

# History of Organizing and Victories for Environmental Justice in Chester, PA

Chester has far more than its fair share of problems, but also has an exceptional number of victories. The organizations responsible for nearly all of these victories are:

- 1992-2001: Chester Residents Concerned for Quality Living (CRCQL or 'circle') led by Zulene Mayfield
- 1996-1999: Campus Coalition Concerning Chester (C-4)
- 2001-2003: Laborers International Union Local 413
- 2007-present: DelCo Alliance for Environmental Justice founded by Energy Justice Network
- 2011: Chester Green (youth group)

## Victories:

- 1995: ThermalPure medical waste autoclave (largest in U.S.) closed down
- 1996: Soil Remediation Systems contaminated soil "burner" proposal defeated
- 1997: Crozer-Chester Medical Center medical waste incinerator closed after many years of violations, and Crozer's asthma program set up as reparations
- 1997: Pet crematorium proposal defeated
- 1997: Cherokee Biotechnology's proposed contaminated soil plant defeated
- 1997: DELCORA sludge incinerator lawsuit won, requiring better emissions controls and funding of a (now defunct) Chester Lead Poisoning Prevention Project
- 1997: Environmental racism lawsuit victory – first Civil Rights Act lawsuit over environmental racism (precedent later declared moot and set aside by U.S. Supreme Court)
- 1998: Ogborne construction/demolition waste transfer station defeated
- 1999: Delaware State stops sending waste to Chester incinerator
- 2002: Kimberly-Clark paper mill's tire burning plan denied
- 2005: Clean Metal incinerator ash plant closes
- 2008: Koach Energy's plan to build the world's largest tire incinerator defeated
- 2010: DELCORA sewage treatment plant (and sludge incinerator) withdraws plan to accept toxic and radioactive waste water from upstate natural gas hydrofracking operations

## Accomplishments of the DelCo Alliance for Environmental Justice:

### Stop New Polluters / Zero Waste Campaign:

- defeated Koach Energy tire incinerator proposal
- got Delco Democratic Party to pass a resolution supporting a county Zero Waste plan
- 3 days of action and education (one on the need for a local air pollution ordinance)

### Public Education:

- Laid to Waste video showing
- made new condensed Laid to Waste video for YouTube
- Toxic tours of the Delaware County waterfront
- 3 days of action and education
- public speaking at various campuses/groups
- articles in the local media and in alternative media (Ghetto Print and Chester Green blogs)

### Stadium Site Cleanup

- 3 days of action and education (one on stadium cleanup)
- got air monitoring and data disclosure on city website

### Youth Leadership Development:

- Chester youth trained at PowerShift 2009, U.S. Social Forum, PowerVote training and PowerShift 2011
- Hosted national EJ youth training in Chester, 2011

### Fluoride Campaign:

- House to House Fluoride education events
- spoke at Chester Water Authority meetings, requesting an end to fluoridation
- 3 days of action and education (one on fluoride)
- Chester Water Authority reacted to the infant formula issue and started a section on fluoridation on their website

### Eddystone campaign against Camden Iron & Metal

- drafted a local air pollution ordinance
- supported campaign with research and advising

### Community Improvement:

- outreach to Booth St residents about relocation plan
- got new truck warning signs on Booth St

# Polluting Facilities on the Delaware County Waterfront:

(major facilities of concern are in **bold**)

To request a toxic tour, contact [delcoaliance@ejnet.org](mailto:delcoaliance@ejnet.org)

## Tinicum:

- **Philadelphia International Airport**

## Eddystone:

- Boeing military helicopter plant / Vertol
- **Liberty Electric 541 MW gas-fired power plant**
- **Exelon Eddystone 1,400 MW coal (and oil and gas-fired) power plant – coal units to close in 2013**
  - **Proposed Oil Shale and Frack Water Rail-to-Barge Facility (Eddystone Rail Co & Enbridge)**
- Foamex polyurethane foam plant site / Camden Iron & Metal scrapyards proposed & defeated
- Industrial Park Development Company property
- Petrolite Corp (formerly Monroe Chemical)
- Taylor Oil; Valley National Gases
- JLN Assoc (formerly Eastern Flame Hardening)
- Penn Terminal

## Chester:

- Harrah's Casino
- State Correctional Institute – Chester (prison)
- **Kimberly Clark Tissue Corporation paper mill – burning waste coal and petroleum coke**
- Chester Water Authority
- Riverbridge Industrial Center, formerly Reynolds Metals & others
- Certainteed
- Dee Paper
- PQ Corp Chemicals
- Evonik Degussa Chemicals
- McCusker-Ogborne Trash Removal / Chester Resource Recovery
- PECO substation
- Wade Dump Site
- PECO / Chem-Clear toxic waste site
- PPL Park (Soccer Stadium)
- Former Ugite petroleum cracking site, now an empty area that was proposed to be a gated community
- Chester Generating Station – 39 MW, 3-unit oil burning peaking plant
- The Wharf at Rivertown
- Fishing sites / Highland Ave / Combined Sewer Overflow
- **Covanta trash incinerator – largest trash incinerator in the U.S.**
- Bowman's Concrete
- Former site of ThermalPure medical waste autoclave (was largest in the U.S.)
- Former site of Clean Metals ash processing plant (closed in 2005)
- Site of defeated proposal for Soil Remediation Systems contaminated soil burner
- Abbonizio concrete / aggregate site
- **DELCORA sewage treatment plant and sewage sludge incinerator**
- Scrapyards

## Trainer:

- Trainer Industries
- Stony Creek Technologies chemical plant [formerly Witco Chemical]
- **Delta Air Lines oil refinery (172,000 barrels/day)** [formerly BP → Tosco → ConocoPhillips → Delta]

## Marcus Hook:

- Med-Waste / Safety Disposal Systems of PA, Inc. – medical waste autoclave
- **Sun Oil refinery (175,000 barrels/day) – closed in late 2011; may reopen as ethane cracker**
- FPL Energy / Marcus Hook Refinery Cogen (50 MW natural gas power plant)
- **FPL Energy Marcus Hook LP (717 MW natural gas power plant)**