



**Center for Health,
Environment & Justice**

A Project of People's Action Institute

2022 Annual Report

*Mentoring a Movement,
Empowering People,
Preventing Harm.*

(703) 237-2249

www.chej.org

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Staff & Board of Directors

Staff:

Gustavo Andrade
Executive Director

Stephen Lester
Science Director

Sharon Franklin
Chief of Operations

Jose Aguayo
Senior Science Associate

Special Consultants:

Lois Marie Gibbs
Founder/Consultant

Teresa Mills,
Lead Community Organizer

Gregory Kolen, II
Design & Media Manager

Hunter Marion:
*Community Organizer/
Communications Coordinator*

Interns & Fellows:

Isabella Caldarelli
Anabelle Farnham
Arien Hernandez
Caitlin Loventhal
Arianna Mackey
Tijani Musa
Leanna Theam
Nicholas Williams
Eeron Wilson

People's Action Board of Directors:

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Ken Grossinger
Will Tanzman
Rahwa Ghirmatzion
Alejandra Gomez

Marvin Randolph
Robert Kraig
Jordan Estevão
Alyssa Aguilera
Josie Mooney

Contributing Writers:

Sharon Franklin, Stephen Lester, Jose Aguayo, Teresa Mills, and Hunter Marion

Editing & Layout:

Stephen Lester and Hunter Marion

Design:

Hunter Marion and Gregory Kolen, II

Introduction

CHEJ is delighted to report that 2022 has concluded with incredible success. Our staff, volunteers and, most importantly, our leaders on the frontlines have successfully adapted to new ways of organizing and fighting back during a difficult pandemic period and continued to win local efforts to stop polluters and protect their families.

This is all possible because of our donors and supporters. With your support, we were able to provide leadership skills, facilitate strategic action plans, produce scientific analyses and provide the much-needed resources to frontline grassroots communities through our small grants program and community organizing efforts throughout the country.

With the new administration in Washington, significant new legislation was passed by the Biden Administration including the Build Back Better and the Inflation Reduction Acts that offer promise for a better tomorrow. Most notably, the reinstatement of several Superfund polluter pays fees that are expected to raise \$3.5 billion for Superfund cleanups as part of the Build Back Better infrastructure legislation. Many Superfund communities across the country celebrated this long-awaited victory, which never would have been possible without the persistent call for action from hundreds of grassroots communities across the country.

The Unequal Response, Unequal Protection campaign continued in 2022 to create a clear, community-driven framework for conducting health investigations that prioritizes public health and gives community leaders the decision-making power to decide how government should respond. After meetings with community leaders and scientists who helped brainstorm an alternative response, we finalized an 8-step process that follows a defined timeline – ensuring that communities get answers in a timely manner.

As you read this report, you will get a glimpse into our work, our many accomplishments and the strength and passion of the community efforts over the past year. You will also read inspiring community stories, learn about the technical assistance we have provided to local community groups, about the variety and informative Zoom training calls we provided (which saw attendance increase by over 86% from the previous year), about *Toxic Tuesday*, which provides information on the toxicity of individual chemicals as well as features on the challenges of interpreting toxic effects and more.

Additionally, you will read about the work of the 46 organizations that we were delighted to support with the assistance of our donors and supporters, as part of our Small Grants Program, as we continue to build the base of the Environmental Health Movement.

Community Stories



Yankton Sioux Reservation Water Quality Assessment

CHEJ continued its work with the Brave Heart Society, who are members of the Yankton Sioux Tribe located in Lake Andes, South Dakota. In this past year, we evaluated water quality data collected from Lake Andes and from the Niobrara River. This work is part of the Sacred Water Bundle Project envisioned by Faith Spotted Eagle, director of the Brave Heart Society and an elder with the Yankton Sioux Tribe.

The overarching goal of the Sacred Water Bundle Project is to prepare a co-management plan for the Missouri River watershed that includes the Yankton Sioux Reservation which will restore traditional Native practices of water and land management. To realize this goal, the Brave Heart Society has begun to inventory the plants, wildlife, water, aquatic life and cultural and ceremonial sites on reservation land that borders the Missouri River. CHEJ is participating in this effort by helping to determine where water samples should be taken and what substances to test for, by training tribal members and by helping to evaluate the water testing results. This work is being done in collaboration with the Native Organizing Alliance and Tufts University.

Clark Fork Coalition – Evaluation of Arsenic in a Community Park in Deer Lodge, Montana

CHEJ is working with the Clark Fork Coalition in Missoula, Montana to review soil samples collected from a community park in Deer Lodge, Montana. More than 20 years ago, the park was the target of a state cleanup due to high levels of heavy metals such as arsenic, lead and cadmium, from local mining and smelting operations. That cleanup involved covering the original contaminants with clean soil.



Now, that cover has worn and weathered away, and high levels of arsenic and other metals are showing up throughout the park. CHEJ is reviewing the recent testing results and providing organizing support to help the group develop a plan to get the park cleaned up a second time. Hopefully, this time it will be permanent.



Hope for Bristol – Citizens from Bristol City Landfill

CHEJ has been working with Hope for Bristol to close a landfill sitting on the border between Bristol, Virginia and Bristol, Tennessee. Since the landfill was divided along different state and city lines, the Environmental Protection Regions overseeing the area hesitated to properly control the noxious odors being emitted from the landfill.

However, we worked with Hope for Bristol in hiring a team of engineers to review operations of the landfill. Their conclusion: Close the Landfill. On September 9, 2022, the Bristol VA Landfill was officially closed. Although this was a momentous victory for this grassroots group, we will continue working with them until all the lingering landfill odors are eliminated.

Citizens for a Clean Wausau (CCW)

CCW is an environmental watchdog group in Central Wisconsin working to address industrial contamination on Wausau's southwest side. They are focusing on removing three facilities, each with an extensive history of polluting neighborhoods with Dioxin: Wauleco, 3M and the former Connor Forest Industries.

