

## CLIMATE CHANGE OUTREACH ROUNDTABLE

Friday, July 24th, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum  
8601 Lindbergh Blvd, Philadelphia, PA

### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Name	Organization
Ed Morgereth	Biohabitats, Inc.
Beth Burnam	Brandywine Conservancy
Saleem Chapman	Clean Air Council
Michael Leff	Davey Institute/USFS
Brian Vadine	Delaware Co. Conservation District
Karen Holm	Delaware County Planning Department
Mike Rominger	Delaware Interfaith Power and Light
Chad Tolman	Delaware Interfaith Power and Light
Erika Furlong	Delaware Nature Society
Melissa Andrews	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Kevin Burke	Forest Service
Sarah Lowe	Forest Service
Simeon Hahn	National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration
Bobbi Britton	Old Brandywine Village, Inc.
Ann Faulds	Pennsylvania Sea Grant
Sari Rothrock	Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
Lisa Wool	Partnership for the Delaware Estuary
Richard Johnson	The Franklin Institute
Julie Ulrich	The Nature Conservancy
Megan Mackey	US EPA Region 3
Jennifer de Mooy*	Delaware Division of Energy & Climate
Kelly Valencik*	Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve
Jenna Gatto*	Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve
Dorina Frizzera*	New Jersey DEP/Office of Science
Stacy Small-Lorenz*	National Wildlife Federation
Thomas Flynn*	The Nature Conservancy
Wendy Carey*	University of Delaware
Irene Purdy*	US EPA
Christine Hall*	USDA-NRCS

\*denotes webinar participant

**CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, AND RACIAL JUSTICE**- Saleem Chapman, Director of Policy & Strategy, Environmental Justice Program Manager, Clean Air Council

Please refer to the accompanying pdf document for Saleem's presentation. Brief notes:

- The EPA definition of Environmental Justice can be found here:  
<http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/basics/index.html>
- The Principles of Environmental Justice can be found here:  
<http://www.ejnet.org/ej/principles.pdf>
- Saleem walked the group through simulated sea level rise in the Eastwick neighborhood (the area around John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge, where the meeting took place). At three feet, Eastwick is under water.
- People of color and low-income communities are less responsible for climate change yet bear disproportionate risk:
  - Low income people are less likely to have access to heat-adaptive features.
  - Climate change impacts exacerbate existing disparities.
  - Sea level rise creates greater risk of displacement.
- To begin addressing issues:
  - The economic process needs to be inclusive.
  - We need to frame policy through the lens of environmental justice.
  - In order to succeed with resiliency planning, we need to work on the neighborhood scale.
    - We can only begin to address through authentic experience and interaction.
    - Local knowledge is powerful and important.

Q: How do you productively engage a community? Isn't everyone tired of listening sessions?

A: Don't come with a presentation- talk with people. Try to address needs through amenities—instead of talking about how green space could help with flooding issues, consider talking about how a green space could be a neighborhood park (that also could address some flooding issues). Think about the best way to get information from both reserved and outgoing people.

Q: How do you balance the need between what you have to do with a grant and the relationship-building you need to do to truly make a project worthwhile?

A: There needs to be a shift so that funders understand that this work is needed, and that having these relationships makes it easier to get the work done. (Funders may be moving in this direction.)

Q: How important is it within projects to connect people to the environment?

A: Practitioners should try to make sure that they are not forcing a viewpoint, not forcing a community to agree to something when it's not the community's priority. There is difficulty around communication about climate change because practitioners need to do a better job of relating climate change and its impacts to the human experience.

Q: How do we move the conversation forward?

A: Within our organizations and work, we should write neighborhood work into grants and grant proposals. Within this Roundtable- for now, having groups report out on climate change outreach with environmental justice communities. Engage more

speakers on environmental justice and racial justice in the future. Incorporate environmental justice into the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (PDE)'s [Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan](#) (CCMP). (Note: PDE's [five year strategic plan](#) has goals that include working with environmentally-vulnerable communities as well as along urban waterfronts). On the policy forefront, we should engage with people who could help to update tax code. Tax policy has changed landscape preservation, and updating the tax code could also produce important changes for justice issues.

