



ORGANIZING for
HEALTH and JUSTICE

52 Linwood Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14209
(716) 852-3813
caewny.org

Clean Air Connection

MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER



*Clean Air American Axle Team Members win
Community Advisory Group!*

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updates, visit our
blog:
[www.caewny.org/
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The American Axle site located at 1001 East Delavan Ave. has been known to be significantly contaminated. Approximately 110,000 gallons of PCBs are located underneath this site. PCBs, known carcinogens, were found to be leaking into the sewer that flows under community members' homes.

Due to the significant history of soil contamination on this site, residents are particularly concerned about the potential for groundwater contamination. Families who live near the site are afraid to drink their water and plant gardens in their backyards.

The advisory group will be an important step on the long road of rebuilding trust within the community after generations of environmental racism and neglect at the hands of the state and private businesses in Buffalo's Delavan-Grider neighborhood.

Erie County Legislator and Chairwoman April Baskin and the state Department of Environmental Conservation [recently announced](#) the formation

of a Community Advisory Group.

Ms. Della Miller, Clean Air American Axle Team Member, says:

"The Community Advisory Group was established because of our work to make the health and well-being of our community the DEC's number one priority. The group is an important step in rebuilding years of broken trust in the DEC by the residents. We look forward to working with Rep. Baskin, the DEC, and all other stakeholders to make sure the cleanup is held to the highest standards and is transparent and accountable to the people in this community. We want our community to be made whole."

We know that our work is not done in Delavan-Grider. Please keep an eye out for next steps to attend the upcoming Community Advisory Group meeting and to join our calls for full transparency, decision-making power and justice for our community.

Peabody Street leader marks Battaglia win anniversary

The following is a message from Diane, long-time member-leader from Peabody Street, marking the anniversary of us winning the shutdown of Battaglia Demolition:

It's been three years today since Battaglia Corporation on Peabody Street was shut down by Judge Chimes. Unfortunately, we are still in negotiations to get it cleaned up. I have been working with Clean Air to make it a natural habitat. It's a shame it's taking so long, but I am still here, and will keep fighting for it!"



DIANE'S LAND:

WE ARE STILL HERE

WE WILL KEEP FIGHTING

tain a comprehensive cleanup and the transfer of the title of the property to a community-owned land trust, which will give them the power to prevent future illegal manufacturing from moving onto the site and disrupting their neighborhood again.

A ranked-choice, neighborhood vote in 2020 overwhelmingly chose to name the trust *Diane's Land*, in honor of Diane Lemanski, whose tenacity, resilience and leadership have been the foun-

Since the 2018 shutdown of Battaglia Demolition, the property has fallen into abandonment, with piles of concrete dust still swirling from the site through the neighborhood air. The derelict property has become a site with illegal dumping, and is now full of garbage and refuse, attracting rats.

Residents on Peabody Street are fighting to ob-

tain a comprehensive cleanup and the transfer of the title of the property to a community-owned land trust, which will give them the power to prevent future illegal manufacturing from moving onto the site and disrupting their neighborhood again.

The community's vision is to restore the site to natural use, with soil remediation and plantings to reduce carbon and air pollution in the neighborhood.

If you are interested in joining this work, complete the online form at <https://bit.ly/3tj0GSA> to get connected to next steps!

Clean Air's hiring process is well on its way!

Clean Air has built a strong foundation over the past 14 years. We know what it means to build community, care for one another, and work toward a more beautiful and clear vision for the world that we want to see.

At the end of 2020, Clean Air said goodbye to our friend and leader of 10 years, Rebecca Newberry, who accepted a job with The BlueGreen Alliance, a national leader in building a clean economy and environmental protections.

Without skipping a beat, our Members, Staff, and Board of Directors took this opportunity to celebrate the work we've accomplished and envision the leadership

we need for the next chapter of Clean Air.

Our Board of Directors led a team that oversaw this transition at Clean Air over the past five months. The Executive Search Committee was established and has members of our Board and Membership working alongside Catherine Bombico of Bombico Consulting.

Our team worked to create a clear vision for the next leader of Clean Air and ensure the search process aligns with our mission, vision, and values. This intentional process included the valuable feedback of our Members, Board, and Staff, who shared their knowledge

and vision for our next Executive Director.