With CHEJ's help, CCW secured environmental testing and forthcoming soil remediation on a portion of the former Connor Forest Industries facility and the first municipal-level environmental justice resolution in Wisconsin. Funding from CHEJ's Small Grants Program helped to facilitate the Midwest Environmental Health Summit in Wausau in June 2023. This summit will host experts and environmental activists from each EPA Region 5 state to collaborate and continue efforts to improve public and environmental health among the states.





Concerned Ohio River Residents (CORR)

CORR, in Bridgeport, Ohio, is fighting for the cleanup of toxic heavy metals like hexavalent chromium leftover from a former steel plant called Austin Masters (AMS). After reviewing online documents and testing the site for radioactivity, CORR asked CHEJ to help in compiling the results and developing a plan of action for using this data with the media, elected officials and other residents.

Through their advocacy, and our collaboration, CORR has managed to:

- Get the EPA to request information from the site owner, 4K Industries, on its chemical handling procedures,
- Encourage the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and EPA to inspect the AMS facility in October 2022, and
- Convince Martins Ferry, Ohio officials to update the city's Source Water Protection Plan, which will attempt to contain the facility's spread of radioactive and toxins contamination by fixing its faulty drainage system.

CORR is now working with the local sewer authority and the EPA to provide a permanent solution to the decades-long issue of water retention ponds pooling over into the road in front of the AMS facility.

Training Program

CHEJ conducted thirteen virtual training sessions in 2022. More than 800 leaders participated from 44 different states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and from countries outside the United States (Canada, Bangladesh, India, Jamaica, Sierra Leone, the Netherlands, Great Britain, St. Croix, Armenia and Mexico).

This was an 86% increase in the number of attendees compared to last year. CHEJ training also aided environmental activists to strengthen the skills, capacity and infrastructure required for effective grassroots leadership. Most of these trainings were recorded and can be readily accessed on our [YouTube channel](#).

January:

Landfills

Attendees: 74

This training call discussed why landfills are a pressing issue within the environmental justice movement. This session covered the poor regulations across local, state and federal jurisdictions; their inability to properly contain toxic chemicals; and a myriad of other issues involving illegal dumping, political finagling and toxic drainage.

Landfills Q&A

Attendees: 28

This was a follow-up session to the previous Landfills training because we were unable to address or answer several questions due to the pre-set one hour timeframe for training sessions.

February:

Small-Grant Training – Round 1

Attendees: 106

This was the first of two rounds of calls for the CHEJ Small Grants Program. In this session, we discussed the application process with potential applicants, and addressed any questions they may have had concerning the application process.

March:

Oil & Gas Waste

Attendees: 89

In this training session, we were joined by John Stolz, director for Environmental Research and Education at Duquesne University. We discussed his findings on radioactive oil and gas waste and how it is often disproportionately disposed of in communities of color and low-wealth.

April:**PFAS****Attendees: 48**

We were joined in this call by Andrea Amico of Testing for Pease. She presented on PFAS (per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances) contamination. She informed our attendees on how PFAS are present in many everyday consumer products, and how grassroots organizing is a tool in the fight against its proliferation.

May:**A Conversation with Dr. Linda Birnbaum****Attendees: 88**

Former director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and the National Toxicology Program, Dr. Linda Birnbaum lead an open conversation with community leaders. She discussed how scientists assessed toxic chemicals, how cumulative exposures and risks are measured and the scientific uncertainty present in current toxicology results.

A Conversation with Keith O'Brien**Attendees: 45**

New York Times journalist Keith O'Brien discussed his in-depth book, *Paradise Falls: The True Story of an Environmental Catastrophe*. In his book, he explores the lives of those involved in the story of Love Canal. He presented his research, described his writing process, his findings and the friendships he made when writing the book.

June:**Unequal Response, Unequal Protection****Attendees: 55**

CHEJ presented the rollout of a campaign to replace the current approach used by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to evaluate health effects in communities exposed to toxic chemicals. This new model relies on community input rather than that from polluters or the government.

July:**EPA Tools****Attendees: 37**

In this CHEJ Intern-led training session, we provided a series of quick tutorials on how to use the EPA's EJScreen, ECHO Database and TRI Toxics Tracker, and how using these tools could be added to an organizer's arsenal.

August:**Technical Assistance****Attendees: 35**

During this session, we talked with leaders from fence-line communities about their immediate needs for expertise on toxicology, environmental testing analysis and how to use scientific data and evidence to achieve their organizing goals.

September:**Small-Grant Training – Round 2****Attendees: 36**

This was the last of two rounds of calls for the CHEJ Small Grants Program. In this session, we discussed the application process with potential applicants, and addressed any questions they may have concerning the application process.

Framing & Targeting an Issue:**Attendees: 40**

Lois Gibbs, Founder of CHEJ, led this session on how to build skills to frame and target messages that make a difference, inspire and galvanize, and the power of grassroots organizing.

October:**Can Lawyers Help in Your Fight?****Attendees: 45**

In this session, environmental lawyer, Pete Sessa, informed leaders about the pros and cons of hiring a lawyer for your fight. The topics of this session covered why a lawyer might be needed, what issues a lawyer can be used for, how to protect your group from bad actor lawyers and more.

November:**Chemical Recycling Is A Lie****Attendees: 80**

Jessica Roff of the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) hosted an in-depth discussion on the dangers and effects of oil and gas companies greenwashing plastics pyrolysis and gasification as “chemical recycling.”

Toxic Tuesday

Toxic Tuesday is an ongoing short e-newsletter that highlights a particular chemical or pollutant that can be hazardous to human health when present in the environment. This effort was started by the CHEJ's Science Team in 2020 to educate community leaders about toxic chemicals that communities around the country are repeatedly exposed to.

Toxic Tuesday follows a bi-weekly schedule, where every other Tuesday we both send a mass email and post a written piece on our website about one toxic chemical. In 2022, we posted 22 *Toxic Tuesdays*.

