



PO BOX 4023
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2022 YEAR IN REVIEW



www.centerforcoalfieldjustice.org



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DEAR FRIEND,



For the first time since 2020, we were able to engage more directly with our community - and our engagement with residents in Washington and Greene Counties has more than doubled. It is not surprising to see more people getting involved as in this past year we have seen over 10,000 acres of new coal mine expansions, the impacts of inflation being used as a political ploy to double down on fossil fuel extraction while ignoring the role of corporate greed, and record levels of public money being allocated from the government that may or may not address the climate crisis.

As a result of our growing interest from communities seeking CCJ for support and leadership investment, our organization has gone through significant growth. We added six new full time staff, hosted four fellows, and held our first ever paid canvass. These positions will add to our ability to organize in Washington and Greene Counties while also coordinating events, making our social media presence more robust, managing our databases and making it easier to take action, and tracking policies that impact our communities. This ensures that as the impacts of environmental and economic injustice increase in our region, we will have the capacity to reach new people, answer folks' questions, and mobilize Pennsylvanians to hold decision makers accountable.

The Center for Coalfield Justice gets its power from the people like you being part of the organization. Monitoring for pollution in your towns, sharing your concerns with your legislators, and letting your neighbors know they are not alone – these actions add up, and we are grateful to be in community and solidarity with you. Please include CCJ in your year end giving with a donation to support our work in 2023.

Your donations and memberships will allow us to continue holding our government and fossil fuel industry accountable. Your donation will protect our constitutional rights to clean water and clean air. Your donation will invest in the leadership of poor and working class communities to strengthen our local economies. Next year we are excited to take the organization's power to the next level, and we can only do that with your support.

Happy Holidays,

Veronica J Coptis

Veronica and the whole team at CCJ!

4 For me, working at CCJ means community! I am thrilled to be able to work alongside my peers and neighbors. CCJ has shown me that joining forces with others in my community can create a great change for our future. I am very proud of our home, our accomplishments, and the future our community is working towards.

- LOVELL JOHNSON, OPERATIONS MANAGER



OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

COAL MINING

- We continued monitoring the Tunnel Ridge Mine in western Washington County, working with residents one-on-one to make sure they know how to protect themselves.
- Kids Fishing Day at Dutch Fork Lake was a success yet again, with over 50 families showing up to use the lake and learn how to protect it from future coal mining.
- Consol's Bailey Mine Complex underwent a huge permitting expansion. We sent over 1,000 postcards and hosted a know-your-rights training that over 30 people attended.
- Our 16th Annual DRYerson Festival brought over 80 people to Ryerson Station State Park, and this year they got to see the new pool complex that was finally completed after years of community engagement led by CCJ.

FRACKING & PETROCHEMICALS

- CCJ led the campaign for transparency and accountability with the PA Department of Health's study on impacts of oil and gas operations. When the University of Pittsburgh and Department backed out of the community meeting at the last minute, CCJ and partners ensured residents' concerns were heard in a meeting with over 100 people attending.
- Our team helped residents in New Freeport, Greene County file complaints and get their water tested after a fracking pollution event occurred. Because the PA Department of Environmental Protection's investigation is still underway and impacted residents do not have safe water, we organized a water drive to support residents.
- Organizers worked with residents in Union township to pack the room for a supervisors meeting, delaying the vote on a new super well pad. While the pad was ultimately permitted, we worked with concerned residents and installed over a half dozen air monitors to start collecting baseline air quality data.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

- CCJ created a toolkit to help local government officials learn about new federal and state funding programs as a result of the many infrastructure bills that were passed, such as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. We hosted a webinar on this information and continue to work with local leaders to access available funding.
- We held our annual Seed Swap and now-annual Harvest Festival to highlight the importance of growing your own food for sustainability and economic stability.

DEMOCRACY

- Our first-ever paid canvassers knocked on over 600 doors and surveyed over 70 people about the role of corporate money in politics – almost all of whom agree that we need to get that money out of politics.
- CCJ mobilized residents to prevent weakening environmental regulations at the federal level. We worked with allies across the country to Stop the Dirty Deal, sending about a dozen members to Washington DC to make their voices heard.

PARTNERSHIPS

- We've continued to take the issues and perspectives of Greene and Washington Counties to the state and federal movement for environmental and economic justice through participation and leadership in numerous coalitions: PA Climate Equity Table, Choose Clean Energy Table, People Over Petro Coalition, Break Free From Plastic, PAYBAC, Thriving PA, Climate Justice Alliance, Center for Popular Democracy, and Alliance for Appalachia.
- We love talking to members about the work we do in partnerships with others across the state, region, and country, and so we encourage anyone who is interested to reach out!



CCJ provides a platform where my coworkers and I can work with our community members to help find pathways where so many have built hurdles. Be it economic justice to environmental justice; I know this team will give everything they have to do what is right for all people in Southwest Pennsylvania.

~ ETHAN STORY, STAFF ATTORNEY



CCJ works to make our community better for ALL of us, by connecting us to one another and to the issues and policies that influence our lives and the place we call home. CCJ is doing vital work that no one else is doing here, and that so many rural communities like ours need. The impacts of CCJ's commitment to our community and to justice resonate well beyond our county lines

and are truly shifting power. CCJ works to elevate our community and all others who are united in a vision of a more just and healthier, greener future.

- LEANN LEITER (WASHINGTON, PA)



BY THE NUMBERS



-  **Blogs Posted: 31**
-  **People Reached on Social Media: over 150,000**
-  **Earned Media: 70**
-  **Letter Sent to Decision Makers: 510**
-  **Events Hosted: 33**
-  **New Member/Supporters: 775**
-  **Public Comments Submitted: 9**

There are not many times in life that you hear the call of a cause worth fighting for. CCJ's mission and vision calls to action the power of people and community to advocate for meaningful, systemic change. Their sound has stuck with me for nearly seven years and their impact on my life will be everlasting.

- CHRIS THOMAS (GREW UP IN GREENE COUNTY)