Land Rd Charles City, VA 23030 Contact: Wanda Roberts Web: c5groupinform.wixsite.com/charlescity Facebook: facebook.com/groups/909084206093313/</p>	<p>C5's founding purpose is to bring information to Charles City County residents and empower them to act and make decisions with as much information as possible, working together to enrich the life of the residents.</p>	<p>"C5 Staying Connected" project seeks to improve our ability to connect and engage with the community using multiple pathways of communication including targeted print-based materials, a more dynamic online presence, greater organizational identity with our logo and On-Air relationships with local radio stations and celebrities.</p>
<p>Downwinders at Risk Ed Fund 1808 South Good Latimer 202 Dallas TX 75226 Contact: Evelyn Mayo Web: downwindersatrisk.org Facebook: facebook.com/groups/141381800248/about</p>	<p>Downwinders at Risk Ed Fund is dedicated to taking effective action on behalf of those being harmed by air pollution. Our goal is to build a strong grassroots constituency and create new strategies for clean air in North Texas by informing, connecting, and mobilizing citizens to become active participants in the decision-making that affects the air we breathe.</p>	<p>To increase community awareness and understanding of the new air monitors and how to access their information, increase community participation in new land planning reforms to reduce industrial hazards, update the Downwinders' at Risk mailing list to better reflect our constituency in these two neighborhoods, and to conduct door-to-door outreach effort.</p>
<p>Just Moms STL 12141 Hillcrest Dr Maryland Heights, MO 63043 Contact: Karen Nickel Web: justmomstl.org Facebook: facebook.com/westlakelandfill/</p>	<p>Our organization's purpose is to advocate for the start of the proposed EPA removal remedy at West Lake / Bridgeton Landfill Superfund Site and to educate the residents and neighboring communities on the dangers the site currently poses.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To obtain fair market property assurance and relocation assistance for homeowners located within one mile of landfill fence line. 2. To implement a safe and permanent solution to the radioactive wastes at the landfill. 3. To promote education and awareness. 4. To maintain and organize records and documents and make them searchable online 5. To conduct capacity building of Just Moms STL.

Organization's Information	Organization's Purpose	Project Goals
<p>350 Madison Climate Action Team PO Box 2428 Madison, WI 53701 Contact: Gail Nordheim Web: 350madison.org Facebook: facebook.com/350Madison</p>	<p>350 Madison envisions a transformed global community that protects our beautiful planet and supports the flourishing of all living beings. As a grassroots organization, we mobilize people to act on climate change and demand a rapid transition to a just and sustainable world powered by clean, renewable energy.</p>	<p>In order to stop Enbridge’s Line 5 Reroute and to shut down Line 5, we will organize local and statewide resistance through collaboration between tribal and non-tribal activists locally, and environmental activists state-wide, using training, education, and creative, bold tactics. We will support the Bad River Band’s treaty rights to hunt, fish and gather in ceded territory by protecting those lands and waters from contamination, and we will protect rural landowners from a corporate land grab.</p>
<p>Del Amo Action Committee PO Box 549 Rosamond, CA 93560 Contact: Cynthia Babich Web: delamoactioncommittee.wordpress.com Facebook: N/A</p>	<p>The Del Amo Action Committee defines and implements solutions to environmental health hazards in the community and beyond that hold the needs of their community and other underserved communities in the forefront.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make community members and key stakeholders aware of the project and opportunities for engagement. 2. Create an understanding of community air pollution impacts, including particulate matter from truck traffic. 3. Establish a community air monitoring network.
<p>Powder River Basin 934 N Main St Sheridan, WY 82801 Contact: Jill Morrison Web: powderriverbasin.org Facebook: facebook.com/PowderRiverBasinResourceCouncil/</p>	<p>To preserve and enrich our agricultural heritage and rural lifestyle; to conserve our unique land, mineral, water and clean air resources consistent with responsible use of those resources to sustain the livelihood of present and future generations; and to educate and empower citizens to raise a coherent voice in decisions that will impact their environment and lifestyle.</p>	<p>Build our grassroots base and leadership in Southwestern Wyoming to increase our capacity and transition communities to a new, clean economy. We will work to protect low and middle income families from unjust utility rate increases and ensure that they will not suffer the health and environmental impacts of burning coal plants.</p>