In this e-newsletter, we traditionally cover how a chemical gets into the environment, how people become exposed, and the health effects related to exposure. Each *Toxic Tuesday* either highlights a community dealing with exposure to the chemical in question (and how CHEJ is helping them fight to protect their health) or connects the topic chemical to a current event in the news, such as the massive flooding in Kentucky or the enormous wildfires that affected Yosemite National Park in the summer of 2022. Our range of chemicals goes from the widely known ones like arsenic and benzene to the less well-known substances like sulfur dioxide and perchlorate.

This year we also started a *Toxic Tuesday* series that highlights the challenges in interpreting the effects resulting from exposure to toxic chemicals. These special *Toxic Tuesdays* delve into topics like the deficiencies of classic toxicology, the difficulties in accurately assessing health risks from chemical exposures and the limitations in the approaches used to evaluate health effects, and how this is critically impeding scientists' ability to accurately link health effects to chemical exposures.

CHEJ plans to continue *Toxic Tuesday* into 2023.



Unequal Response, Unequal Protection

The Unequal Response, Unequal Protection campaign grew in response to the federal government's repeated failure to protect people exposed to toxic chemicals in communities across the United States. This failure stems from slow federal responses that excludes community input, and the use of inadequate scientific methods for investigating health outcomes related to exposures to toxic chemicals. Over the years, CHEJ has repeatedly encountered communities affected by poor responses spearheaded by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

Since launching this project in 2020, CHEJ has been regularly meeting with community leaders and scientists to collectively address this issue. Our goal was to create a clear, community-driven framework for conducting health investigations that prioritize public health and give community leaders the decision-making power to decide how government should respond. We began by meeting with community leaders from

around the country who could provide firsthand experience about how ATSDR's response their communities. Then, we engaged scientists and experts who could provide technical insights into how to change the current response. Lastly, we brought both groups together to brainstorm overarching principles for an alternative response.

In 2022, we used all the feedback we collected to finalize a new response and flesh out the details. The result is an 8-step process that follows a defined timeline - ensuring that communities get answers in a timely manner. The new response has several novel hallmarks, but two of them are the most salient and what we believe will make the most positive difference.



The first is the creation of a “Community Leadership Team” that is given decision-making power in every step of the health investigation. The second is the implementation of a new methodology for assessing the relationship between chemicals and health effects called “Presumptive Association.” More information about the details of our new response can be found at chej.org/unequalresponse.

Additionally, we engaged old and new communities in new ways. We reached out to communities in New Jersey who had recent dealings with ATSDR and brought them into our network. We also provided those communities that had already been involved in our process with a toolkit they could use to share with their network. This toolkit consisted of a presentation that includes an overview of the process, a short summary document and a survey that gathered feedback

We also were able to present to this new response to the nation’s leading public health organization – the American Public Health Association (APHA). We gave a presentation at the APHA Annual Meeting in November 2022 in Boston where we sparked much interest in our Community Leadership team and Presumptive Association methodology. We are continuing to build a base of support within the APHA’s Environment Section and hope to cultivate this relationship in the coming year.

We are excited to continue this effort in 2023. The road to change will be long and full of opposition, but we are confident that our efforts with grassroots leaders will result in a new federal response that prioritizes protecting affected individuals, families and communities.



Landfill Working Group

After the high turnout and demand for technical assistance after our first landfills training call in January 2022, we created the CHEJ Landfill Working Group. The goal of this working group is to connect activists and communities fighting landfills within our network to each other to share resources, expertise and labor.

Over the course of 2022, our Landfill Working Group:

- Conducted training for the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL) staff to effectively use the EPA's EJScreen and ECHO Database to track toxic chemicals reported in select landfills.
- Connected two New York-based organizations, the Rensselaer Environmental Coalition (REC) in Albany and Seneca Lake Guardian (SLG) in the Finger Lakes, to coordinate statewide efforts to block expansions in their respective landfills.
- Advised Save Franklin County Alabama on how to prepare for political backlash after successfully blocking a proposed expansion to a local construction and demolition (C&D) landfill.
- Counseled the Citizen's Environmental Association of the Slippery Rock Area (CEASRA) in Pennsylvania and the Clean Dan River Commission (CDRC) in Virginia on how to use environmental testing results as leverage against local government and state regulatory agencies.



- Held two strategy meetings a week with Hope for Bristol: one with leadership and scientists from the University of Kentucky to discuss monitoring and the second to organize weekly rallies against the landfill.
- Consulted with Chapel Hill Organizing in Decatur, Georgia to create an action plan to close a local landfill.
- Investigated the proposed leachate evaporation system being sought by the Westmoreland Sanitary Landfill near Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania. We turned in our findings to CHEJ's Science Team, who then drafted a written letter for ProtectPT to use for public comment and press release.
- Presented at two national conferences, the Cancer Free Economy's PFAS Disposal Symposium and the National PFAS Contamination Coalition's 3rd National PFAS Conference, regarding the inadequacies of landfills as an option for the disposal of PFAS waste.
- Collaborated with the Environmental Working Group (EWG) to create social media content analyzing the impacts of EPA's hazardous waste designation of PFAS on communities near landfills.

Next year, we plan on specifically targeting fence-line communities and expanding efforts to connect grassroots organizations with each other. We believe we have gained enough insight to have established a strong foundation for more extensive efforts in 2023.

Superfund: Progress on the Reinstatement of Polluters' Pay Fees

At the very end of 2021, President Biden signed legislation reinstating some of the fees on polluters included in the original Superfund legislation that was passed more than 40 years ago. These renewed fees, which had not been collected for over 25 years, are expected to raise \$14.5 billion in revenue over the next decade to accelerate cleanups of some of the worst contaminated sites in the country.

These renewed fees target chemical feedstock fees, or fees on the use by the manufacturer, producer or importer of 42 listed chemicals, and fees on "taxable substances" sold or used by importers who bring taxable substances into the United States "for consumption, use, or warehousing." This fee is intended to ensure that companies do not escape from paying the fee by importing chemicals that were produced overseas.

