2026

YEAR IN REVIEW

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROJECT

DEFENDING PUBLIC HEALTH SINCE 2012



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Note from Executive Director Alison L. Steele

The last year has presented new challenges for frontline communities impacted by oil and gas development, but I am incredibly proud of the innovative responses EHP continues to bring to the table. In the early days of our work, our conversations with frontline residents were focused on their concerns about how nearby infrastructure might impact their health. Now, nearly fifteen years later, our mission hasn't changed, but the ways we support concerned residents are evolving to meet their needs.

Technological booms — from fracking to hyperscale data centers — can expand at lightning speed. Facilities that pose health risks from air, water, noise, and light pollution can be built faster than research studies can illuminate their impacts, and faster than policies can be designed to protect people in the communities hosting them. For these reasons, EHP packages timely and relevant information in easy-to-understand formats so advocates can better leverage scientific data to support their efforts.

Over the years we've provided impacted residents with information about their local air quality through continuous monitoring and detailed analyses of the collected data. As residents have learned more about the risks they face from nearby oil and gas facilities, they've also started to ask us what they can do to fight back. To that end, EHP has expanded tools and resources that can help advocates speak confidently about local air quality impacts that can be tied to nearby facilities of concern, and to situate their concerns within the broader trends of the latest scientific research.

Frontline residents should not have to bear the burden of protecting themselves from the health impacts of local polluters, but the responsibility often falls to them when protections from local, state, and federal governments are insufficient. In cases such as these, EHP is honored to provide our expertise for local-level actions that demand public health be prioritized in decisions about oil and gas development, and we are excited to share some of our achievements from the past year in this report.

Of course, EHP could not do this critical work without the incredible support of people like you. Our team works at the intersection of public health research and the lived experiences of frontline residents; navigating this space effectively requires a broad range of perspectives and connections to ensure that our work continues to be relevant and useful. Thank you for joining us in these ongoing efforts to defend public health in the face of oil and gas development.

Sincerely,

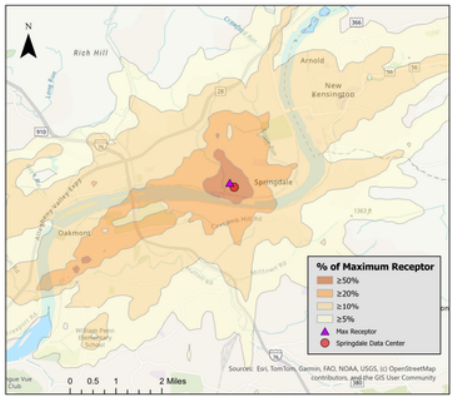


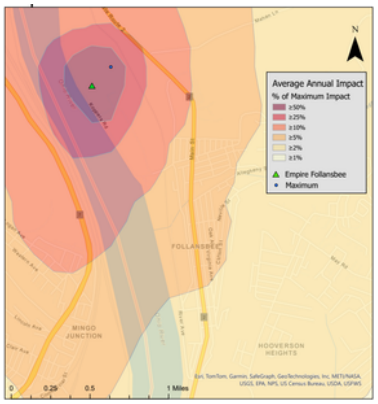
Alison L. Steele
Executive Director

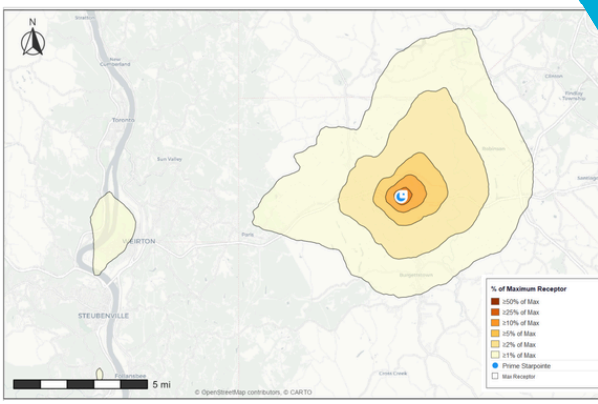
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HYSPLIT Maps

EHP employs HYSPLIT modeling to simulate air emissions over time for both proposed and existing facilities, providing vital information for community outreach and monitor placement. We have developed 75 pollution dispersion maps like the ones below that are free to view and interact with here. Residents concerned about facilities that EHP has not already mapped can request a dispersion map by completing this linked form.







AirView Pro Analysis of Air Samples

EHP provided analysis of 130 canister air samples through our AirView Pro platform, an analysis tool developed for trained partners to understand air quality where they do work. As part of five EPA-funded community air projects in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia, our partners collected 1-hour samples of air near industrial facilities, including, but not limited to, oil and gas sites. These samples were analyzed in a lab to identify how much individual volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were present. These results were provided to project partners and interpreted using AirView Pro. This analysis centered on comparisons to health screening thresholds, such as low levels of VOCs, below which we would not expect a health response over the long term. In 21 of the 130 samples (16%), at least one VOC was over the health screening threshold. The compounds most often over screening thresholds were benzene (10 samples), acrolein (10 samples), and naphthalene (4 samples). One benzene result was over the much higher 8-hour recommended exposure limit from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. These results will be used by project partnerships to advocate for greater scrutiny of nearby emitting facilities as the EPA-funded projects come to a close over the next year.

