

Welcome to the November issue of the Delaware County Environmental Clearinghouse newsletter, which brings you local and national environmental news and events. Visit us at <u>envirodelco.org</u>. Our choice of news articles reflects developments that may or do affect Delaware County and does not reflect our position on those developments. We hope you will share this newsletter with your membership and will send us news and announcements about your activities at <u>info@envirodelco.org</u>. *The Clearinghouse Team* 

## **Check out these Upcoming Events on envirodelco.org!**

### How to Help Your School District Go Solar

#### Canary Media - Oct. 31, 2024

Solar is helping schools save big. Your district could be next. Nearly 9,000 K-12 schools nationwide have installed solar panels. Here's how you can help your district tap into the cheap, clean energy source. <u>Read more...</u>



## UN Says World Made No Progress on Quitting Fossil Fuel in 2023

#### Energy News Network - Oct. 25, 2024

**CLIMATE**: The United Nations conclude the world **made essentially no progress** a year after promising to phase out fossil fuels, with emissions still set to increase this year and Paris Agreement goals unlikely to be met. *(New York Times)* 

ALSO: Major companies have stopped buying carbon offsets tied to renewables after experts ruled many of them "junk," but a proposed United Nations-backed market could reinvigorate the sector. (*Bloomberg*)

#### Read more...



## <u>Chester-Marcus Hook partners get</u> <u>\$37,000 Grant to Install Air Monitors</u>

Delaware County Environmental Clearinghouse The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has awarded the Delaware County Planning Department \$37,000 to install up to 50 air quality monitors to measure particulate emissions throughout the Chester-Marcus Hook area. Read more...



## **IRA Tax Credits Creating Flood of Clean Energy Investment**

The tax code change unleashing \$25B in clean energy investment

#### Canary Media - Oct. 28, 2024

The Inflation Reduction Act's transferability provision is expanding opportunities to turn the value of clean energy tax credits into real-world projects.

Tax credits are the driving force behind the Inflation Reduction Act's unprecedented investment in clean energy. But there's a catch to relying on tax credits: The amount of money a company can receive from them is limited to what it pays in taxes each year.

In recent decades, a workaround that helps firms monetize a greater amount of tax credits — and therefore build more solar, wind, storage, and other clean energy projects — has blossomed. Known as the tax equity market, it's now a roughly <u>\$20 billion per year</u> financial sector in which banks and other large financial institutions partner with clean energy developers and use their tax credits to reduce their massive tax burdens. <u>Read more...</u>



## **Supreme Court Allows EPA to Proceed with Limiting Power Plant Emissions while Issue is Litigated**

#### Environmental Health News - Oct. 17, 2024

The Supreme Court has provisionally allowed the Biden administration's Environmental Protection Agency to enforce limits on carbon emissions from power plants, despite ongoing legal challenges from Republican-led states. <u>Read more...</u>

#### https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/paris-global-climate-change-agreements

## **Myths and Fears about EVs—Can You Get There from Here?**

#### Floodlight - Oct. 17, 2024

Thomas Wischgoll, a computer science professor at Wright State University in Ohio, wanted to see for himself whether there was any truth in there not being enough charging infrastructure to make long road trips in an electric vehicle. <u>Read more...</u>





## <u>A Primer on PFAs in Drinking</u> <u>Water</u>

#### **Consumer Notice.org**

PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are a group of widely-used, man-made chemicals that are likely all around you. They are sometimes called "forever chemicals" because they don't break down, and they can accumulate in both the environment and the human body. Studies have found that PFAS may cause serious health problems, including cancer. <u>Read more...</u>

## **DOE Funds Sustainable Aviation Fuel Projects**

#### Canary Media - Oct. 2024

Alternative jet fuels are seen as key to curbing emissions from today's airplanes. The Loan Programs Office is backing SAF plants to boost U.S. supplies.

Airlines are banking on sustainable aviation fuel to reduce the industry's planet-warming pollution. But the amount of lower-carbon alternatives available to them right now represents just a few drops in an ocean of petroleum. <u>Read More...</u>





## Where Do MACH2 and Other Hydrogen Hubs Stand a Year on?

#### Canary Media - Oct. 2024

Last October, the U.S. Department of Energy picked seven consortiums across the country to <u>receive up to</u> <u>\$7 billion in federal grants</u>. The goal of this startup money? To help the hubs attract tens of billions more in private-sector investment to pay for construction costs. These projects, located around the country, aim to bring together a wide array of organizations to scale up the production, storage, and transport of low- and zerocarbon hydrogen, which some experts view as a way to replace fossil fuels in industries such as steelmaking and aviation. <u>Read More...</u>



## **Can Energy-Rich Pennsylvania Chart a Course toward Decarbonization?**

#### Canary Media - Oct. 15, 2024

Pennsylvania has run on coal, oil, and gas, but it's seeking a new era of economic growth from lowcarbon industry and cleantech manufacturing. <u>Read More...</u>



### **DOE Calls for Nuclear Renaissance, Says Big New Reactors Need to Be Built Now**

#### Canary Media — Oct. 11, 2024

If America hopes to meet its grid decarbonization goals or its nuclear power targets, the country needs to deploy fission reactors in volume — and it needs to get started today.

That's according to the recently updated <u>Pathways to Commercial Liftoff: Advanced</u> <u>Nuclear</u> report by the U.S. Department of Energy. The document sets a course to meet America's ambitious <u>COP28 pledge</u> to triple its current 100 gigawatts of nuclear power to 300 gigawatts by 2050.

Just a few years ago, utilities were shutting down reactors, but it's a new day for American nuclear. Companies are now exploring <u>reopening closed sites</u>, upgrading capacity, and extending operation of existing plants to 60 or 80 years. <u>Read more...</u>

#### **TAKE ACTION! Penn** Environment: Tell the RTC: Don't let plastic producers mislead the public

#### FTC Director Lina Khan

Plastic is one of the most difficult materials to recycle, and yet for decades, companies have been putting recycling symbols on items that will never end up anywhere but the landfill. This kind of misinformation only makes our mounting plastic pollution crisis worse.

I urge you to crack down on plastic recycling misinformation so that the word "recyclable" or the chasing arrows symbol only appears on items that can actually be recycled.

#### Read more...

#### **TAKE ACTION!** Tell DOE to Stop Funding Plants to Burn Plastics

#### **Clean Air Council**

The U.S. Department of Energy just announced \$182 million of Inflation Reduction Act funding meant for climate solutions will go to spur the burning of plastic waste.

# Tell the DOE to withdraw their loan guarantee!

The money has been conditionally promised for a yet-to-be constructed facility in Erie, Pennsylvania, that would accept 160,000 tons of plastic waste per year. The company, International Recycling Group, says they intend to turn some of that waste into a cokesubstitute to be burned at a steel mill in Gary, Indiana. <u>Read more...</u>

### **TAKE ACTION!** Save the Starving Manatees: Expand Their Habitat

Submit your comment to protect manatees

RE: Docket number FWS-R4-ES-2024-0073

Manatees are iconic, beloved creatures. As a keystone species, their presence is important to keeping their ecosystems healthy — and when their populations begin to decline, it signals something is very wrong. Studies show that 20% of all manatees died in just two years. If we're going to restore manatee populations and protect the coastal waters where they graze, we need to expand their protected habitat and open more areas where they can safely look for food. I fully support the proposal to expand critical habitat for the Florida manatee and the Antillean manatee in Puerto Rico. <u>Read more...</u>

## League of Women Voters of Delaware County

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