What is not included in the renewed fees is the most productive fee in terms of generating revenue – the corporate income fee. This fee was based on the profits of large corporations in the industrial manufacturing (i.e., chemical and petroleum companies) and the mining sectors. These two sectors are responsible for over 40% of all Superfund sites.



While limited, this is clearly a step in the right direction. The US EPA announced that they would use the first \$1 billion raised to “initiate cleanup and clear the backlog of 49 previously unfunded Superfund sites” and to boost cleanup efforts at other sites throughout the U.S. The \$1 billion figure is part of the \$3.5 billion set aside for environmental remediation at Superfund sites. According to the EPA, approximately 60 percent of the sites to receive funding for new cleanup projects are in Environmental Justice communities. These newly reinstated fees went into effect on July 1, 2022, and will continue until the end of the 2031.

CHEJ will continue to fight for the reinstatement of the corporate income fees to do what the original Superfund bill was intended to do: Hold polluters accountable for the pollution and contamination they generate.



Technical Assistance

CHEJ's technical assistance work is key to helping activists and organizations fight to prevent harm to their communities and families. CHEJ's Science Team helps community leaders to understand the complex science that surrounds environmental health issues and explain technical testing data, health studies, cleanup plans and site proposals to level the playing field. This way people can make informed decisions and be confident in demanding the environmental policies and decisions that will affect their health and well-being.

Our technical assistance work does not take place in a vacuum. It is intrinsically tied to our organizing work, which helps provide communities with the knowledge and skills to demand greater health protections. Because of this connection between science and organizing, our technical assistance work also focuses on educating our constituency about the role and power of science in winning local community battles. We make sure to inform communities that science on its own is toothless and will not fix things. Instead, science is a tool that is critical to understanding health risks and enhancing local organizing efforts.



Benzene Air Testing Results Summary Greeley, Colorado

Residents of Greeley, Colorado grew concerned when the children attending the Bella Romero Academy started experiencing headaches, bloody noses, and dizziness due to a fracking well situated less than a quarter of a mile from the school.

The local organization, Colorado 350, became involved with the residents and commissioned an engineering firm to evaluate the levels of different hydrocarbons being emitted into the air by the fracking activities. Colorado 350 then reached out to CHEJ to review the firm's results. Our work identified Benzene as the main chemical of concern, with the average Benzene concentration in school grounds being over 7 times higher than the level considered safe by the World Health Organization (WHO).



Leachate Treatment System Review Rostraver Township, Pennsylvania

The Westmoreland Landfill located near Belle Vernon, Pennsylvania, submitted a proposal to the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to install a novel leachate treatment system. The local community connected with a regional advocacy group called ProtectPT to get help understanding the specifics of this unproven leachate treatment system.

ProtectPT recruited CHEJ to co-investigate this technology – and, as is usually the case, this novel system falls way short of what it promises to deliver. Essentially, the system uses heat to boil the leachate from the landfill to reduce the quantity of leachate that needs to be disposed of. This process would dangerously move the contaminants in the leachate, including dangerous radioactive particles due to fracking waste mixed in with the leachate, into the air of the surrounding community. Later, CHEJ drafted a technical review letter for ProtectPT, which was strategically used to raise media awareness and aid in their organizing efforts to fight this proposal.

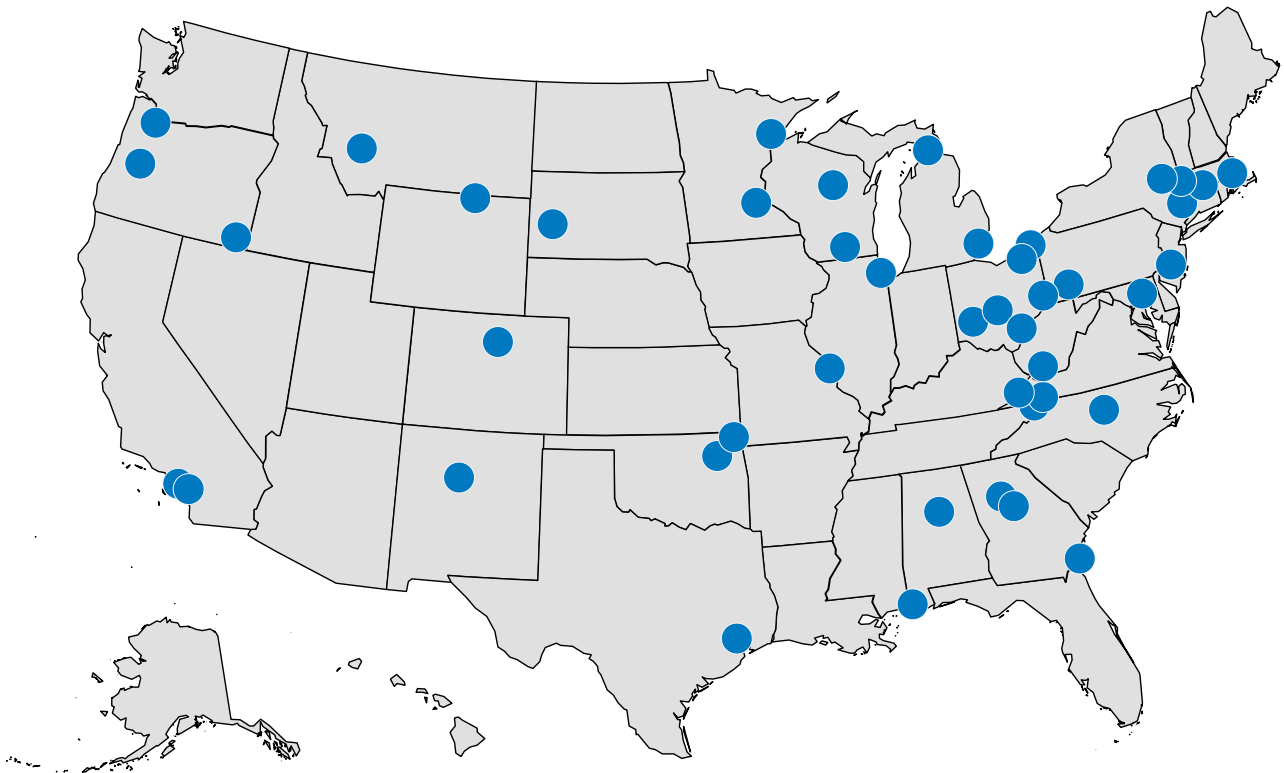
Our technical assistance work takes many forms. The simplest is answering calls and email requests for assistance. This assistance is often routed to our organizing efforts to build a solid grassroots organizing structure in the community first before our Science Team can help with data analysis or scientific interpretation. Once the organizing base is set, our science department can provide technical support.

