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2024 / YEAR IN REVIEW



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DEAR FRIEND,



At the beginning of 2024, Team CCJ sat down to plan our year, and we decided it would be a year of high expectations. We wanted to be able to look back on our year and say that we did our very best: that we tackled big problems, that we stood up for our values, that we created space for community, and that we showed up for each other. As Director, it fills me with so much pride to be able to say that we did just that.

Nothing showcases the way our team has grown better than our response to the fire at the Omnis Bailey facility in Greene County in May of this year. From when we first got word of the fire — just before 7:00 AM — team members mobilized in a big way to track ongoing developments and find ways to keep our community informed of what we were hearing, while simultaneously pushing for transparency from state officials and the companies involved. To this day, we're still pursuing answers about the cause of the fire and highlighting the ways that the response to the incident was inadequate. That's one thing I love most about CCJ: we don't give up, even when the work is hard or we encounter obstacles that are challenging to overcome.



As we move into 2025, we know that the landscape in which we do our work is going to change: the next four years are going to look different from the past four years, no matter what you think of the incoming administration. What will not change is that CCJ will be here, fighting for Greene and Washington Counties, raising up the concerns and experiences of the people who call the places we love home.

Wishing you and yours a safe, loving, and healthy holiday season.

Sarah Martik
Sarah Martik, Executive Director

DONATE TO CCJ TODAY



“CCJ has been keeping our small community together throughout these past few years. They have been holding meetings, running a water drive, and even hosting Halloween parties. Whenever anything comes up unexpectedly with our water issues or any fracking concerns, they are always there.”

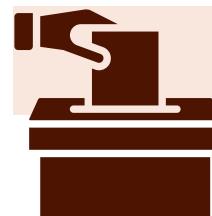
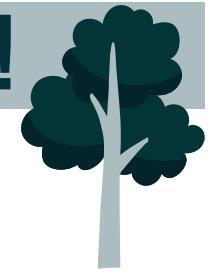
TAMMY YODERS, NEW FREEPORT RESIDENT



2024 HIGHLIGHTS

WE PROTECTED MINGO CREEK COUNTY PARK!

After ten years working together with Protectors of Mingo and local residents, CCJ defeated the Ramaco No. 1 mine and prevented harmful impacts to Mingo Park, the community's lands, and the nearby waterways. Together, we showed that when we stand up for our communities, we can create real change and preserve the beauty and health of our region for generations to come.



WE FOUGHT FOR VOTING RIGHTS AND WON!

When the Washington County Board of Elections decided to stop providing notice to mail-in voters who made simple mistakes on their ballots, CCJ joined forces with NAACP Washington Branch, ACLU, and Public Interest Law Center to challenge the policy. The fight went all the way to the PA Supreme Court, where the policy was ruled unconstitutional and dozens of voters had their votes counted.

WE WON STRONGER FRACKING PROTECTIONS!

CCJ worked with residents in Cecil Township to organize their neighbors, pressure lawmakers, and win an ordinance that establishes 2,500-foot setbacks from homes to new oil and gas infrastructure in the township. CCJ is extremely proud and excited to celebrate this win with community members and hope that municipalities across the state will follow Cecil's lead and work together to push for similar protections.



WE OPPOSED UNLIMITED MONEY IN POLITICS!



CCJ educated residents about the unchecked influence of billionaires on Pennsylvania's politics. We knocked on over 5,000 doors to discuss how money in politics affects them and held a pair of trainings where we dug in deeper on the issues. Our team also joined the PAYBAC Coalition in Harrisburg for a rally to protect public education against privatization efforts funded by wealthy donors.

WE KEPT ADVOCATING FOR NEW FREEPORT!



CCJ continued holding regular meetings in New Freeport to keep residents engaged in our work and help them advocate for themselves and each other. We obtained an emergency grant that allowed us to resume periodically dropping off water to folks who have been without reliable clean water since 2022. The people of New Freeport also came together to file a class action lawsuit as part of their ongoing fight for justice and accountability.



WE HOSTED COAL MINING INFO SESSIONS!

CCJ hosted a pair of Know-Your-Rights events in Claysville and Aleppo this year that were packed with residents living near coal mine expansion projects. We presented information about longwall mining and answered questions about people's property rights. Now, many more folks in the community are better situated to face and navigate the challenges of being undermined.

WE ENGAGED WITH MEDIA MORE THAN EVER!



CCJ doubled our media coverage this year and disseminated a Reporters' Guide to Fracked Gas and Petrochemicals to help journalists better understand how their coverage can reflect the realities of impacted communities like ours.

This year, CCJ had so many amazing accomplishments that we're incredibly proud of. You can help support our work in Washington and Greene Counties by donating or becoming a member today. Scan the QR code or visit centerforcoalfieldjustice.org to learn more!



BY THE NUMBERS

330,000 social media impressions

35,000 website views

7,500 doors knocked

3,760 letters sent to lawmakers

750 canvassing conversations

570 event attendees

45 blog posts

23 air monitors installed



"Without the help from CCJ, I am certain that we would now be living next to an operating deep-shaft coal mine. It was through CCJ's guidance of our group's efforts, their expert understanding of the situation, their access to resources, and their monitoring of DEP communications that we were able to stop this industry from destroying our community."

MARY ANN PIKE, PROTECTORS OF MINGO ORGANIZER