

GREEN DELAWARE



Special points of interest:

- Green Delaware is leading the charge on environmental issues across the state.
- Green Delaware has expertise in energy issues, waste, air and water permitting and is using this expertise to protect the earth.
- Green Delaware's Muller is part of the Markell transition team, on the DNREC Committee.
- Green Delaware has been providing questionnaires, information about and advice to many campaigns at state and national level.
- Watch for Green Delaware Alerts!

Do you know:
A donation to
Green Delaware
keeps the phones
on, paper in the
copier, a presence
in Dover, ability
to intervene in
PSC proceedings,
and more...

December 15, 2008

Green Delaware at forefront on environment

Green Delaware has been leading the charge on environmental issues across the state. We are working for a shift to electricity sources that don't poison us and do not contribute to global warming. These include energy conservation, wind and solar generation, and clean up of existing coal burners until they are shut down. GD also worked actively in the controversy that resulted in approval of the Power Purchase Agreement for the Bluewater Wind project.

Green Delaware is fighting for water quality, testifying and/or submitting comments at DNREC hearings held for long-expired water permits for Indian River Power Plant and

the Premcor Delaware City refinery.

Green Delaware responded to many calls for help from those with an issue in their front yard, such as Claymont residents looking to limit steel plant emissions and a development in a natural area.

This year, we continued to fight against ash and sludge at the unlined and supposedly closed Pigeon Point garbage dump, near New Castle. Hundreds of thousands of tons of coal ash and sew-

age sludge are being mixed and dumped near the river banks, in this shameful collusion between the City of Wilmington, DNREC, Conectiv, Delaware Solid Waste Authority, contractors and others.

Green Delaware continues to advocate for greatly increased recycling. Delaware needs to adopt a strong zero waste program and reform the self-serving Delaware Solid Waste Authority.



Alan Muller, Executive Director of Green Delaware, featured in March edition of Delaware Today. Photo by Todd Vachon
www.delawaretoday.com/Delaware-Today/April-2008/The-Eco-Activists

Green Delaware's Muller on incineration

Delaware's laws against incineration makes us a national leader and Green Delaware was a major player. Lessons learned in Delaware are valued across the country. This past year GD's Muller again brought Delaware's experience to others, as consultant to Neighbors Against the Burner in St. Paul, Minnesota., NAB lead a successful

effort to stop the Kandiyohi "biomass" burner in Minneapolis. NAB was organized to oppose the Rock-Tenn garbage burner, spurring St. Paul to approve NAB's biogas option, better than garbage, but an alternative yet to be vetted. Muller also spoke at NAB events, including a panel discussion of at Macalaster College,

and with Dr. Paul Connett at Hamline University. We must be ever vigilant. The Delaware Chamber of Commerce wants to repeal Delaware's strong anti-incineration laws. Promoters of incineration and other toxic special interests are trying to use global warming to revive incineration!

December 15, 2008



Special points of interest:

- Green Delaware is on the web : www.greendel.org
- Green Delaware Alerts go out regularly to over 1800 individuals.
- We're updating our records, so let us know if there's someone we should add, if you receive duplicate copies, if your email has changed... help us update our list and get the word out!
- Green Delaware Alerts are a source of information—archives are kept at www.greendel.org and you can use them for references and facts for Letters to the Editor, public officials and Comments in DNREC and PSC dockets.
- Watch for Green Delaware Alerts! Forward them!

Do you know:

A \$50 donation to Green Delaware covers a laser toner cartridge, or gas for several trips to Dover, or 30 white file boxes (you should see the papers around here!), or a month of phone and internet!

Green Delaware—Why we need donations

Times are tough, very tough, and many organizations are asking for end-of-year donations. We're no different. Why favor us? Because **Green Delaware** doesn't seek or get corporate contributions, we have a heightened need for personal donations and put donations to good use.

Since 1999, our most consistent grant supporter has been the Environmental Endowment for New Jersey, which gave us \$10,000 for 2008.