In 2022, we completed five detailed technical reviews. We did this by analyzing lengthy technical documents or analyzing environmental sampling data and then providing written comments or letter reports. CHEJ also publishes and distributes over 100 guidebooks and fact packs (see chej.org/resource-library) that are routinely updated to support the efforts of community groups facing environmental health threats.

Small Grants Program

In 2022, CHEJ's Small Grants Program continued its goal of getting financial resources into the hands of grassroots groups who are fighting for clean and healthy communities. The program has been able to assist low-wealth communities in their battles with larger multi-national corporations. CHEJ was able to provide a total of \$406,195.74 in support to these grantees. We are excited to be able to continue to provide this service to grassroots groups fighting for a healthy community and environment.

This year, we received 177 grant applications through two application opportunities. 72 applications qualified for review. With the support of foundations and our donors we were able to support 46 applications throughout the United States. The following table summarizes the work of the community groups that were funded in 2022 by CHEJ's Small Grants Program.



Map showing the locations of the recipients of CHEJ's 2022 Small Grants Program across the United States.

Organizations Funded	Organization's Purpose	Specific Project Goals for this Grant
350 Colorado <i>Boulder, Colorado</i>	<p>To protect those living on the frontlines of fossil fuel development through mobilizing Colorado's disproportionately impacted communities, advocating for increased protections of public health, transformative climate policy and language justice while securing state and local climate policy wins and protective regulatory shifts.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To advocate for climate justice and public health protections and to organize opportunities to engage historically underrepresented groups. 2. To catalyze leadership development to build a diverse, inclusive movement to ensure those most impacted have a seat at the table and are prioritized during decision making processes. 3. To prioritize language justice through increased Spanish translation efforts for outreach and education.
350 Wisconsin <i>Madison, Wisconsin</i>	<p>To organize local, statewide, Midwest and national opposition to Enbridge's proposed expansion of the Line 5 crude oil pipeline through Northern Wisconsin through coalition building, regulatory approaches, training, education and creative, bold tactics and actions.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To decommission Enbridge Line 5 to reduce fossil fuel impacts on the climate, protect the Bad River Watershed and the Great Lakes and support Indigenous rights. 2. To strengthen the climate movement to fight fossil fuel projects and promote climate justice.
Appalachian Peace Education Center <i>Abingdon, Virginia</i> <i>(Continued on p. 20)</i>	<p>To hold a People's Hearing for Nuclear Awareness. This project is necessary to make public the health, safety and environmental risks that a new nuclear weapons project at</p>	<p>To force transparency of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) process for awarding licenses to secretive, for-profit military contractors; to increase Erwin</p>

Organizations Funded	Organization's Purpose	Specific Project Goals for this Grant
	Nuclear Fuel Services (NFS) would entail.	Citizens Awareness Network (ECAN) members and supporters; to raise public awareness of dangers of nuclear weapons work in Nolichucky Watershed; to challenge the industry's "exploitative patriotism" tactics; to prove that there is no "need" for the proposed nuclear weapons work.
Arkansas River Rights Coalition <i>Tulsa, Oklahoma</i>	To lay the foundation to support the rights of the Arkansas River in Tulsa and the communities dependent upon it. And to protect them from current and legacy industry pollution and inappropriate recreational development.	1. To develop a strategic plan with founding members. 2. To set actionable and achievable goals with observable benchmarks, including educational events/forums and community outreach.
Behr, Valleycrest, Valley Pike Community Action Group <i>Dayton, Ohio</i>	To advocate for change as a coordinated community advisory group against three local Superfund sites.	To incorporate a group for action; develop outreach resources to educate community members about remediation and redevelopment of the sites; and increase member capacity.
Beyond Toxics <i>Eugene, Oregon</i> <i>(Continued on p. 21)</i>	To support and build capacity for BIPOC/working-class communities overburdened by toxic pollution. To bring community expertise to decision-making spaces and design events to build	To expand skills and knowledge in immigrant/BIPOC populations to understand health risks of air pollution; design solutions rooted in environmental justice; take action to reduce risks;

Organizations Funded	Organization's Purpose	Specific Project Goals for this Grant
	visioning, cohesion, and resilience in impacted neighborhoods facing risks from trash/medical waste incinerators and manufacturers emitting dioxin, VOC's, pentachlorophenol and heavy metals.	unite communities, local governments and regulatory agencies to adopt policies in improving health and community well-being.
Black Hills Clean Water Alliance <i>Rapid City, South Dakota</i>	To strengthen and expand grassroots organizing efforts to prevent water contamination from mining. And to protect public health in the Black Hills of western South Dakota and eastern Wyoming.	To develop additional social media resources that appeal to and are trusted by people ages 24-44. And to attract and involve younger people in water and health protection organizing efforts in the Black Hills.
Bristol Residents for Clean Air <i>Bristol, Connecticut</i>	To close the Covanta incinerator in Bristol, Connecticut (long-term), and to stop their plan to start burning medical waste from 6-8 states (short-term).	To build deeper community engagement in Bristol, and to raise awareness in towns neighboring the watershed that feeds Covanta's trash incinerator.
Buckeye Environmental Network <i>Athens, Ohio</i>	To design, develop and deploy programming to create a strategic plan and action plan. And to build board capacity through needs assessment and applicable training and development action planning.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To conduct a strategic planning session with a facilitator to aid in the drafting of a framework and elements and an associated action plan. 2. To conduct a needs assessment and applicable board developmental training.