AirView Public

AirView Public is a web-based, paywall-free tool designed to help communities understand their air quality so residents can better protect themselves from pollution harms. This online tool, launched in 2025, provides access to air quality readings alongside weather and pollution dispersion information. With AirView Public's pollution mapping feature, users can even view the path that air took to arrive at monitoring locations when those monitors recorded high pollution levels.

This year, EHP attracted 373 new users with our AirView Public tool and developed video tutorials to assist them. Air quality analysis information is currently available for 18 communities across Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, West Virginia, and Louisiana:

- Beaver, PA
- Mon Valley, PA
- Neville Island/Coraopolis, PA
- North Fayette, PA
- Union Township, PA
- West Deer, PA
- Salt Fork, OH
- Youngstown, OH
- Clymer, NY
- Dover, NY
- Peekskill, NY
- Seneca Falls, NY
- Slate Hill, NY
- Tompkins/Ithaca, NY
- Charleston, WV
- Huntington, WV
- Parkersburg, WV
- Cameron Parish, LA

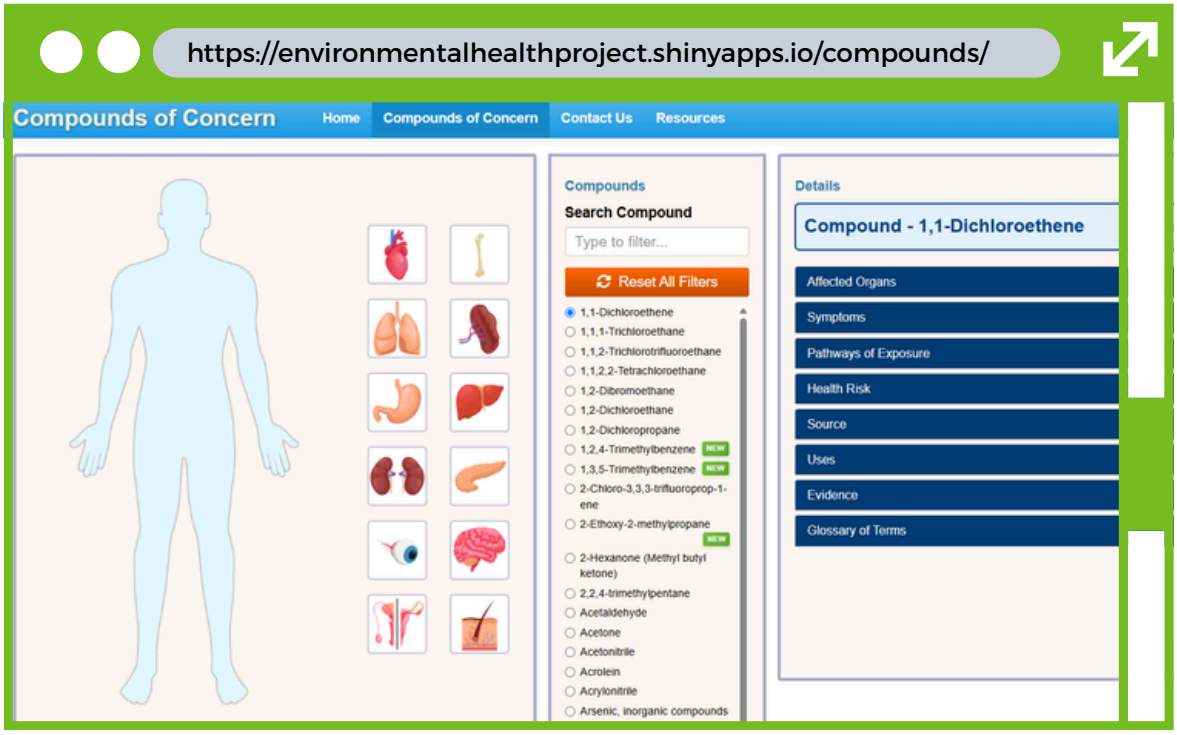
View our video tutorials for step-by-step instructions for using AirView Public.

EHP hopes to expand access to many more communities by inviting areas with existing air quality monitoring networks to add their data to AirView Public. Interested residents can add new monitors by completing this online form.

Compounds of Concern: Expanding Health Resources Freely Available to the Public

EHP's Compounds of Concern tool provides users with easy-to-understand details on exposure symptoms and health impacts of chemical compounds associated with industrial operations, including oil and gas facilities. This interactive database is especially helpful to anyone living near polluting facilities because Compounds of Concern identifies compounds (including a wide range of toxic chemicals), common sources that emit them, and how they may impact systems and organs of the body (respiratory system, circulatory system, etc.).

