



# Environmental News

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Oct. 15, 2024



Welcome to the October issue of the Delaware County Environmental Clearinghouse newsletter, which brings you local and national environmental news and events. Visit us at [enviroidelco.org](http://enviroidelco.org). 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 [info@enviroidelco.org](mailto:info@enviroidelco.org). *The Clearinghouse Team*



Marcus Hook Area Neighbors and Clean Air Council present ASSESS study.

## Organization of the Month – Marcus Hook Area Neighbors for Public Health

*By Jodine Mayberry for the Clearinghouse*

Marcus Hook Area Neighbors for Public Health started out as a small group of residents meeting in a diner in 2020 who were alarmed by the lack of concern for air pollution in Marcus Hook, home to a large concentration of petrochemical industries.

The small group of founding members realized that Marcus Hook has been politically and economically entangled with polluting heavy industry for more than 120 years, ever since Sun Oil Co.

established a refinery there in 1901. Before that, it was a large shipbuilding and provisioning center for much of the 19th century.

“There were no environmental groups working in the Marcus Hook area at all. Because of the cultural history of Marcus Hook, everyone thought it was a lost cause. Many people feel that way and many don’t,” said Echo Alford, a leader of MHANPH.

Today, the term “area” in the group’s name includes not only Marcus Hook but also Boothwyn, Chester Township, City of Chester, Linwood, Ogden, Parkside, Trainer, Twin Oaks, Upland, and Upper Chichester, all “fence line” communities that border on or host polluting industrial facilities in the county’s southeast corner.

According to Alford, MHANPH partnered with the Clean Air Council to participate as subjects and stakeholders in the ASSESS study conducted by Johns Hopkins University. Alford was later hired as Delaware County advocacy coordinator for the Clean Air Council, an example of an established environmental organization reaching out to the affected community.

[Read more...](#)



## What You Need to Know about Installing a Heat Pump

### Canary Media

The home inspection report painted a pretty bleak picture. We were about to close on a charming 1940 colonial, but it turned out that most of the appliances that came with it needed replacement.

The water heater was not long for this world, the AC was busted, and the sump pump was shot. One bright spot was the cast-iron gas-fired boiler. Estimated by our home inspector to be about 50 years old, it had been built to last. Inefficient, yes, but it could be depended on to keep us warm.

[Read more...](#)

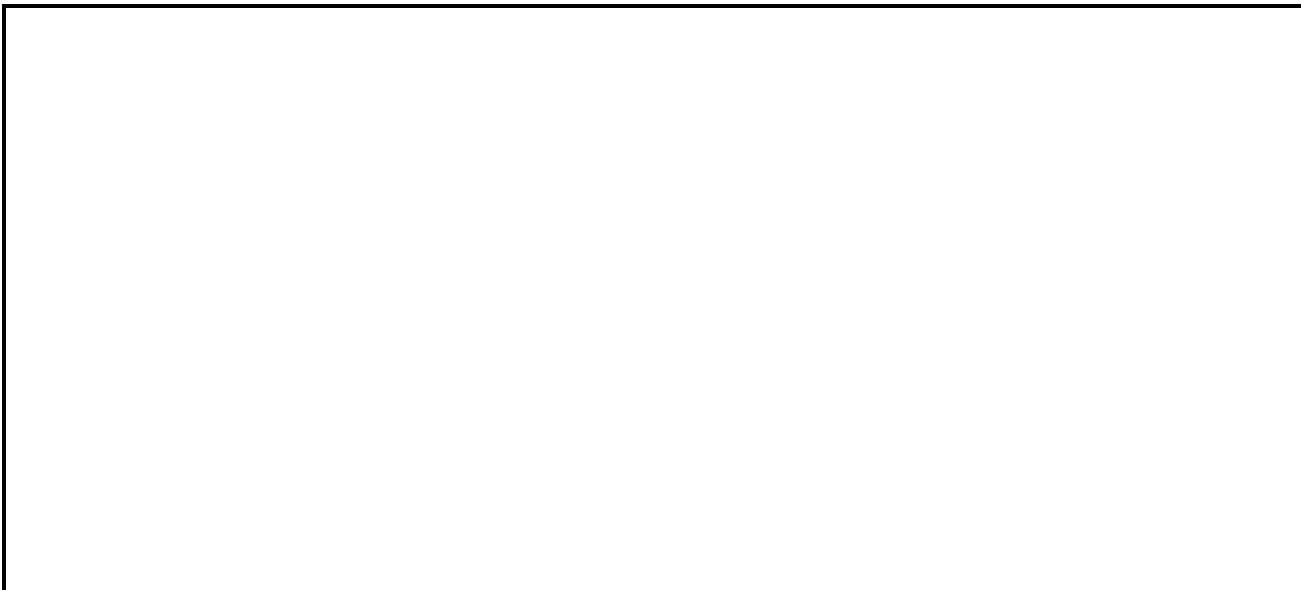


## [Constellation Energy to Restart Three Mile Island Reactor to Serve Microsoft Needs](#)

Press Release — Sept. 20, 2024

*Constellation signs its largest-ever power purchase agreement with Microsoft, a deal that will restore TMI Unit 1 to service and keep it online for decades; add approximately 835 megawatts of carbon-free energy to the grid; create 3,400 direct and indirect jobs and deliver more than \$3 billion in state and federal taxes.*