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<p>Neighbors Allied for Good Growth 110 Kent Ave 2nd floor Brooklyn, NY 11249 Contact: Anthony Buissereth Web: northbrooklynneighbors.org Facebook: facebook.com/northbrooklynneighbors/</p>	<p>NBN advances community-based solutions for issues of public space and the environment through activism, education, and collaboration to create a more just, healthy, and safe place to live and work.</p>	<p>The project's goals are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recruit 3 new board members. 2. Develop and strengthen the board. 3. Revamp HR handbook and protocols. 4. Strengthen donor base. 5. Host working group meetings and develop 10 new resources with the aim of reaching 3,000 residents.
<p>Tri-Valley CAREs 4049 First Street Ste 243 Livermore, CA 94551 Contact: Raizo Marciscano-Bettis Web: trivalleycares.org Facebook: facebook.com/groups/4234843178/</p>	<p>CAREs mission is to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Achieve cleanup of the radioactive and toxic pollution emanating from the Livermore Lab and reduce the Lab's environmental and health hazards. 2. Convert Livermore Lab from nuclear weapons development and testing to socially beneficial, environmentally sound research. 3. End all nuclear weapons development and testing in the United States. 4. Abolish nuclear weapons worldwide, and achieve an equitable, successful non-proliferation regime. 5. Promote forthright communication and democratic decision-making in public policy on nuclear. 	<p>To reach, empower, and train Spanish-speaking residents in communities most impacted by toxic and radioactive emissions from Livermore Lab. Specifically, we will develop leadership capacity to voice local needs/demands from Latinx residents in Livermore and Tracy, and we will work to improve community health, create access to clean air, land and water, and democratize environmental decision-making in the two frontline communities located near a classified nuclear weapons lab and its high-explosives testing site.</p>
<p>Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services 900 N. Wayside Dr Houston, TX 77011 Contact: Shiv Srivastave Web: tejasbarrios.org Facebook: facebook.com/TejasBarrios/</p>	<p>Our goal is to promote environmental protection through education, policy development, community awareness, and legal action. Our guiding principle is that everyone, regardless of race or income, is entitled to live in a clean environment.</p>	<p>To increase engagement and capacity to organize around oil and gas expansion with fence line communities using digital methods, and to support current outreach strategies.</p>

Organization's Information	Organization's Purpose	Project Goals
<p>350 Colorado 2861 Ellison Place Boulder, CO 80304 Contact: Julia Williams Web: 350colorado.org Facebook: facebook.com/350Colorado/</p>	<p>To protect the health and safety of Coloradans living on the frontlines of fracking by working locally to build the global grassroots movement to solve the climate crisis and transition to a sustainable future.</p>	<p>To mobilize Colorado’s frontline communities to block the development of any new fracking projects and protect those living on the frontlines of fossil fuel development by securing common sense regulations that put health and safety first.</p>
<p>Protect Caswell P O Box 32 Prospect Hill, NC 27314 Contact: Chris Newnam Web: Protectcaswell.org Facebook: N/A</p>	<p>Protect Caswell is dedicated to protecting the environmental quality of our community to provide a safe, clean, sustainable haven for ourselves and future generations.</p>	<p>The goal of this project is to raise public awareness and community involvement for the Dept. of Air Quality virtual public hearing. We are fighting to postpone it until it is safe to have in person because the lack of reliable internet service in Caswell County is a disadvantage to many citizens.</p>
<p>Committee for a Better Shafter 209 Golden West Ave Shafter, CA 93263 Contact: Anabel Marquez Web: N/A Facebook: N/A</p>	<p>CBS works to bring environmental justice to Shafter, Kern county, and throughout California. CBS participates in advocacy to win policies that reduce air, land, and water pollution that affect our families’ health, and works to increase investments in underserved communities, including Shafter.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To get technological training for virtual meetings and organizing efforts. 2. To acquire technological equipment to host and participate in virtual meetings and organizing efforts. 3. To get training on fundraising, financial administration, and budgeting. 4. To get organizing training.
<p>Concerned Citizens of Lake County 33019 N. Mogg Rd Wildwood, IL 60030 Contact: Allison Lieberman Web: stopeto.com Facebook: facebook.com/groups/751783295186882/</p>	<p>Our goal is to end EtO emissions in our highly populated, economically and racially diverse area.</p>	<p>The goal of the project is to increase community pressure to decrease local EtO emissions by expanding community education events and materials.</p>