We don't promote Clo-rox or other products or put our name on credit cards because we don't think

that's a part of "environmental advocacy." We're a truly independent voice, no strings or dollars attached.

Delaware is a small place, with a small population base compared to many other states. Every contribution matters. Green Delaware has always operated on a bare bones budget. To do our work, Green Delaware needs more than the EENJ grant to operate in a reasonable fashion, and for that, we rely on you, our individual supporters.

If each of you sent a modest donation, we could reach our bare minimum. If

a few of our better-off supporters sent \$1000, as one recently did, things would be much easier. We understand that these are tough economic times for most of you, as it is for us.

If you are lower-income don't send money, do some advocacy, take action. Make a call, send an email, help us grow our email list.

If you can donate, please use the form on the next page. You will see and hear your dollars advocating for a Greener Delaware.

Note: Because Green Delaware is an advocacy group, not 501(c)(3), donations are not tax deductible.

Fish kills spur cooling tower demands

"Once through cooling water intakes are major killers of marine life in the Delaware River. The three worst are the Edge Moor power plant (Conectiv), Valero's Delaware City Refinery, and NRG's Indian River power plant. At the refinery, in just one day in 1978, DNREC Fish & Wildlife staff

counted 32,000 fish caught and killed. The Indian River plant has killed in one typical year:

Bay anchovy - 2,656,218
Atlantic Menhaden - 12,488
Spot - 961
Atlantic Croaker - 518,910
Winter Flounder - 798,888
Blue Crab - 200,000

This killing can be nearly

stopped by installing "cooling towers," a proven technology required on newer facilities for many years. Green Delaware wants these three facilities--which are also Delaware's three worst air polluters--to be fully equipped with cooling towers within three years.

We must move beyond tactical fights and reactive work to focus on a thoughtfully coherent, environmentally protective future

Delaware needs to stop burning coal

Delaware's Edge Moor (owned by PEPCO's Conectiv unit) and Indian River (owned by NRG Energy) power plants are among our worst air, water, and land polluters. Some steps are being taken to reduce these emissions, but it's not enough. Coal burning in Delaware needs to be phased out. As an electricity source, coal can and must be replaced by conservation and combinations of wind, solar, ocean wave and tidal power, and geothermal.

Why? First, global warming, which causes increasing weather extremes and rising sea levels, threatens Delaware's low-lying coastal communities. Absent more effective measures to reduce climate-changing emissions, much of Delaware will eventually be under water. We must take this threat seriously and act.

As top US climate scientist James Hansen keeps pointing out, carbon emissions will have to be reduced to nearly zero, and coal-burning power plants are the biggest single problem.

Burying coal's carbon dioxide emissions (sometimes called "capture and sequestration") may be technically possible, but is not practical in the time-frame we have for action, nor is it reasonable in cost.

Second, coal can't be "fixed" because of the wide-ranging total "life cycle" harm from mining to burning to the ultimate disposal of the "products of combustion (ash)"

- o Mining coal causes land subsidence from underground mining and the appalling "mountaintop removal" in West Virginia. People lose their homes and the countryside is flattened with mountaintops filling in valleys and rivers.

- o Miners and their families suffer death and disease, such as "black lung," in accidents and by breathing the contaminated air in coal mines.

- o Hauling the coal to power plants causes lots of pollution because railroad locomotives have dirty exhaust and coal dust flies during loading, transport, and unloading.

- o Burning coal inevitably sends climate-changing and health-damaging air pollutants up the smokestacks into the air, into the water and onto the land.

- o "Scrubbers" can reduce but not eliminate these health-damaging pollutants. Such "pollution control" equipment often moves contaminants from one medium to another. For example, mercury can be captured from the stack gases, but it ends up concentrated in the coal ash, making that even more toxic.

- o Coal burning leaves large amount of this ash containing many toxins including arsenic, mercury and uranium, yet ash is not handled as a hazardous waste--the industry says that would be too expensive. Ash disposal causes widespread health and environmental problems in Delaware from Burton Island, to the Pigeon Point dump near New Castle, to the giant ash piles near 12th Street in Wilmington.