LONDONDERRY, PA (Sept 20, 2024) Constellation (Nasdaq: CEG) announced today the signing of a 20-year power purchase agreement with Microsoft that will pave the way for the launch of the **Crane Clean Energy Center** (CCEC) and restart of Three Mile Island Unit 1, which operated at industry-leading levels of safety and reliability for decades before being shut down for economic reasons exactly five years ago today. Under the agreement, Microsoft will purchase energy from the renewed plant as part of its goal to help match the power its data centers in PJM use with carbon-free energy. [Read more...](#)





## [EPA Approves Huge Offshore Wind Project for New Jersey](#)

**Canary Media — Oct. 6, 2024**

Federal regulators gave a huge, contentious offshore wind project the green light to start construction off the coast of New Jersey.

Owned by [Atlantic Shores Offshore Wind](#), a 50-50 venture by [Shell](#) and [EDF Renewables](#), the project received approval of air permits from the Environmental Protection Agency and of construction and operation permits from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management on Tuesday. The developer plans to install a total of about 200 wind turbines in federally owned waters between 10 and 20 miles off the Jersey shore. It's also working with utilities to build several offshore substations and two undersea transmission lines that will connect the project to the grid near Atlantic City and farther north in Monmouth County, New Jersey. [Read more...](#)

## [An Idea from Germany: Balcony Solar Panels](#)

**Canary Media — Sept. 26, 2024**

Matthias Weyland loves having people ask about his balcony. A pair of solar panels hang from the railing, casting a sheen of dark blue against the red brick of his apartment building. They're connected to a microinverter plugged into a wall outlet and feed electricity directly into his home. On a sunny day, he'll produce enough power to supply up to half of his family's daily needs. [Read more...](#)





## [EVs Are Cleaner Than Gas-Powered Cars but Many Americans Don't Think So](#)

NPR—Sept. 23, 2024

Everyone knows that electric vehicles are supposed to be better for the planet than gas cars. That's the driving reason behind a global effort to transition toward batteries. But what about the harms caused by [mining for battery minerals](#)? And coal-fired power plants for the electricity to charge the cars? And [battery waste](#)? Is it really true that EVs are better? The answer is yes. But Americans are growing less convinced. [Read more...](#)

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## [California Sues ExxonMobil for Misleading the Public about Plastics Recycling](#)

NPR — Sept. 24, 2024

[Visit enviodelco.org for our article on...](#)

### [The Electric Power Grid](#)

Every path to carbon reduction eventually leads to the electric power grid, the center of our energy system. But what, exactly, is the power grid, and why is it essential? It's something few of us think about, but all of us depend on. Mention the words "the grid" to most people, and they will immediately think of mile after mile of huge towers strung with wires. And that's not wrong, but it's not the whole story. There are actually four parts to the U.S. electrical system, all of which must be coordinated in order to keep the lights on. [Read more...](#)

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## [Clean Energy Manufacturing Boom Rolls on Racking up \\$119 Billion in Investments So Far](#)

Canary Media — Sept. 23, 2024

The Inflation Reduction Act has spurred more than \$115B in clean energy manufacturing investment so far — and the project announcements just keep coming.

A sodium-battery plant in North Carolina, a solar-panel manufacturing facility in New Mexico, and a factory building electric sports cars in Virginia are among the \$2.4 billion worth of new U.S. clean energy manufacturing projects announced in August. These investments are just the latest in the ongoing, multibillion-dollar wave of clean energy manufacturing activity spurred by the Inflation Reduction Act.

A major goal of the legislation, enacted in August 2022, is to build a U.S. clean-tech manufacturing base so that the energy transition not only achieves climate goals but benefits American workers as well. By bringing the clean energy supply chain onto U.S. soil, the Biden administration also seeks to lessen dependence on technology imported from foreign countries such as China. [Read more...](#)

[Environmentalists Assert PA Has Failed to Act More than a Year after Studies Linked Fracking to Childhood Cancer](#)

PITTSBURGH — More than a year after the Pennsylvania Department of Health published three studies linking fracking to cancer and other health effects, advocates say the agency failed to keep promises to help residents living near fracking wells.

The [studies](#), conducted by University of Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania Department of Health researchers, [found that](#) residents living near fracking wells were more likely to experience childhood cancer, severe asthma attacks and low birth weights. They added to [dozens of other studies](#) linking living near fracking wells with various health problems, including cancer, poor birth outcomes and cardiovascular and respiratory issues. [Read more...](#)

**[TAKE ACTION! Riverkeepers: Tell PA Senators to Vote Down SB 525 that would Curtail Right-to-Know Requests](#)**

The Pennsylvania Right To Know Law is under attack by a terrible bill - SB525. But you can do something about it by calling your Senator today!

SB525 adds a section to Pennsylvania's Right To Know law where a requester can be deemed "vexatious" by an agency and become categorized as a "vexatious requester." Once the Office of Open Records (OOR) grants relief from an alleged "vexatious requester," the agency can get a file requester banned from getting files for up to one year. The requester can be banned just for having filed previous requests or requests deemed too broad. [Read more...](#)

**[TAKE ACTION! Tell Congress to Make the Pause on New LNG Terminals Permanent](#)**

Clean Air Council



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