Organization's Information	Organization's Purpose	Project Goals
<p>Anderson Community Group 12068 S. NC Hwy 62 Burlington, NC 27217 Contact: Rev. Bryon Shoffner Web: ACEJustice.org Facebook: facebook.com /Anderson-Community-Group-ACEJusticeorg-109301514176511/</p>	<p>Our mission is to obtain and secure environmental and economic justice for the members of the Anderson community and Caswell County.</p>	<p>The goal of this project is to provide a means for our predominantly black low-income rural community to communicate and better organize to protect and improve the health and living conditions of our community, which is now being threatened by the pending placement of an asphalt/cement plant beside our homes. We aim to influence policy changes and resist air quality permits for the proposed asphalt/cement plant.</p>
<p>Maryland Campaign for Environmental Human Rights 3617 Anton Farms Rd Baltimore, MD 21208 Contact: Nina Beth Cardin Web: mdehr.org Facebook: N/A</p>	<p>To assure that every person in Maryland has the right to a healthy environment, including clean air, clean water, a healthy ecosystem and a stable climate. To assure that protections of public health are embedded in environmental laws, policies and assessments. To promote environmental justice.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recruit 10-20 members of the Diocese from impacted communities. 2. Train them regarding essential organizing and advocacy tools. 3. Train them to respond to gaps in Maryland’s environmental justice laws. 4. Create a cohort that trusts and supports each other so they may work together toward a common main.
<p>Sustainable Madison PO BOX 1135 Marshall, NC 28753 Contact: Carl Batchelder Web: sustainablemadison.org Facebook: facebook.com /SustainableMadisonNC/</p>	<p>To foster stewardship, Sustainable Madison encourages governmental and citizen responsibility in protecting our natural resources. Sustainable Madison advocates grassroots involvement to empower our community in environmental issues. Our focus is on preserving the health and beauty of “The Jewel of the Blue Ridge Mountains” for future generations. We seek to ensure sustainable economic growth which benefits our county’s environment, tourism, and the health of its people.</p>	<p>To improve outreach. To achieve a large and active member base. To attend training sessions of organizations such as BREDL and other public policy environmental groups that can impact our structure, organization, and knowledge base. To produce a newsletter. To keep track of and review new permit requests.</p>

Organization's Information	Organization's Purpose	Project Goals
<p>Newburgh Clean Water Project 165 Grand Street Newburgh, NY 12550 Contact: Deborah Brown Web: newburghcleanwaterproject.org Facebook: facebook.com/newburghcleanwaterproject/</p>	<p>The Newburgh Clean Water Project (NCWP) is a nonpartisan, grassroots citizen action group in the City of Newburgh, New York, an environmental justice community. Our objective is to protect the city's long-term access to clean drinking water, obtain health resources and engage the community in watershed protection and restoration.</p>	<p>To grow NCWP organizational capacity to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop a well-educated community capable of effective advocacy. 2. Pressure the Department of Defense to remediate our water and soil and provide medical monitoring. 3. Regain municipal control of water sources and ensure New York State updates and enforces watershed rules and regulations.
<p>Beyond Toxics 120 Shelton McMurphey Blvd Ste 280 Eugene, OR 97401 Contact: Ana Molina Web: BeyondToxics.org Facebook: facebook.com/beyondtoxics</p>	<p>Our mission is to advance the power of Oregon's most vulnerable and marginalized communities who are exposed to a disproportionate share of environmental health burdens. We endeavor to expand an environmental justice movement that affirms equitable access to clean air, climate resiliency and healthy lands and rivers. We uphold bold and intersectional policies to advance racial, climate, and environmental justice to improve public health and community well-being.</p>	<p>Our goal is to provide training and real-life experiences for 30 BIPOC youth, supported by members of their communities, in environmental justice history, climate resilience and environmental health advocacy to support personal growth and build the resumes of young people hoping to make an impactful difference in environmental health outcomes.</p>
<p>Alaska Community Action on Toxics 1225 E. International Airport Rd #220 Anchorage, AK 99518 Contact: Patti Saunders Web: akaction.org Facebook: facebook.com/akaction/</p>	<p>ACAT believes everyone has a right to clean air, clean water, and toxic-free food. Driven by a core belief in environmental justice, ACAT empowers communities to eliminate exposure to toxics through collaborative research, shared science, education, organizing, and advocacy.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Educate affected communities, elected officials, and the public about threats posed by PFAS contamination in Alaska. 2. Train affected citizens in environmental health and justice, leadership skills and community organizing. 3. Use coalition to win state and federal policies to address PFAS problem.