At its launch in 2025, the tool contained 60 compounds that were prioritized based on the hazards they pose to human health, cross-referencing the Community Multiscale Air Quality Modeling System (CMAQ) analysis with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Initial List of Hazardous Air Pollutants with Modifications. Since then, EHP has continuously added new compounds in response to the public's need for a comprehensive resource addressing industrial pollution exposure. In the last year, we added 35 new chemicals to our database, increasing the number of compounds covered by 70%. During that time, 659 new users have accessed this free resource.



Air Sensors International Conference

Program Manager Nathan Deron represented EHP at the Air Sensors International Conference (ASIC) this year in Los Angeles, giving a presentation about EHP's tools and how they are supporting collaborative, community-centered air monitoring projects. ASIC is the leading global forum for experts tackling air quality, climate change, and environmental sustainability, bringing together top scientists, policymakers, and industry leaders to explore cutting-edge air sensor technologies, real-world applications, and data-driven solutions that improve public health and environmental justice.



Deron's presentation focused on how project teams used new technologies and advanced analysis to address community questions and concerns around air quality. These questions included how dangerous short-term exposures from oil and gas facilities might impact health, and whether specific short-term exposures could be tied to particular emitters. He highlighted the use of the Sensit SPod air quality monitoring sensor system, EHP's AirView analysis app, and EHP's Compounds of Concern health education tool to an audience of 400 participants hailing from 28 countries and representing the non-profit, academic, regulatory, and private sectors. This presentation highlighted the useful information that can be brought to public conversations using cutting-edge technology, but also the significant investments of time and necessary expertise required to make these approaches produce results that speak to community concerns. To that end, many of the projects highlighted in the presentation seek to utilize the data gathered to advocate for more advanced monitoring managed by state regulators.

Supporting Impacted Communities

In addition to creating tools and resources that are available for free on our website to anyone who needs them, EHP provides tailored support to community groups and frontline residents by creating air quality analysis reports, participating in site fight advocacy, and collaborating on strategies to protect their health in the face of shale gas development.

- The numbers:
  - Supported 98 site fights in 15 states (Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Montana, New Jersey, New York, South Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia)
  - Created 51 air quality analysis reports based on data from community air monitoring networks
  - Engaged 1,332 event attendees
    - Educated 430 community members and allies engaged in site fights and community-based monitoring projects
    - Engaged 902 people in educational events



A presenter speaks at the Constitution Pipeline Public Meeting in August 2026.

Leveraging Personal Narratives and Data for Change

West Deer Leto dehydrator permit improvement in collaboration with GASP and CROWD

In April 2026, Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) reviewed an application from the gas company EQT to install a Tri-ethylene glycol (TEG) dehydrator, reboiler, and enclosed combustor at the Leto Well Pad in West Deer, Pennsylvania. A dehydrator is a device that absorbs water vapor by adding a liquid absorbent (e.g., desiccant, ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, or triethylene glycol) directly to a gas stream. If approved as proposed, the Leto Well Pad would have had the potential to emit 67.4 tons of toxic air pollutants, as well as 8,849 tons of greenhouse gases, annually.

EHP utilized our HYSPLIT emissions dispersion modeling tool (described in more detail on page 2) to map out where airborne pollutants would travel after being emitted from the Leto Well Pad. Using data from May 1, 2023 to May 1, 2024, we modeled how wind patterns, topography, temperature, and other geographic factors would impact where pollution from the well pad would be expected to disperse on average over the course of a year. Based on the analysis, most of the emissions would be expected to stay within approximately one-third of a mile from the well pad, but community members living as far as 5.5 miles from the site would likely be exposed to emissions from the facility.

Our analysis noted that there are 13 schools within five miles of the facility, where children, who are more vulnerable to pollution exposures than adults, spend approximately 1,000 hours per year. We also determined that rates of chronic health conditions are already elevated in this area. For example, nine percent of the population within 5 miles of the facility have received a non-skin cancer diagnosis (close to 1 in 11 people), which is worse than 78 percent of Pennsylvania communities.

Based on our analysis, combined with the dozens of epidemiological studies about the health consequences for people living in proximity to shale gas development, EHP recommended the inclusion of better health protective technology, such as desiccant dehydrators, as well as an evaluation of EQT's readiness to operate the facility safely, such as establishing a cohesive emergency response plan focused on community safety.

In collaboration with legal experts at Group Against Smog & Pollution (GASP) and community advocates with Concerned Residents of West Deer (CROWD), we were successful in our advocacy for public health protections at this facility. As a result, ACHD required 98% (instead of the originally proposed 95%) of flaring emissions be controlled. According to GASP's analysis, this change will prevent more than a ton of health-harming pollution from being emitted from this facility every year. Because trace amounts of these pollutants can increase health risks for nearby communities, this emissions reduction is a notable public health win.

Brookfield Compressor Station comment and resulting permitting process improvement

In January 2026, the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) reviewed a proposal to expand the Brookfield Compressor Station in Connecticut. As part of the No Pipeline Expansion Northeast (NOPE NE) Coalition, EHP recommended that the DEEP reject the permit application and grant an adjudicatory hearing to ensure transparency and adequate information about these permit applications and the proposed project for Brookfield community members.