Organizations Funded	Organization's Purpose	Specific Project Goals for this Grant
Camden for Clean Air <i>Camden, New Jersey</i>	<p>To engage and educate youth of color in Camden and other nearby communities threatened by incinerator proposals. We plan to close the aging Covanta Camden incinerator and prevent new proposals for incinerators in South Jersey.</p>	<p>To educate a new generation of youth of color in our area about waste issues and network them with our current youth leaders to support our strategic plans to end statewide incineration subsidies, while also being a voice in our work to end suburban waste incineration contracts.</p>
Chapel Hill Organization <i>Decatur, Georgia</i>	<p>To continue informing and getting more residents in our community proactively involved in the environmental issues impacting our neighborhoods. To build coalitions with other neighborhood groups to leverage our voices in creating a positive dialogue for developing solutions to resolving these issues.</p>	<p>To increase community membership by partnering with the Citizens for a Healthy and Safe Environment and other groups to have more influence in South DeKalb County. Also, to expand our focus to communities adjacent to a major landfill.</p>
Cherokee Concerned Citizens <i>Pascagoula, Mississippi</i>	<p>To build the skills, knowledge and relationships we need to make the case that regulatory agencies and nearby polluting industries need to take action to protect the health of fence-line communities.</p>	<p>To increase member engagement, support member leadership and build a coalition of individuals, organizations, and decision-makers to advance our shared goals to protect public health and reduce industrial pollution.</p>

Organizations Funded	Organization's Purpose	Specific Project Goals for this Grant
Citizens for a Clean Wausau <i>Wausau, Wisconsin</i>	<p>To host a regional summit with participating grassroots environmental groups from each EPA Region 5 state to share their stories, along with successful strategies and tactics. Prominent environmental health experts from multiple fields will serve as keynote speakers and the prelude to the main group-collaboration portion of the event.</p>	<p>To expand coalition building and increase public awareness of key environmental justice issues, along with an educational opportunity for not only the members of the public who attend in-person or virtually, but – through a unique opportunity for interaction and collaboration – for the participating grassroots groups themselves.</p>
Clean Air Baltimore Coalition <i>Baltimore, Maryland</i>	<p>To see a healthier Baltimore City that no longer suffers from toxic air, high asthma and cancer rates. And to help alleviate the lack of jobs and economic opportunity that comes with demolishing homes and burning our trash instead of doing deconstruction and zero waste methods.</p>	<p>To cut off a major revenue stream to the city's top air polluter, the Wheelabrator trash incinerator, by electrifying the city's district energy heating system and mandating deconstruction of Baltimore's vacant lots instead of demolishing them, which should create many new jobs and reduce waste/pollution.</p>
Clean Air for All Now <i>Corrales, New Mexico</i>	<p>To prepare for increased toxic air emissions from Intel, which is a result of a new FAB producing the latest version of its computer chips.</p>	<p>To inform the public, regulators and Intel management of community concerns about the company's toxic emissions and advocate for their reduction.</p>

Organizations Funded	Organization's Purpose	Specific Project Goals for this Grant
Cleveland Lead Advocates for Safe Housing (CLASH) <i>Cleveland, Ohio</i>	<p>To engage board members and volunteers in setting goals for 2023, to develop new skills and knowledge around lead issues and to strengthen our base of individual donors.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To sponsor a day-long workshop to brainstorm 2023 goals. 2. To sponsor 6 training sessions to equip volunteers' new skills and knowledge. 3. To expand our individual donor base. <p>To meet these goals, we will rent an office/meeting space and rent three billboards to support our Winter Funding campaign.</p>
Coal River Mountain Watch <i>Naoma, West Virginia</i>	<p>To train volunteers, to empower and assist residents fighting against the public health threats imposed by the coal industry and to compel regulatory agencies to do their jobs.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To have select mountaintop removal mining and other polluting coal industry operations shutdown, denied, delayed and abated. 2. To build capacity by recruiting and training one remote and three local volunteers. 3. To educate residents about the coal industry's impact on environmental health and threats to justice. 4. To raise sufficient funds to support the program through 2022.

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Community Members for EJ <i>Minneapolis, Minnesota</i>	To conduct membership training, education and organizing, and to create a site strategic plan for moving Northern Metals out of our community when its lease is up in early 2023.	To develop a community vision for the Northern Metals site. And to have an organized constituency and membership educated and organized to make it a reality.
Concerned Ohio River Residents <i>Bridgeport, Ohio</i>	To purchase ads in the local newspaper targeting residents with information about the facility. And to include a brief questionnaire in the ads for people to return to CORR. Additionally, to purchase materials to complete the questionnaire and pay for some employee hours to further the campaign.	To continue to raise awareness about this facility. Increase the number of people who are involved in the campaign and who act with the small group that has already formed.
Del Amo Action Committee <i>Rosamond, California</i>	To build our capacity by developing new leadership, increase our Board's representation and train new volunteers to go door-to-door.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To develop 10 new leaders in underrepresented areas of the community we recently began working with. 2. To encourage the next generation of leaders to carry on our mission of direct engagement through door-to-door outreach efforts. 3. To build the capacity of the Board by adding three new members.

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Detroit Hamtrack Coalition for Advancing Healthy Environments <i>Detroit, Michigan</i>	<p>To create and implement a community engagement effort; to vet a cumulative health impact data and health needs assessment data plan; to prove to decision makers that we are overburdened with pollution and health risks.</p>	<p>To create a robust community engagement process to vet the health study plan. Our goal is to host 3-5 community events, initiate a broad-based social media campaign to vet the plan and create a speakers' network to make people aware of the plan. We plan to use the funds for translation and event costs.</p>
Environmental Awareness Foundation <i>Atlanta, Georgia</i>	<p>To rebuild and re-establish a strong and supportive Board of Directors after the initial pandemic phase affected the organization. The current governing body and new potential board members will also attend educational non-profit leadership training via Zoom.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To empower, educate and develop the current board members and provide them with increased leadership skills and insights to impact the organization. 2. To increase board membership from 3 members to 10.
FaCT Ohio <i>Mentor, Ohio</i> <i>(Continued on p. 27)</i>	<p>To present a workshop at AppalachiaFest, March 16-19, 2023, in Athens, Ohio. FaCT's one-hour workshop will give participants a "tool" to teach about the hazards of radioactive brine waste currently being spread in counties throughout Ohio to deice roads and control dust.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To learn about the risks of radioactive brine to the self and environment (scientific proof provided). 2. To learn the history of how brine waste became a "product" in Ohio.