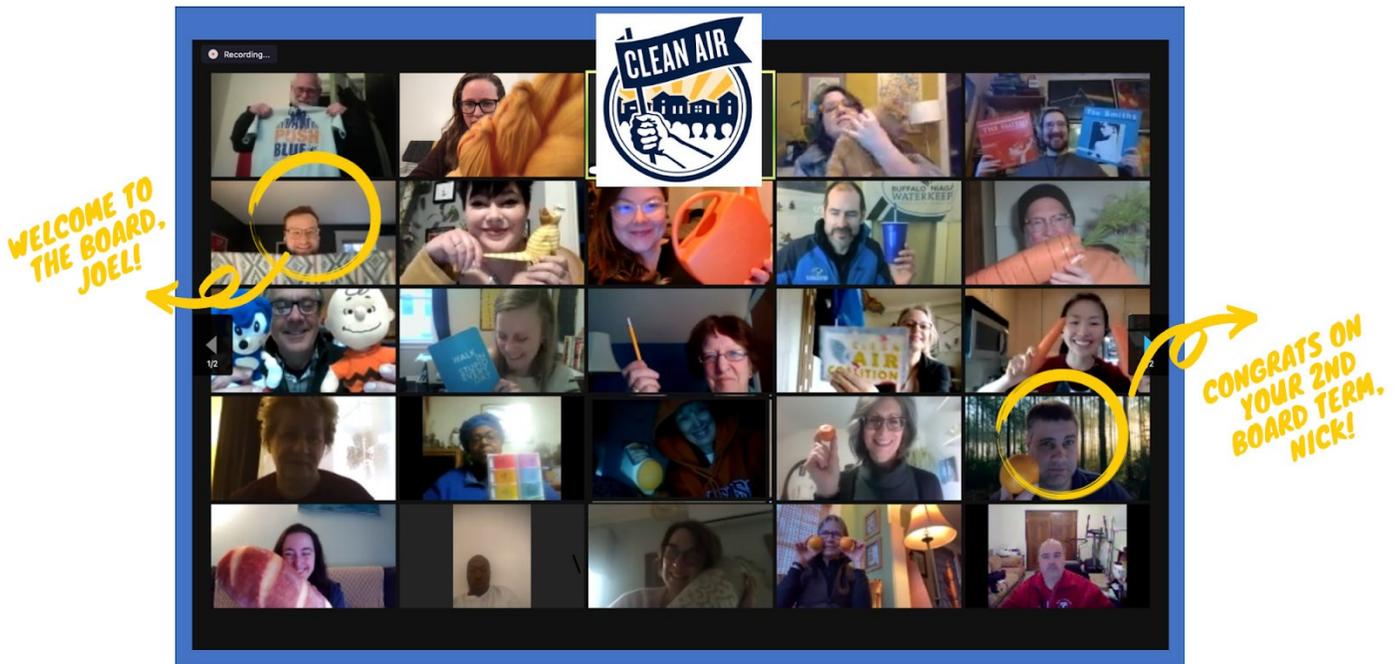
Clean Air's hiring process is well on its way, and we're aiming to have a new Executive Director join the Clean Air team by this summer! For more information, check out Clean Air's blog at cacwny.org/blog-2, email info@cacwny.org, or call 716-852-3818.

With hope, justice, and excitement for our next chapter,

The Executive Search Committee:

Joel Bernosky, Sydney Brown, Phyliscia Brown, Jennifer Carman

Thank you Members, Supporters for a great 2021 Annual Meeting!



Thank you to our Members and Supporters for joining us for Clean Air's 2021 Annual Meeting! It was another big success. For a little context, each of us in the above picture is holding up a random blue or orange object to represent Clean Air colors! Not only did we have a blast, but the Annual Meeting was an opportunity for us to look back on the incredible work we accomplished in 2020, review our organization's financial statements, and announce our Board of Director elections results.

We welcomed Joel Bernosky as a new Clean Air Board Member and welcomed Nick Reed back for a second term as a Clean Air Board Member. For a full list of Clean Air Board Members, visit cacwny.org/about/board/.

If you were unable to be there, here are a few ways for you to join us and take action:

1. Renew your Membership or Support by visiting cacwny.org/become-a-member or cacwny.org/donate/! If you are unsure about your Member/Supporter status with Clean Air, email Julia at julia@cacwny.org or call 716-852-3813 ext. 103.

2. Let us know how you want to be involved with us this year by completing our 2021 Leadership Development form! Visit bit.ly/LeadershipDevelopment_CleanAir.

3. Stay in the loop about all our upcoming events and campaign work by following us on social media @CleanAirWNY and checking out our blog at cacwny.org/blog-2.

Clean Air supports calls to defund the police

While a measure of accountability was upheld for the murder of George Floyd, we were simultaneously hearing news of Ma'Khia Bryant, a young and bright child who should still be with us, being murdered by an officer responding to her call for help. As we hold this grief, it is our work to organize for a more just world where all our people can live long and joyful lives. It is beyond clear that the system of policing was built on white supremacy, and can only perpetuate further harm and anti-Blackness. We will continue to call to defund the police and reinvest in people and communities, including environmental justice, housing, public schools, mental health services, health care, and other life-giving resources.

Over the next couple of months, we will be sharing posts from our Members about why this work matters and how it is connected to our organizing work at Clean Air and our vision for a world where all of our communities have the resources we need to thrive. We invite you to participate in this series through signing up for our emails and mailings at cacwny.org, and visiting Clean Air's blog at cacwny.org/blog-2. We will be culminating the series in a workshop and gathering... more details and information to come!

Clean Air

Return Service Requested



Become a sustaining member of Clean Air today!

Clean Air works to build the power of everyday people to make our communities healthier, safer, and more equitable places to live. **Becoming a monthly sustainer helps us continue to hold corporations and agencies accountable to putting our health and environment first.** Choose to give \$5, 10, or \$20 per month! For more information, call Julia at (716) 852-3813, or *send your support directly to:*

Clean Air, 52 Linwood Ave., Buffalo, NY 14209.

No eres miembro? **Inscr í base hoy mismo!** Clean Air trabaja para desarrollar el poder de la gente para que nuestras comunidades sean m á s sanas, y lugares m á s seguros para vivir. Env í e su apoyo de \$

10, \$ 20 o \$ 50 a:

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