In a significant win for the community, Brookfield was granted an adjudicatory hearing that will take place in spring 2027. This step is critical for allowing meaningful public participation in the permitting process. There has been a large amount of public interest and engagement regarding this project, and an adjudicatory hearing is warranted to ensure that the public receives the transparency and information they deserve.





Left: Field Manager Talor Musil speaks at the Constitution Pipeline Public Meeting in August 2026. Right: Public Health Analyst Jackson Zeiler presents to a community meeting remotely.

Pennsylvania votes to study the Protective Buffers Coalition's citizens' petition for increased setbacks

Pennsylvania's current legal setback distances for fracking wells maintain a buffer zone of 500 feet from buildings and 1,000 feet from water supply extraction points. Dozens of scientific studies indicate that the current setback distance in Pennsylvania is insufficient to protect public health and the environment from the dangers of fracking. Therefore, The Protective Buffers PA coalition, composed of environmental and public health organizations, including EHP, petitioned Pennsylvania's Environmental Quality Board (EQB) to increase these setback distances from homes, schools, hospitals, and any surface water based on the available public health research.

In December 2025, members of the EQB voted to accept the petition for further study by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). In February 2026, the DEP announced that they would review the petition throughout 2026 and release their recommendations for next steps by the end of the year.

To raise awareness about the importance of setback distances, EHP collaborated with partner organizations to produce a zine featuring personal narratives from community members across Pennsylvania who are currently living with the health consequences of shale gas development in proximity to their homes. On October 7, participants in the Protective Buffers PA campaign gathered at the Capitol Rotunda in Harrisburg to share their stories and to remind the DEP and Governor Shapiro why Pennsylvania needs increased drilling setback distances.




REBECCA

700 feet from the Benedikt K Well Pad

"There has to be a Statewide policy. You can't trust these rural towns to implement appropriate buffer zones . . . I think that in a perfect world there's a state or federal policy that regulates how close you can be to somebody's house when you do things."

Rebecca — a wife, mother, and a certified tracker — moved to Northeastern Pennsylvania in 2021 to find the peace and quiet that would allow her husband, a service-disabled veteran, to heal. She runs a homestead while working as the air monitoring and research coordinator for Physicians for Social Responsibility - PA. When they first arrived, they ran a ferret sanctuary. They've since shut the sanctuary down, because the ferrets began succumbing to respiratory issues and cancers, living shorter lives than they had at Rebecca's previous home in Delaware.

"Unfortunately being very rural means that they can frack in your yard."

Since the home was purchased with a Veterans Administration (VA) loan which required testing of the private water well, Rebecca thought her new home would have clean drinking water. After the well pad was drilled and fracked, the taps in their home began to sputter. The family developed skin rashes. Taking a shower caused lightheadedness. With the well pad so close, Rebecca wondered if their water was flammable. It was.

Rashes developed after drilling began.

The well pads are in close proximity to Rebecca's children's school.

The water test for the VA home loan hadn't looked for fracking contaminants. After searching for answers from Coterra (who was responsible for contaminating private water wells in Dimock, PA when they operated under the name Cabot) and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Rebecca found that the water in their home contained methane as shown by testing from 2014. Over the years, the water had become more contaminated. The family, in spite of their best efforts and support from the VA, had bought a home with bad water.

Living in a home without drinkable water adds difficulty to an already busy life. A rain catchment system provides purified water for the farm during the summer months. The winter time is hard. Rebecca hauls all of the water for the homestead's livestock in five gallon jugs. Local stores sometimes run out of water jugs.

Rebecca's children have a time limit for showers because the hot water releases more methane. The washing machine only runs when the kids are at school because it causes a buildup of methane. The attic is off limits to the kids because methane rises and collects. She's also had to teach them how to check the air quality before they go outside to play due to emissions from truck traffic and the pad next door.

"As a mom it's really, really, really scary to think about your kids breathing [radioactive dust from fracking] all the time."

The impact on Rebecca's husband's mental health as he recovers from post-traumatic stress disorder and a traumatic brain injury has resulted in hospitalizations from the stress of workers trespassing on their property and constant vibration during drilling. Rebecca moved to Montrose for a quiet rural life that was taken away by fracking too close to home.

Left: Appalachia Project Coordinator Santosh Muralidaran holds a sign inside the Capitol Rotunda. Right: A frontline resident story featured in the Protective Buffers zine.

HealthWatch

EHP's Environmental HealthWatch Model (HealthWatch) helps communities better understand the local health impacts of shale gas development. Through analysis of their air quality data and local health risk factors, HealthWatch equips communities with information they need to better protect their health. Over a multi-year engagement that includes air quality monitoring and analysis, participating communities learn how to reduce their exposure to harmful pollution and how to more effectively advocate for health protections by engaging elected officials, regulators, and site operators.

EHP promotes public health protections near facilities of concern, prioritizing efforts that are relevant to each community's goals. In partnership with community groups in each area, we train residents to install low-cost air monitors and to interpret the data they collect. These skill-building and train-the-trainer efforts enable communities to apply insights about local pollution trends toward local advocacy so they can more effectively support their own goals. Learn more about the communities supported by our HealthWatch program below.