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	<p>Participants can use this tool to raise awareness in their own communities about the harmful effects of brine waste on the environment and people's health. In addition, FaCT will host an exhibit in the exhibition hall and participate in a roundtable on radioactive brine waste.</p>	<p>3. To be made aware of the legal maneuvers being used by the Ohio General Assembly to skirt environmental protection laws.</p> <p>4. To learn where radioactive brine waste is currently being spread (Ohio counties).</p> <p>5. To learn how to advocate at the local, regional and state levels. Each participant will be sent an electronic copy of the tool at the end of the presentation, along with other handouts.</p>
<p>Glynn Environmental Coalition <i>Brunswick, Georgia</i></p>	<p>To host an innovative week of events for Earth Day in celebration of coastal Georgia's natural resources and our planet. Our primary objective is to promote environmental justice through community organizing and hosting positive celebratory events.</p>	<p>To utilize our existing network of partners to cultivate a week of events to provide educational opportunities, engage citizens in acting to restore or protect our local coastal ecosystems and raise awareness for critical environmental justice.</p>
<p>Greeley Neighborhood Community Development <i>Butte, Montana</i></p> <p>(Continued on p. 28)</p>	<p>To ascertain neighborhood residents' perception of risks to human health from exposure to hazardous airborne heavy metals from the active open pit mining and ore concentration operation across the street from the</p>	<p>To contact the residents of the approximately 753 households in this neighborhood, (a neighborhood with more than 60% below the poverty line) that are impacted daily by the dust from the active mining operation. To generate support</p>

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	neighborhood. Also, to educate neighborhood residents of risks and to increase membership in the GNCCDC Inc. advocacy organization.	for, and increase participation by neighborhood residents, in our advocacy efforts.
Hope for Bristol <i>Bristol, Tennessee</i>	To grow our presence and organization while increasing our impact in our community to achieve short-term and long-term relief from the noxious emissions and egregious environmental violations by the Bristol VA Landfill.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To create a fundraising platform to provide consistent revenue for our organization and to fund relief efforts (air purifiers/filters) for suffering residents. 2. To streamline accounting practices. 3. To expand website to communicate landfill updates with residents. 4. To continue community engagement and organizational growth through community meetings.
Housatonic River Initiative <i>Lee, Massachusetts</i>	To educate and empower existing and new stakeholders to join in stopping the dump being unjustly and unwisely placed in the historically underserved and already overburdened town of Lee and village of Lenox Dale.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To implement our strategic plan to involve more people in planning. 2. To increase public awareness of health risks and environmental harm. 3. To develop an informed cadre of volunteers to help us in our fight.

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Just Moms STL <i>Maryland Heights, Missouri</i>	<p>To advocate for the health of our community by ensuring the start of EPA's removal remedy. We will educate residents and neighboring communities about the dangers the site currently poses, including the groundwater investigation. This includes significant community involvement and coordination and writing a safety plan used during remediation.</p>	<p>To ensure the safe and timely removal of all radioactive waste within 20 feet of the surface at the site. Expedited testing of the groundwater both on- and off-site. Health study of current and historical risks. 24-hour air monitors set-up during removal of all hazardous wastes.</p>
Lights Out Norlite <i>Troy, New York</i>	<p>To reach a critical mass of public awareness and political pressure about Norlite through public education, organizing, advocacy, press, social media, protests and rallies.</p>	<p>To pressure Governor Hochul to permanently close Norlite, a hazardous waste incinerator operating in Cohoes, New York whose excessive release of toxic emissions over more than 30 years has created a public health crisis.</p>
Local Environmental Action Demanded Agency <i>Vinita, Oklahoma</i>	<p>To widen our outreach, help us fundraise, grow and teach new board members to be more sustainable into the future.</p>	<p>To increase outreach by training our members and new community members to be able to reach our goal of a safe and healthy informed community. This project will train and mobilize 30 people who will be able to interview, conduct neighborhood surveys, fundraise and grow membership.</p>

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Michigan Coalition Against Tar Sands <i>Levering, Michigan</i>	<p>To increase our ability to network and organize by ensuring our team members have the necessary tools to meet, plan and expand our operations internally. Also, to enhance our ability to organize effectively by increasing our capacity to network with other organizations and build participation by hosting virtual/in-person events.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To have more efficient and effective meetings so that we can develop our 2023 strategic plan. 2. To create forums to do outreach and receive public feedback on our events. 3. To host public education events related to Line 5 online and in-person (socially distanced) with high-quality relevant collateral to support our education and outcome goals, such as canvassing.
Neighbors for Clean Air <i>Portland, Oregon</i>	<p>To use our Deconstructing Diesel campaign for educating, organizing and activating neighbors to create grassroots power and push for changes to prevent toxic diesel pollution, particularly for Oregon's most vulnerable populations. This comprehensive campaign combines science, policy and organizing to reduce toxics, confront environmental racism and create long-term grassroots resiliency.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To work on a grassroots level to expand expertise among a broad constellation of community-based groups. 2. To activate this network to push for specific reductions in diesel toxics on a local and statewide level of air quality.
PANIC <i>Birmingham, Alabama</i> <i>(Continued on p. 31)</i>	<p>To grow PANIC's capacity to achieve just and equitable relocation, remediation and/or</p>	<p>To build grassroots power through Phase I of the People's Relocation Plan</p>