Organization's Information	Organization's Purpose	Project Goals
<p>Mujeres de la Tierra 570 W Avenue 26 Ste 300 Los Angeles, CA 90065 Contact: Paola Machan Web: mujeresdelatierra.org Facebook: facebook.com /MujeresdTierra/</p>	<p>We firmly believe in the power of one and that community action and social change starts with an individual’s commitment to move, inspire, mobilize and lead. Our engagement efforts provide tools of empowerment by using facts, data, and science with culturally relevant tools and platforms. We are connected to the community through local residents' input, “platicas,” listening sessions and other means of interactive communication.</p>	<p>Our goal is to educate residents by facilitating a panel of experts who will focus on facts, science and data to present the information thoroughly in Spanish and through a meaningful cultural lens. We will create a workshop in Spanish with English translation that discusses brownfields; what they are, the history, how they are remediated and some example sites. Our goal is to bring agencies together with the community to engage in an inclusive conversation.</p>
<p>Progressive Maryland Education Fund PO Box 6988 Largo, MD 20792 Contact: Jennifer Medes Dwyer Web: progressivemaryland.org Facebook: facebook.com /progressivemarylandnetwork/</p>	<p>Our mission is to build a society and economy that works for all Marylanders, with special emphasis on traditionally marginalized groups—low- and moderate-income residents, people of color, women, LGBTQ+, and all oppressed and exploited people. We seek to build a grassroots force capable of changing the social, economic, and political landscape of Maryland by transforming oppressive systems into those that honor the inherent dignity and worth of all human beings.</p>	<p>Progressive Maryland is working to expand organizational capacity to build leadership within communities impacted by unjust environmental policies, especially among people of color and low-income residents living in the shadow of a trash incinerator. These leaders will be empowered to advocate for the policy changes their communities need and to educate residents across the state.</p>
<p>Local Environmental Action Demanded 19289 S 4403 Dr Vinita, OK 74301 Contact: Rebecca Jim Web: leadagency.org Facebook: facebook.com/leadagencyinc</p>	<p>To educate the community on the environmental concerns in Northeast, OK. To take actions to counter environmental hazards that put Northeast Oklahoma’s residents at risk, financially and physically. To take a lead conducting environmental workshops and seminars concerning environmental issues in Northeast Oklahoma and other areas. To provide a linkage with other environmental organizations throughout the State of Oklahoma and the Nation.</p>	<p>LEAD Agency will engage our members & board, provide updates on current issues, have deeper discussions regarding our long-term plans for the future and establish roles for leaders in the organization to assume and carry forward using established tools and technology.</p>

Organization's Information	Organization's Purpose	Project Goals
<p>Women's Int'l League for Peace & Freedom Burlington Branch 300 Maple St Burlington, VT 05401 Contact: Marguerite Adelman Web: N/A Facebook: facebook.com/WILPFVT</p>	<p>WILPF and other groups have mobilized for the past 5+ yrs to stop F35s from coming to the Burlington International Airport (BIA). Now we are working to get the F35s removed from BIA. We discovered PFOA/PFAS contamination in groundwater and tap water of surrounding communities. We have joined other groups earlier 2020 to plan grassroots activism and an educational campaign to bring attention to PFAS chemicals and their connection to the military.</p>	<p>Collaborate with 5+ environmental, water, health, and peace groups. Hold 3+ educational programs or rallies near military sites with PFAS contamination. Reach 1500+ individuals directly through presentations, educational materials, media, and website info. Reach out to legislators, encouraging them to ban or reduce use of AFFF fire-fighting foam at commercial airports and to mandate notification of communities near bases about contamination and health impacts.</p>
<p>Community In-Power and Development Association 600 Austin Ave Port Arthur, TX 77640 Contact: Hilton Kelley Web: cidainc.org Facebook: facebook.com/CIDAInc.org/</p>	<p>CIDA works to empower residents in low-income communities in Port Arthur, Texas. We help organize and educate local residents on how to take action to hold big industries-polluting our air, land, and water accountable.</p>	<p>Increase awareness and understanding of toxic emissions and their effects. Empower the community to organize and take action to improve their environment and health. Use education and other tools to foster preparedness and resilience within the community.</p>
<p>350 New Hampshire 4 Park St Ste 304 Concord, NH 03301 Contact: Lila Kohrman-Glaser Web: 350nh.org Facebook: facebook.com/350NH/</p>	<p>350NH was founded by volunteers to force decision-makers to address the climate change in our communities. We educate people, build local public opposition and take action to give our communities a voice in the decision-making process.</p>	<p>We will end the use of coal in New England. We will support the development of the environmental justice movement and build lasting local power in Southern NH. We will protect local communities and natural environments from toxic pollution.</p>
<p>Communities for Clean Water PO BOX 238 Taos, NM 87571 Contact: Rachel Conn Web: ccwnewmexico.org Facebook: facebook.com/ccwnewmexico</p>	<p>CCW's purpose is to ensure that community waters impacted by Los Alamos National Laboratories (LANL) are kept safe for drinking, agriculture, sacred ceremonies, and a sustainable future.</p>	<p>Create a strategic plan to address LANL pollution. Raise public awareness and open dialogues that lead to a stronger grassroots movement for safe, clean water. Support youth outreach and education with activities that foster and sustain advocacy.</p>

