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Community Collaboration Series: *Eastern Panhandle Green Coalition*



Dear JCV Supporters,

Community partnerships are essential to building grassroots movements. That's why we'd like to take a moment to highlight an important alliance as part of our Community Collaboration Series. One of our longest standing alliances is with the [Eastern Panhandle Green Coalition \(EPGC\)](#). EPGC is a non-profit, 501(c)(4) organization whose mission is to preserve and protect the quality of life for all residents of the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia through community education on environmental and political issues; scientific policy research and advocacy; grassroots organizing and coalition building; leadership development; direct citizen action; and media outreach.

JCV's focus over the past several years has been on leading the legal fight, providing information on government actions, and informing citizens on actions they can take to support sustainable growth and government transparency. Meanwhile, EPGC has taken the lead on grassroots organizing and advocacy efforts. Each Friday they come together to lead Fridays for the Future protests and have focused on building strong coalitions with like-minded organizations. While our efforts have complemented each other in the fight against heavy industry, we have also prioritized coming together for important events like the WVU School of Public Health heavy metal testing, the Save Our Valley rally, and voter education drives. *If we've learned anything in this fight, it's that we're stronger together.*

Keep Up With EPGC's Work



PC: WV Citizen Action Group.

The 2022 West Virginia Legislative Session began last Wednesday, January 12th. Several critical environmental issues are expected to be discussed in Charleston throughout the session including reducing the severance tax on coal and gas, removing rare earth minerals from acid mine drainage, and developing nuclear plants at sites previously occupied by coal-fired power plants. During last year's session, legislation was introduced to exempt certain above-ground oil and gas tanks from safety and inspection laws near drinking water intakes. The bill is back again this

year after previously being removed from consideration at the last minute. Other topics to return this year include a second round of revisions to the human health criteria on the state's water quality standards and the income tax repeal.

The [West Virginia Citizen Action Group](#) will be holding a virtual [Legislative Advocacy Training](#) along with other organizations on **January 19th from 6-7:30 PM**. This is a great opportunity to learn how to effectively advocate for issues that are important to you as well as how to make your voice heard on the decisions that will be made in Charleston. They will also hold a [Civic Engagement Training](#) on **January 20th from 6-7 PM** which will cover topics such as how to build relationships with your representatives, how to track a bill from start to finish, and how to navigate the West Virginia Legislature page.

There will also be an information session on **January 18th from 6-7:15 PM** on advanced nuclear in West Virginia, including the potential impacts, risks, and benefits. During the session, you will hear from several experts as well as legislators from both sides of the aisle. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions. The discussion is sponsored by the Alliance, WV Rivers, the Citizens Climate Lobby, WV CAG, the WV Environmental Council, the WVU Law Center for Energy and Sustainable Development, the Ohio River Valley Institute, WV Office of Energy, WV Manufacturers Association and the Charleston chapter of the NAACP. Register for the session [here](#).

The [West Virginia Environmental Council](#) decided to postpone WV E-Day, which was scheduled for Thursday, January 20th. E-Day was originally supposed to be held in-person at the WV State Capitol, but will now be held virtually next month due to a lack of COVID protocols at the Capitol. We will post more information about E-Day as it becomes available.

Attending local government meetings is another important way you can be active in the community. Your presence helps to hold our officials accountable to the values and concerns of Jefferson County's citizens. "Think global, act local!"

[View This Week's Meetings](#)

Please consider a gift to support our critical work if you are able to. We greatly

appreciate every donation. All proceeds benefit JCV's efforts to lead legal, political, and community action to support sustainable growth, without heavy industry, and to empower our citizen's voices to ensure a clean, transparent government in Jefferson County.

Donate to Support Our Work



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