- o Most of the energy released by burning coal doesn't end up as electricity but is "waste heat" needing to be dumped somewhere. Both the Indian River and Edge Moor plants pump hundreds of millions of gallons of water per day out of our rivers and bays to cool the plants, killing millions of fish, crabs, and other marine critters each year. "Cooling towers" can reduce the kill by ninety percent or so, but the plant owners say they can't afford them. This problem can be eliminated by "dry" cooling systems such as cars have, but the power plant owners consider these even less affordable than cooling towers.

- o Coal electricity costs us dearly, it's "cheap" only if we ignore or trivialize the true costs, as Delmarva power seeks to do in its current "Integrated Resource Plan." NRG's costs for running Indian River, or Conectiv's costs at Edge Moor, don't include the Delawareans dying of cancer, the destroyed countryside of West Virginia, the mercury-contaminated fish in our rivers, the leaking ash dumps ... – the whole

evil life cycle of burning coal.

Delaware lags other states in considering these "externality" costs. Only recently has our state allowed a fragile regulatory connection between the economics of electricity, the environmental damage, and the health consequences. The Public Service Commission, Department of Natural Resource and Environmental Control (DNREC) and the Division of Public Health must work together more closely and must listen better to the public.

But, as we know, each agency has its own problems and limitations. DNREC regulates air pollution in one program, water pollution in another, coal ash disposal by a third, and the cleanup of old ash dumps by a fourth.... These programs were created by different Federal laws, have different concerns, operate independently from one another, and vary in effectiveness. The "air" shop hardly knows what the "solid waste" side is doing. The Division of Fish and Wildlife tries to protect marine life, but Surface Water Discharges issues the water permits and doesn't seem to care about the fish – they let the Indian River water permit lapse for 16 years, claiming "it happens!" The transcript of a recent hearing must be read to be believed: <http://greendel.org/images/IRPPHgxcript.txt>

In this fragmented, ineffective, regulatory system no one controversy over one permit or one regulation gets us to grips with the bigger picture I'm describing.

DNREC's "multi-pollutant" smokestack regulation, rejection of NRG's new coal burner proposal, pending shutdown of two small Indian River units, and approval of the Bluewater wind farm were important steps in the right direction, but Delaware's coal plants need to shut down entirely or convert to less harmful fuels. And we need to phase out the sale of dirty, coal-generated electricity in Delaware.

Green Delaware has urged the DNREC to set up a group to consider the total impacts of Delaware's coal burners and plan for phasing them out.

This issue should have the attention of Governor-elect Jack Markell and his staff, and the incoming 145th General Assembly.

Green Delaware has been fighting for liveable communities since 1995, working to clean up Delaware and make it less polluted; working to hold corporations accountable for their actions; working to hold government accountable to the people.

Green Delaware informs candidates & public

Green Delaware has been working with many political campaigns to inform candidates of environmental issues and determine where candidates stand on environmental policy issues for Delaware.

Let the Markell and Obama administrations know where you stand and what priorities should be addressed — let them know what changes you expect!

www.markelltransition.com
www.change.gov

- Do you think Delaware has a "cancer problem" calling for action by state government? (See GD Cancer Proposal)
- What do you see as key environmental/public health problems in Delaware that the governor should? In US for Pres?

- Solutions?
- What is your position on carbon tax and caps, and carbon credit allocation?
- What is your position on shutting down the Indian River coal plant? All coal plants? Timetable?
- Should all public hearings be held with court reporter and transcript?

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WE NEED YOU!

Green Delaware needs your help to continue our work to protect the environment.

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_____ Address

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Send checks to: **Green Delaware**
 P. O. Box 69
 Port Penn, Delaware 19731

____ Sign me up for email Alerts!
 _____ email

Or donate at www.greendel.org, upper L for "PayPal"

Please note: This is an advocacy group and not a 501(c)(3). Contributions are not tax deductible.