2026 Northeast HealthWatch Cohort launched successfully

In summer 2026, EHP launched three new HealthWatch projects across New Jersey and New York State. EHP is engaging community-based organizations to measure local air quality trends near compressor stations in Wright, New York and Franklin, New Jersey, as well as a liquified natural gas (LNG) processing facility in Brooklyn, New York City.



Air monitoring and public health data from these areas will be used in tailored advocacy efforts to hold operators accountable for pollution and to push back against the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure in the northeast.

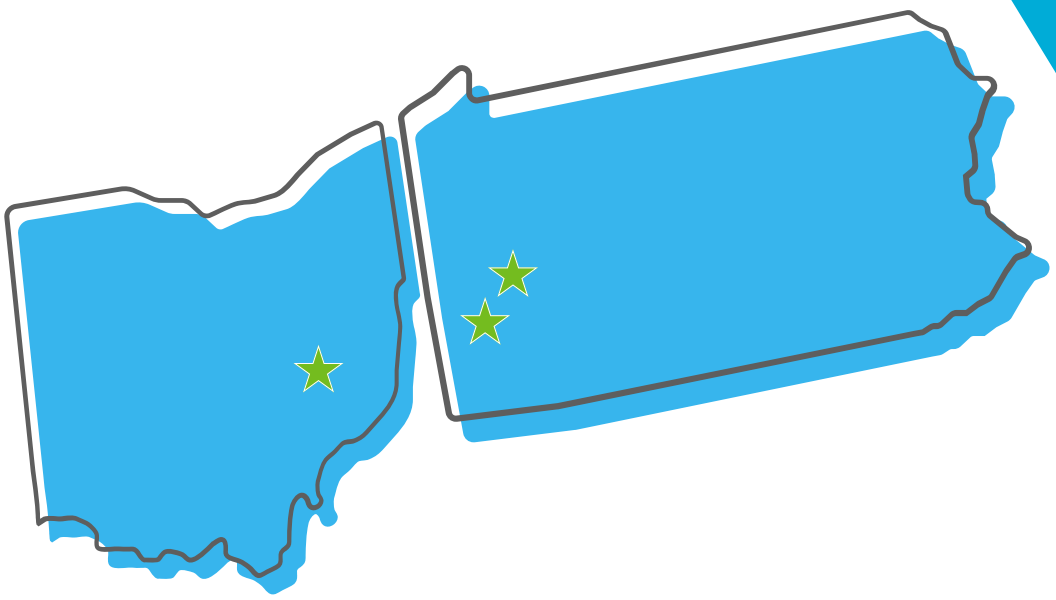


A sign marks a proposed pipeline route in upstate New York.

While community goals will evolve based on the air monitoring results and site fight circumstances (e.g., legal decisions regarding facility expansion proposals), each of the Northeast HealthWatch projects has clear objectives.

Air monitoring in Wright, New York is intended to convey how an existing compressor station impacts local air quality and to be used as an organizing tool to engage community members in the Stop the Con campaign. A rejection of the multi-state Constitution Pipeline proposal will prevent a sizable expansion of the Wright Compressor Station. The first community meeting hosted by Waterfall Unity Alliance and EHP in Schoharie County took place in August 2026, and more than 120 people attended.

Franklin, New Jersey and Brooklyn, New York are similarly seeking to use community air monitoring as a means of increasing community engagement in their campaigns to oppose fossil fuel infrastructure. Advocates in New Jersey who formed the community-based group Central Jersey Eyes on Air want to stop plans for the construction of a compressor station along the legally-contested Northeast Supply Enhancement (NESE) Pipeline. Should the compressor station proposal move forward against community wishes, residents will use their air monitoring data as a baseline for comparison to articulate changes to air quality after the facility begins operations. In Brooklyn, New York, EHP is supporting Sane Energy Project to use air monitoring to support the decommissioning of an old LNG facility as part of a transition to renewable energy sources.



2025 Northern Appalachia HealthWatch Cohort in full swing
EHP will continue to support our most recent Appalachia HealthWatch cohort through 2028. This cohort includes two Allegheny County communities and one community near Salt Fork State Park in Ohio that are monitoring the air quality near fracking well pads and gas compressor stations in various stages of development. EHP provided data analysis and health education to local community organizers and affected community members to inform their advocacy for health protections. So far, EHP has generated three quarterly air quality reports and led one community meeting introducing the project.

In all three communities, our HealthWatch collaborators are using air quality data and EHP health resources to educate their neighbors on the risks of shale gas development. For example, EHP supported Concerned Residents of West Deer (CROWD) with their engagement in the public comment period regarding the Leto Well Pad glycol dehydrator permit and communicating with local public health officials about a chemical spill on the well pad. Collaborative efforts led to an increased emissions control requirement on flaring pollution at the site.



2024 New York HealthWatch final reports completed and distributed to communities

During the summer 2024, EHP launched a HealthWatch cohort in New York State. EHP continues to support these communities through the remainder of this three-year program with ongoing data analysis and technical assistance in their advocacy efforts to slow, stop, and prevent pollution.