## **WEATHERING CHANGE 2.0** – *Sari Rothrock, Watershed Planning Specialist, PDE*

PDE is updating its Weathering Change program and is looking for feedback. Please refer to the accompanying pdf document for Sari's presentation. Basic summary is below:

- The climate outreach roundtable was created to get feedback on developing a version of our Climate Change and the Delaware Estuary report that would be appealing to municipal officials and community leaders
- After the creation of 'Weathering Change,' the resulting booklet, PDE created a statement for municipalities to sign on to that encouraged them to begin thinking about how their community can adapt to climate impacts
- While we have had success with the 'Weathering Change' program, it has been difficult to achieve municipal sign-on without building significant relationships within a given community and leveraging those relationships to achieve the sign-on.
- PDE is proposing a program update to Weathering Change.
  - Instead of asking a community to sign on to the statement, communities that have implemented some type of climate adaptation-related project or initiative will be identified and recognized.
    - These communities will become Weathering Change communities, and their projects will be featured in case studies in Estuary News, added to the PDE website, and promoted using social media. These communities will be eligible for future collaborations with PDE.
  - The new iteration of the program will make it easier to get communities involved.
  - The program will produce a wealth of case studies for municipal climate adaptation that can serve as a reference on the PDE website.
    - Case studies can be used as the basis for outreach pieces geared toward decision-makers, similar to the way such case studies were used in the Agricultural Guide.
- In the future, the hope is for the Weathering Change program to emulate certain aspects of the Schuylkill Action Network's relationship to Schuylkill Action Students: identifying opportunities for on-the-ground projects, working with key contacts at the proposed project site, helping to write and receive a grant, and then helping to implement the project.

Feedback:

- Recognize politicians

- Consider engaging the Georgetown Climate Center to review ordinances.
- Fit in with regional plan for the estuary to help with funding. Consider separating by regions because impacts will differ depending on your region.
- Recognize the neighborhood, not just the municipality.
- Potentially link up with other programs to provide multiple benefits in the future— if they can get credits toward a program, like MS4, it will be more compelling

## **ROUNDTABLE**

Participants are invited to share their organization's current climate change outreach efforts.

### **Delaware Interfaith Power and Light**

Delaware Interfaith Power and Light (DEIPL) is engaged in several major outreach efforts regarding climate change:

- *The Green Empowerment Program* in the City of Wilmington
  - This is DEIPL's signature initiative to achieve its mission. It is specifically, though not exclusively, targeted at low-income neighborhoods. Faith communities are engaged as Stewards of Creation to serve as demonstration sites and Learning Centers to educate members and the residents and businesses in adjoining neighborhoods on energy-related products, services, resources and behavior strategies.
- *Energy assessment program for homeowners* (sponsored by the Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility) which subsidizes home energy assessments and provides rebates for remedial actions. Funds provided by the proceeds from the northeast Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).
  - Promoting these via churches and the Osher Life Long Learning Institute in Wilmington
- *Energy assessment program for churches and businesses* conducted by the Mid-Atlantic Industrial Assessment Center at the University of Delaware
- *Working to establish an effective Heat Health Warning System in Delaware* similar to the one in Philadelphia. The Heat Health Warning System would have two main purposes:
  - To warn residents at risk (especially those who are elderly and poor and do not have air conditioning) when extremely hot and humid weather is expected
  - To inform residents at risk about what to do and where to seek refuge from the heat in churches or public buildings
- Using [Cooler Smarter](#), from the *Union of Concerned Scientists*, to help individuals reduce their family energy expenses and carbon emissions through reading/discussion/action groups.
  - This resource has practical ideas for how to reduce electricity use, space and water heating, transportation fuels, and the energy required for food production and transportation.
  - There is a Cooler Smarter group in New Castle County.

### **The Delaware League of Women Voters (LWVDE)**

- Chad Tolman is the group's Climate Chair

- Led an effort in 2006 at the national convention to elevate climate change to a high priority for the US League of Women Voters and formed a national Climate Change Task Force.
  - The Task Force posted a [Toolkit for Climate Action](#), which includes ideas and resources for understanding climate change and addressing mitigation and adaptation.
- In 2014 the LWVDE led a successful effort at the national convention to pass a resolution supporting an increasing price on carbon emissions to promote improving energy efficiency and making the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources
  - In 2015 the LWVDE approved a Delaware Price on Carbon (DEPOC) study
    - An eight-person study group (including a geologist from the CA league and an economics professor from Temple University) formed and has helped produce a list of proposed outreach activities. (For the list of outreach activities, please refer to Appendix B at the end of these notes.)
      - A geologist from the study group has created a [Price on Carbon](#) website which has been endorsed by the LWVUS
      - An economist from Temple University, also part of the study group, is a member of the PA [Citizens' Climate Lobby](#)

### **Partnership for the Delaware Estuary**

- Pennsylvania Coast Day will be held on Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. Please let us know if you would like to exhibit. More information can be found here: <http://delawareestuary.org/coast-day>
- PDE's annual Teacher Workshops are taking place Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup> – Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. For more information, click here: <http://delawareestuary.org/teacher-workshops>. Climate science and information about climate adaptation will be a part of most of the workshop days; with portions of the Friday session on the Delaware Bayshore focusing specifically on sea level rise and its impact on communities.
- Working with the Nature Conservancy on their Coastal Resilience work in New Jersey.