Organization's Information	Organization's Purpose	Project Goals
<p>Buckeye Environmental Network PO Box 824 Athens, OH 45701 Contact: Roxanne Groff Web: benohio.org Facebook: facebook.com/Buckeye.Environmental.Network/</p>	<p>Our organization supports and empowers grassroots environmental and environmental justice groups fighting to protect Ohio’s environment. We provide resources, knowledge, and expert grassroots consultation to assist, empower, and collaborate with citizens. We are working to protect our environment for generations to come.</p>	<p>Build and strengthen local teams dealing with radioactive oil and gas waste. Teams will push their local officials to pass resolutions not to allow the spreading of any products made from oil and gas waste, stop any approvals for facilities that store, recycle, treat, process or dispose of oil or gas waste and push for a statewide moratorium on new Class II injection wells.</p>
<p>Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition PO Box 8346 Fairbanks, AK 99708 Contact: Jessica Girard Web: fairbanksclimateaction.org Facebook: facebook.com /FairbanksClimateAction/</p>	<p>Our purpose is to mobilize Fairbanks & Interior Alaska communities toward action to mitigate and adapt to climate change. We elevate climate solutions and foster a fair, equitable, and just transition to sustainable communities. We hope to build a better relationship between all beings and the Earth.</p>	<p>Establish an outreach team with a goal of initial outreach to existing contacts. Support welcoming team to serve as absorption infrastructure-usefully integrating membership. Distribute outreach organizing teams for further recruitment, empower people to take on that outreach work to their own circles.</p>
<p>Promote PT, INC. DBA Protect PT 3344 Route 130, Ste D Harrison City, PA 15636 Contact: Patrick Campbell Web: protectpt.org Facebook: facebook.com/ProtectPT/</p>	<p>Protect PT works to ensure safety, security, and quality of life from the effects of fracking in Westmoreland and Allegheny Counties. We empower communities through education, movement building, resident-science monitoring, and advocacy to protect the economic, environmental, and legal rights of residents. We promote alternative energy and sustainable living.</p>	<p>Undergo a Facilitated Strategy Session, complete a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT) analysis. Conduct a board assessment. Craft a secession and employment growth plan and develop a board recruitment plan.</p>
<p>JAPRI 2350 Saintsville Rd Greenville, NC 27834 Contact: James Woodley Web: japri.org Facebook: N/A</p>	<p>We fight environmental issues, health concerns, educational limitations, and justice issues within minority/marginalized communities in NC.</p>	<p>Prepare marginalized communities within Pitt and Northampton Counties to address environmental, health and justice issues before the public and decision makers. Establish a coalition of communities across the state to support each other in addressing these issues and demonstrating their grassroots power.</p>


Hear what activists have to say about our grants:

“First, I would like to express thanks to you and CHEJ for the grant award to Defend Ohi:yo', which has made a huge difference to our organization. These have been challenging times in many ways, as you know.”

“My board and I were elated to be selected by CHEJ as a recipient of one of your grassroots grants...Your support will make it possible to raise awareness and participation in two very important new projects of ours over the next year. In relation to one of those projects - I wanted to let you know that just this past week we began operation of the first year-round air monitor in the Joppa neighborhood, followed by the deployment of two of the ten other “satellite” monitors scheduled for that neighborhood. This is the first community-based monitoring in North Texas and the Network is the only one of its kind in the state. That’s why receiving the CHEJ grant for the canvassing of residents in Joppa and the other neighborhoods in Southern Dallas we’ve spotlighted is so important.”

“We won our campaign to stop the Granite Bridge fracked gas expansion. Thank you so much for your support, we could not have done it without this funding from CHEJ. We are all taking some time to celebrate and will keep up the fight.”

Thank You



CHEJ would like to thank our supporters and all the activists who worked diligently throughout 2020 to achieve environmental health and justice. We would not be able to do our work without **YOU!**