Organizations Funded	Organization's Purpose	Specific Project Goals for this Grant
	compensation for residents who live within the North Birmingham 35th Avenue Superfund Site boundary.	project. This will involve the deployment of a relocation survey that identifies impacted residents who desire to get bought out and/or relocated, and assesses the components needed for an equitable and just relocation/buyout program.
Parents Against SSFL <i>Los Angeles, California</i>	To protect kids and families from exposure to the toxic and radioactive contamination at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory, one of America's worst nuclear meltdowns.	To ensure the complete cleanup of SSFL by helping the community understand scientific data, navigate the regulatory process and take actions, such as petitioning elections and participating in public hearings.
People of Red Mountain <i>McDermitt, Nevada</i>	To provide funding for a Communications Director. This will consist of a 6-month contract for 20 hours of work per week compensated at \$20 per hour.	To invest in permanent capacity to be leaders in educating the public on the impacts of mining. And to advocate for just climate solutions which do not rely on creating sacrifice zones on Indigenous lands.
Powder River Basin Resource Council <i>Sheridan, Wyoming</i>	To increase public and private renewable energy investments in Laramie, Wyoming and throughout the state.	To build both our grassroots base and leadership capacity in Laramie, Wyoming, and subsequently throughout the state. Also, to educate the community and thus broaden support for renewable energy investments by both the public (city, county, schools, and University of Wyoming) and private sector.

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ProtectPT <i>Harrison, Pennsylvania</i>	<p>To shrink the knowledge gap of those unaware of the environmental and health impacts associated with oil and gas development. We will educate residents about the dangers they are exposed to and will reach out with ways to act.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To fully fund the shale gas training workshops, we host at our Community Education Center. 2. To deepen our relationship with our community. 3. To enhance our ability to quickly mobilize our community.
Rensselaer Environmental Coalition <i>Rensselaer, New York</i>	<p>To increase community opposition to the Dunn Construction & Demolition Landfill's application renewal by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Fundraising efforts and documents will support informed community resistance to the landfill and participation in REC and DEC events to produce significant and substantial public testimony.</p>	<p>To fundraise to publicize environmental arguments and hold community events to inform the public. Substantial community interest is critical in the current application renewal application process. This must be demonstrated during the DEC public comment period and other events requiring public input to have the permit renewal denied.</p>
Snow Camp Environmental Defense <i>Snow Camp, North Carolina</i>	<p>To increase our community grassroots membership to eliminate the environmental impact of a stone quarry more effectively in our neighborhood. And tighten the local permitting requirements to better protect our community.</p>	<p>To reach and engage community members through direct mail, radio ads and a rally. Also, to provide them with information on the health risks from the heavy industries targeting our community.</p>

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Texas Health and Environmental Alliance <i>Houston, Texas</i>	To organize and empower the minority communities of Greater 5th Ward to clean-up historical creosote contamination. Also, to train and mentor residents to be their own advocates in the government process supposedly "helping" communities.	To establish sustainable leadership in the community. And to increase regular attendance at community meetings to secure bipartisan support for protecting location residents and prompt remediation of the creosote contamination.
The Clinch Coalition <i>Wise, Virginia</i>	To build leadership and our organizational capacity and sustainability. This project will allow TCC to carry out the objectives in Goal 3 of its Strategic Plan.	To increase fundraising efforts through outreach to donors, increase membership, provide professional development for grant writing and provide Board and Staff development.
The FANG Collective <i>Pawtucket, Rhode Island</i>	To shut down an existing power plant using a just transition process while building a broader movement to phase out other fossil fuel power plants in the state.	To grow the movement to close the Ocean State Power Plant, commit to close the plant by 2023 and develop a statewide coalition focused on using just transition principles to close down the 7 other power plants in Rhode Island.
Triveni Institute <i>Chicago, Illinois</i>	To host the Chicago Trashion Runway, a fashion show that will build bridges and community between people working in plastic pollution mitigation and BIPOC communities in sacrifice zones. It will foster collaboration on	To bring together communities working in environmental justice, plastic pollution, LGBTQIA+ rights and fashion, to create the Chicago Trashion Runway show. To spread the message that plastic pollution is an environmental justice issue,

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	all our issues to fight the common enemy.	and environmental justice is the foundation we must build upon to create real power environmentally.
Unitarian Universalist Justice OH <i>Worthington, Ohio</i>	To expand upon work done in 2021 by broadening and deepening connections and partnerships among Unitarian Universalists and other interested constituents in Ohio.	To build upon the work that was done in 2021. We will involve more UU congregations in Ohio, expand our leadership group in numbers and diversity, and create broader coalitions and partnerships with other like-minded groups, such as the United Church of Christ.
WaterLegacy <i>Duluth, Minnesota</i>	To build the capacity of our community-led grassroots organization. The SCORE project will strengthen WaterLegacy's communications and strategy to develop deeper public engagement and more sustainable resources for our work to defend clean water, environmental health and environmental justice in alliance with Tribes and other partners.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To develop and implement effective communications of WaterLegacy's value proposition for outreach, engagement of existing supporters and fundraising. 2. To develop and implement strategies to uplift activists, scientists, Tribes and other allies to build a movement that holds government accountable in protecting nature and environmental justice.
Westchester Alliance for Sustainable Solutions <i>Peekskill, New York</i> <i>(Continued on p. 35)</i>	To expand our alliance by recruiting more member groups and involving more constituencies. To educate local groups and local	To strengthen the voice of the Latinx community closest to the incinerator through door-to-door outreach. To expand outreach and engagement of

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	government bodies about Wheelabrator, the county's worst polluter. To mobilize support for zero waste solutions. And to communicate the urgency of closing the incinerator and implementing zero waste alternatives through regular media and social media campaigns.	WASS member groups to increase capacity and build power. To coordinate educational outreach to local municipalities, targeted constituencies and media. And to build relationships with allies in local government.

Thank You!



CHEJ would like to thank our supporters and all the activists who worked diligently throughout 2022 to achieve environmental health and justice.

*We would not be able to do our work without
YOU!*