### **EPA Region 3**

- Check out EPA Region 3's website here: <http://www.epa.gov/reg3wapd/index.htm>

### **DE County Planning Department**

- May have the opportunity to incorporate the sustainability into the subdivision and land development ordinances.
- Currently working on a county hazard mitigation plan and they are incorporating climate change into the plan.
- In 2013, released the first county-wide plan. Recommended adding climate adaptation element to it.

### **DE County Conservation District**

- Works on water quality-related issues, including erosion and sediment control.

- Provides assistance and guidance to watershed groups.
- Works on riparian and stream improvement projects.
- More info here: <http://www.delcocd.org/>

### **Clean Air Council**

- Working in partnership with CUSP (see below)
- Funded 'overcoming psychological barriers to climate change.'
- More info here: <http://www.cleanair.org/>

### **CUSP**

- The Climate & Urban Systems Partnership (CUSP) is a group of informal science educators, climate scientists, and learning scientists in four Northeast U.S. cities (Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, New York City, and Washington, DC.), funded by the National Science Foundation to explore innovative ways to engage city residents in climate change issues. In Philadelphia, CUSP is comprised of a community of local stakeholders who share a passion for engaging residents in climate change issues and interact frequently to learn how to do so better. For more information, please visit [www.CUSPproject.org](http://www.CUSPproject.org), or email Richard Johnson at [rjohnson@fi.edu](mailto:rjohnson@fi.edu).
- In August, CUSP will launch a 6-week educational outreach campaign to get people talking about climate change and how they can prepare now to live well in a hotter/ wetter Philadelphia. The campaign will be primarily focused in Fishtown. It's called TheSweatuation.

### **DVRPC**

- Working with the City of Chester
- Focusing on green infrastructure
- More info here: <http://www.dvrpc.org/>

### **Forest Service**

- More info here: <http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/philadelphia/>

### **The Nature Conservancy**

- Coastal Resilience Work and the Restoration Explorer
- New Philadelphia urban conservation program. Smart siting, more visible energy use. Nature-based infrastructure. Contact Julie at [julrich@tnc.org](mailto:julrich@tnc.org) if you have thoughts!

### **NOAA**

- Recently put out climate resiliency grants and a climate outreach grant.

### **Biohabitats**

- Biohabitats does conservation planning, restoration, and management projects.
- Currently examining how to do projects better on the ground.
- Link to the blog: <http://www.biohabitats.com/category/blog/>

### **Delaware Nature Society**

- Erika Furlong is DNS's new advocacy fellow.

### **Pennsylvania Sea Grant**

- Working on climate resilience in Chester:
  - Will be designing a green infrastructure project.
    - Consultant CH2M Hill.
    - Reviewing top three locations.
  - Conducting outreach to surrounding upstream neighborhoods.

### **Adjourn**

## Appendix A

Speaker/Topic Suggestions for Future Roundtables:

Recommended Speaker/Topic	Nominator
Reggie Harris, Region 3 Environmental Justice Coordinator: continue EJ and racial justice discussion	Megan Mackey
Richard Johnson, Franklin Institute CUSP coordinator: introduce CUSP to the group	Multiple

## Appendix B

Outreach activities as determined by the League of Women Voter's Price on Carbon Study Group

How to Educate and Inform Citizens about the Growing Threat of Climate Change and the Need for a Price on Carbon - from the DEPOC Study

- Letters –to-the-Editor to area newspapers. Maybe we could get a group working on this with a goal of a letter a month. The News Journal has a limit of one letter per author every 45 days.
- Op-Eds
- Radio broadcasts and TV Interviews. It would be helpful to have college or high school students interested in the environment participate.
- Add good graphics to Chad's monthly [Climate Change News](#) blog; now it's all words.
- Improved and more frequently visited websites, e.g., [Price on Carbon](#), [LWVUS Toolkit for Climate Action](#), [LWVDE Studies](#) ; articles in the **LWVDE VOTER** (newsletter).
- Talks, forums and webinars. We could help organize them but invite others to join in as speakers (e.g., Ted Kaufman on a forum in Sept. ahead of the Pope's visit)
- Presentations to other environmental organizations, e.g., [DeIPL](#), Delaware Nature Society ([DNS](#)), Sierra Club, Audubon, DNREC Energy and Climate Div., [Students for the Environment at UD](#) (S4E), the Environmental Issues class at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). It would be best to begin by asking for their positions on climate mitigation. Some (eg., Sierra and Audubon) might not want to be presented to, but could be great co-presenters.
- Videos and audio recordings. We should start a list of resources (e.g., Senator Coons' speech on climate change)
- Meetings with political, media and religious leaders – esp. Catholics because of the Pope Francis encyclical on climate change.
- Reading/discussion/action groups, e.g., using [Cooler Smarter](#) (UCS)
- Testimony at public meetings
- Greater use of social media (This could provide a role for participation by young people.) We should meet with S4E at UD, and high school students.