The community-based organization, Seneca Lake Guardian, and volunteer citizen scientists in Seneca Falls and Waterloo, New York installed air monitors near a large landfill and "gas-to-energy" facility. Information from their monitoring network helped community members living near the site to understand their exposure to fine particulate matter and VOCs. While this project was not designed to measure the signature pollution from landfills (e.g., methane emissions, hydrogen sulfide), it complements other monitoring projects that did measure those pollutants and provided recommendations to neighbors to reduce their exposure to pollution.

Volunteers living in and near Clymer, New York monitored air quality near a compressor station to gather more information about trends in local air pollution and identify pollution spikes. As expected, short-term episodic exposures to pollution have been identified since data collection began in 2024. The volunteers' initial goal was information gathering before formulating an advocacy strategy, and EHP is on hand to support with communications efforts, taking our lead from the community as they direct our next steps.

AirSense

AirSense is a collaboration between EHP and Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community (BCMAC) to understand local air quality trends in Beaver County. This collaboration makes use of three approaches:

- real-time air quality data shared with the public from five high-quality stationary air monitors (measuring $PM_{2.5}$, VOCs, NO_X, and ozone) placed throughout Beaver County,
- a mobile air monitor that measures 1,3 butadiene and benzene and provides real-time data results, and
- a biostudy that will shape a risk assessment for the area.

Since AirSense began in October 2024, EHP has created and presented seven air quality reports that are publicly available on BCMAC's website. These results have been used as an educational tool for both community members impacted by air pollution and regulators working to control emissions from industrial facilities. For example, community members have used the data to correlate elevations in pollution readings with health symptoms, and the staff at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection have conducted further sampling at sources of unexpected emissions identified by AirSense monitors. AirSense's success was recognized by Governor Shapiro as a recipient of the Governor's Award of Environmental Excellence.



Communicating the Health Risks of Shale Gas Development

We are committed to making timely, expert-evaluated information about the health risks of shale gas development accessible to community members, health professionals, advocates, and policymakers. In an effort to reach audiences that may not be aware of the ways in which shale gas infrastructure intersects with their personal interests and daily experiences, we tailor our content to specific interests and concerns. For example, this year, we developed blog posts that address the unique health concerns of pets exposed to toxics, information for homebuyers who may not be able to locate existing and planned fracking infrastructure and understand how it might impact their home, and the health consequences of data centers.

To make the most current information widely accessible, we regularly publish fact sheets and public statements on relevant issues. Every month, EHP circulates a newsletter with relevant updates and usable content to over 5,000 recipients. Plus, EHP shares a quarterly Health Care Professionals Newsletter featuring the latest research and resources to more than 500 health professionals across the country. We engage the media with press releases, media advisories, interviews, and even live press events. Also, we regularly publish letters to the editor, guest columns, and op-eds in local papers, focusing on the newsworthy developments that are important to local community members. Beyond print media, EHP engages more than 6,000 followers on Facebook, Instagram, Bluesky, LinkedIn, and Vimeo.

14 Media Quotes/ Mentions

12 Public Statements and Comments to Government Officials

10 In-Depth Blog Posts

9 Interviews

2 New Fact Sheets

6 Published Opinion Pieces

Data Centers: An Emerging Threat

Hyperscale data centers are being proposed and developed at an alarming rate, but the health and environmental impacts posed by these facilities are inspiring communities to organize. EHP is uniquely positioned at the forefront of conversations about the data center boom in Pennsylvania and beyond because of data centers' deep connection with gas development for the requisite power. Leveraging our expertise in the health impacts of shale gas facilities, we have constructed a range of resources to raise awareness and to provide vital information to community members, partner organizations, health professionals, and decision makers.

Blog post: The Dangers of Data Centers

One of our earliest resources on the subject of gas-fired hyperscale data centers has also been the most viewed. This comprehensive resource addresses the greatest impacts posed by data centers, including:

- Noise Pollution,
- Light Pollution,
- Air Pollution,
- Water Waste, and
- Cost Increases for Home Energy Consumers.

