

## Hillary Clinton for President

The stakes for the environment couldn't be higher and the choice couldn't be clearer, **Hillary Clinton for President.**

Hillary has called climate change the “defining challenge of our time” and proposed one of the most far-reaching environmental platforms in history. Hillary will make environmental justice a priority, forming an Environmental and Climate Justice Task Force to “find and fix the next 50 Flints”. On energy and climate, she will work to further reduce greenhouse gases by installing 500 million new solar panels by the end of her first term, a 700% increase in installed solar capacity! She'll make the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans off-limits to oil and gas drilling, further cut methane emissions, and phase down extraction from public lands.

Her opponent is the exact opposite when it comes to environmental protection.

Donald Trump is on record claiming that climate change is a hoax. He'd approve the Keystone XL Pipeline, abolish the Environmental Protection Agency and rescind President Obama's executive actions like the Clean Water Rule which restored protections for streams, wetlands and drinking water sources.

We can't afford electing a President who'll undo in one year the progress we've worked so hard over eight years to achieve. Make sure you vote on November 8.

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### *Natural Gas Plant Proposed by SEPTA*

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority (SEPTA) has proposed the construction of a natural gas power plant in Philadelphia.

The proposed gas plant is bad for the region. It would release toxic air pollution and the emissions from the plant will increase Philadelphia's contributions to climate change at a time when the city needs to reduce its impact.

Clean Water Action has partnered with environmental allies and State Representative Rosita

Youngblood to urge the SEPTA board to reject this proposal and pursue a transition to 100% renewable energy. Transit agencies in cities like New York and Indianapolis have already implemented similar policies.

Along with residents throughout the service area as well as the elected officials, Clean Water Action will fight to ensure SEPTA joins these other agencies and becomes a renewable energy leader.

# Pennsylvania Endorsements for November 8!

*In a cycle dominated by presidential politics, there are other great environmental candidates down ballot worthy of your attention who also earned our endorsement:*



## **Katie McGinty, US Senate:**

Katie has dedicated her career to environmental protection. She was an environmental advisor for Senator Al Gore, appointed by President Bill Clinton to serve as Chair of the White House Council on

Environmental Quality and served as Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection under Governor Ed Rendell. In the Senate Katie will defend important safeguards like the Clean Water Rule, fight to close loopholes that exempt the oil and gas industry from important federal clean air and water laws and lead the way in combatting climate change by working to pass commonsense protections that prioritize investments in energy efficiency and clean energy.



## **Steve Santarsiero, US Congress, District 8:**

Steve has a long history of fighting for the environment that includes his time as a township supervisor and State Representative. Steve will take this approach with him to

Congress where he'll push for investment in green jobs by advocating for renewable and alternative energy sources. Steve has already done this in Harrisburg by sponsoring legislation to increase alternative energy requirements — making Pennsylvania a leader in solar energy standards — while enacting new consumer protection rules to help keep the cost of energy low. Steve will also continue to be a strong proponent of open space preservation.



## **Josh Shapiro, Pennsylvania Attorney General:**

Josh has been an environmental champion as a State Representative and now a Montgomery County Commissioner, supporting pro-environmental initiatives

like Growing Greener II and implementation of a comprehensive stormwater management plan. As Pennsylvania Attorney General, Josh will pursue criminal charges against oil and gas companies that violate Pennsylvania's environmental laws. He'll also stand with attorneys-general across the nation in support of EPA's Clean Power Plan which will reduce carbon emissions that impact climate change and public health.



## **Leanne Krueger Braneky, State House, District 161:**

Leanne worked on economic development at the Business Alliance for Local Living Economies and was the first Executive Director of the Sustainable Business Network

of Greater Philadelphia where she played a key role in their quest to make Philadelphia the most sustainable region in the country. During her brief time as State Representative, Leanne has been an environmental champion — fighting to preserve legislation that would create added protections for schools and playgrounds from the dangers of fracking. If re-elected, she'll support expanding buffer requirements to protect Pennsylvania's best streams from development as well as restoring incentives for solar and wind.