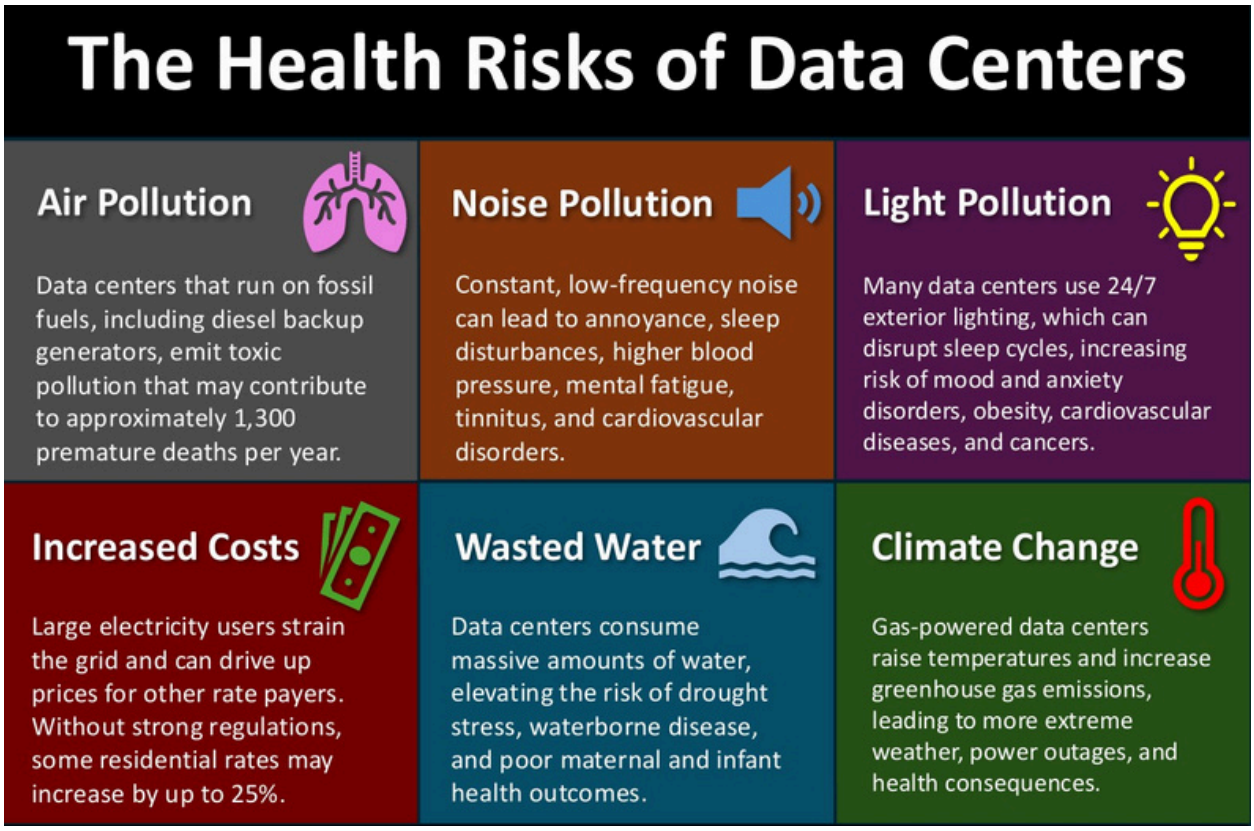
This blog also calls out additional risks to communities of color, which are disproportionately targeted for shale gas development. Circulating this information on social media, newsletters, and among partner organizations, has resulted in more than 150,000 views.



The roof of a data center covered with cooling towers and backup generators. Public Domain.

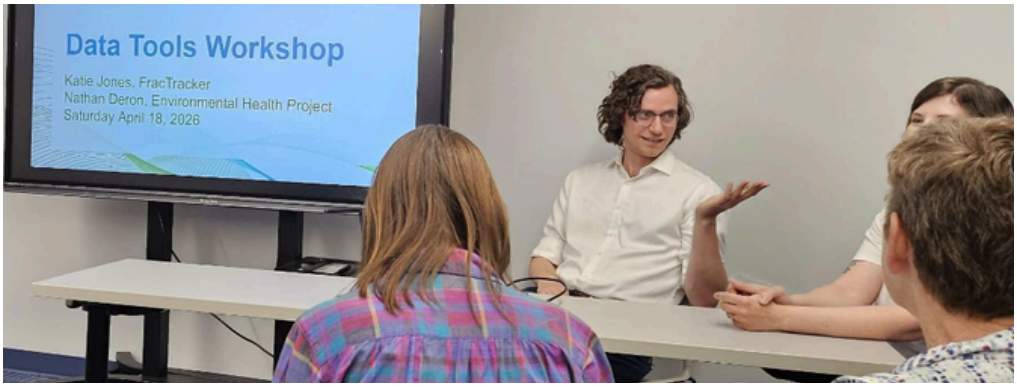
Infographic: [The Health Risks of Data Centers]

A range of complex studies about the health consequences of data centers are organized into discernable categories of potential impacts, making this information more accessible to concerned community members and advocates. Clickable links within the infographic lead audiences to scientific studies and industry analyses so users can learn more about the risks posed by data centers, including air, noise, and light pollution, plus increases in electric costs, water use, and contributions to climate change.



Community Engagement: Advocacy Workshops
Our team has participated in several events to help frontline communities and advocates build relevant skills for community level action. For example, Program Manager Nathan Deron led a workshop about modeling air pollution and how to use data tools to inform frontline communities and to support advocacy efforts. Plus, Communications Manager EJ Pavlinich hosted a workshop about social media campaigns for effective calls to action and coalition building.

Drawing on our experiences working with these advocates, we compiled best practices, resources, and personal narratives documenting the means by which concerned residents can advocate for themselves and advance health protective ordinances in their own communities. The resulting blog post, Strategies from the Front Lines: How Communities Fight Data Centers, follows the experiences of one resident, Matt Lang, as he addresses data center developments in his hometown, Springdale, Pennsylvania, interspersed with tips and resources to support other concerned community members challenging data centers in their own towns. This post is essentially a blueprint for organizers concerned about data centers.