# Getting the Lead Out of Our Water in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh

The drinking water crisis in Flint, Michigan brought national attention to how much we've taken drinking water safety for granted, and how vulnerable some communities can be to the longstanding threat of lead in our drinking water. With weak federal testing rules for lead, many cities with lead drinking water lines are unaware of the extent to which residents may be exposed. Lead exposure is especially harmful to infants and young children, resulting in developmental problems including lower IQ and behavioral issues. Lead can also affect adults including contributing to high blood pressure and reproductive problems.

Clean Water Action is addressing lead in drinking water in both Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, especially for the most vulnerable neighborhoods and populations. In Philadelphia, concern after the Flint crisis surfaced with considerable attention by City Council, especially to ensure that schools and daycares do not expose children to lead. Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) has been conducting school testing in an effort to identify problem locations.

Clean Water Action is educating public officials about this problem, and partnering with them to develop a community lead hazard awareness program. The focus is to ensure that residents, especially in neighborhoods most at risk, have comprehensive information on how lead exposure can be prevented, whether from drinking water, paint, or soil contamination. If you are interested in getting involved in this effort in Philadelphia, please contact Maurice Sampson ([msampson@cleanwater.org](mailto:msampson@cleanwater.org)).

► *For more information on lead and drinking water: [www.cleanwateraction.org/features/lead-and-drinking-water](http://www.cleanwateraction.org/features/lead-and-drinking-water)*

In Pittsburgh, lead levels in drinking water tests have been rising for a number of years and it is unclear why. Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority's latest round of lead testing of Pittsburgh homes found 17% of homes had lead levels over 15 ppb (parts per billion), triggering EPA's action level for lead. Pittsburgh homes tested had lead levels as high as 75 ppb.

Clean Water Action outlined several steps for immediate action:

1. Officials should investigate the cause of the rising proportion of homes testing high for lead. Since 2007, the percentage of homes in Pittsburgh exceeding 15 ppb has increased by over four times. Is this a result of aging infrastructure or are there new contaminants in the Allegheny River that are causing our water supply to be more corrosive, resulting in increased lead eroding from pipes?
2. Allegheny County should work together to ensure that all homes in Pittsburgh that have lead service lines are offered water tests for lead, and that all children in these homes are offered lead blood screenings.
3. Allegheny County should expand efforts to replace lead service lines. In many cases homeowners are responsible for the lead service lines and replacement is beyond their financial means.

If you are concerned about this issue in Pittsburgh, contact Myron Arnowitt ([marnowitt@cleanwater.org](mailto:marnowitt@cleanwater.org)).

**Shell Plant:** Royal Dutch Shell is seeking to build an Ethane Cracker plant 30 miles northwest of Pittsburgh in Beaver County. This colossal, expensive, taxpayer-funded petrochemical processing facility will contribute even more toxic air pollution to a region that is already in violation of Clean Air Act standards. Clean Water Action is working with environmental, public health, and grassroots organizations to pressure local and state authorities to engage in a transparent permitting process, require strong air and water pollution limits, and fight for the best possible monitoring and pollution reduction technologies.

# Contaminated Wells in Warminster

Decades after the United States Navy used an unregulated contaminant in firefighting training on Willow Grove Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base and Naval Air Warfare Center Montgomery and Bucks Counties, components of the foam, perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), are being found in nearby public and private drinking water supplies.

PFOA and PFOS are unregulated man-made chemicals that can remain in the environment and body for a long time. Scientific studies have shown a correlation between exposure and kidney and testicular cancer.

The chemicals were first discovered by EPA in 2013 and 2014, resulting in a health advisory that took several public water wells offline. This spring the EPA issued an updated health advisory that significantly reduced the amount considered safe in drinking water. The new recommended levels have resulted in officials shutting down 16 contaminated municipal wells and roughly 80 contaminated private wells.

Clean Water Action is partnering with local impacted residents. Together we're holding community educational forums and pressuring to the Department of Defense and United States Navy to meet the community demands for access to safe drinking water, free blood screenings in affected areas and free water testing for public and private supplies.



*Community educational forum in Warminster.*

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