Above: Program Manager Nathan Deron presents at a Data Center Summit in April. Below: Communications Manager EJ Pavlinich delivers the keynote address at a Data Center Summit in October.



Calls for Government Action and Industry Accountability
In addition to empowering frontline residents to more effectively advocate for themselves, EHP is actively pushing for stronger, health-protective actions from the top down. In response to a very friendly environment for gas developers in light of the data center boom, EHP issued a public statement, calling on Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro to acknowledge the known health harms tied to fossil fuels and lend his support to renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar, during this watershed moment for Pennsylvania.

EHP has made additional calls for government and industry officials alike to recognize the connection between data center growth and increased gas development, as well as the lack of community voices and environmental health experts at the table when decisions are made. Executive Director, Alison L. Steele, has appeared in multiple venues encouraging community members and leaders to learn from the mistakes of Pennsylvania's fracking boom before getting too far down the path of a hyperscale data center boom.



Executive Director Alison L. Steele speaks outside the AI Horizons Summit in Pittsburgh on September 17, 2026.



Media Appearances
As a result of these publications, EHP experts have been sought out for interviews on the topic of data centers and cited in the context of local decision-making regarding future data center developments.

The team has provided a total of 8 interviews in the last year about the health consequences of data centers, including:

- Records reveal sprawling data center and power plant plans for Elizabeth Township
- Data center boom comes with steep health and climate costs
- What happens when a data center is built near a school?
- Protecting Communities with Accessible Science
- Environmental Impacts of Data Centers
- When AI comes to town: Data centers risk huge changes
- Hyperscale data center recently approved in Allegheny County despite pushback
- Data Center Health Worries Animate Midterm Campaigns - KFF Health News

Pictured Above: Executive Director Alison L. Steele speaks with a local news crew at the Gas Data Centers are a Losing Bet: Rally for PA Residents on March 27, 2026.

Local Win

EHP's February blog post, The Dangers of Data Centers, was cited as evidence supporting an ordinance put forth by Allegheny County Council. The council President Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis, along with supporting council members, drafted the measure in response to growing concerns about electricity costs and the strain on the regional electricity grid that would be introduced by data centers. The ordinance prohibits building, operating, or establishing a data center, or associated infrastructure (such as generators, utility lines, and water-holding facilities) for a data center, on county-owned property. On September 22, Allegheny County Council unanimously approved the ordinance banning large data centers on county property.

The legislation, amending and supplementing Part 7 of the Administrative Code of Allegheny County, entitled "Properties," through the creation of a new Article 707, reads:

> WHEREAS, the Environmental Health Project also highlights concerns about large data centers' emission of noise pollution, light pollution, air pollution (which can include nitrogen oxides, methane, volatile organic compounds, and fine particulate matter), and impact upon energy costs for homeowners
>
> (Pavlinich, The Dangers of Data Centers, www.environmentalhealthproject.org, February 27, 2026)

EHP is honored to have been cited by these policymakers regarding an ordinance that protects public health and provides our community members with peace of mind despite the escalating concerns about data centers. We intend to sustain this momentum in the coming year to support people affected by similar gas-powered facilities.



The EHP Team from left to right: Santosh Muralidaran, Sanjana Parmar, Talor Musil, Sarra Bridges, Jackson Zeiler, Alison Steele, Nathan Deron, Aimee Mantell, Patrick Dooling, Angela Goldberg, EJ Pavlinich, and Jo Resciniti



Welcome to Our Team:

Aimee Mantell, MPH, MS

Appalachia Project Coordinator

Aimee Mantell received her BA in psychology from American University in Washington, D.C. and her MS in Forensic Medicine at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. During her graduate program, she worked in the Gross Anatomy Lab and interned at the coroner's office in Montgomery County, PA. She received her MPH from Ohio University with a Certificate in Epidemiology. During her time at Ohio University, she studied the public health and safety impacts of abandoned oil and gas wells and completed a fellowship at the Ohio River Valley Institute.

Prior to working at EHP, Aimee worked as a survivor advocate with individuals and families affected by crime at Delaware County Victim Assistance Center in PA, as a medical-legal program paralegal at Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. in Delaware, and as a research coordinator at the University of Pittsburgh's Clinical and Translational Science Institute.

Cover Image: Northeast Project Coordinator Sarra Bridges shares resources at a community meeting.

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Top left: Appalachia Project Coordinator Santosh Muralidaran provides resources to a resident during an Ask an Advocate event at a local library. **Top right**: Communications Manager EJ Pavlinich stands by the river in front of the Shell Ethane Cracker in Beaver County, PA. **Bottom left**: The Shell Ethane Cracker flares at night. **Bottom right**: Alison L. Steele, Talor Musil, and Sarra Bridges stand in front of EHP's table of resources at the 2026 Shale Gas and Public Health Conference at Duquesne University.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROJECT

DEFENDING PUBLIC HEALTH SINCE 2012

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