

Major Toxic Pollutants Released In Delaware County*

Rank	Chemical	Pounds
1	Sulfuric Acid	407,307
2	Nitrate Compounds	280,490
3	Propylene	144,998
4	Hydrochloric acid	126,944
5	Ethylene	72,742
6	Toluene	58,590
7	Methyl Tert-Butyl Ether	37,848
8	Methanol	37,465
9	Ammonia	34,509
10	Xylene	18,538

* 2002 data from www.scorecard.org
See the data and look up health effects of these
chemicals at www.tinyurl.com/5e97hc

Watch our Video!

Visit our website
www.ejnet.org/chester/
to see a short version of the film
Laid to Waste, hosted by YouTube.

Get involved – join DelCo Alliance for Environmental Justice

Email: delcoalliance@ejnet.org
Web: www.ejnet.org/chester/

The DelCo Alliance is a multi-racial, multi-
generational alliance of concerned residents of
Chester and throughout the county and region.

More Information

ActionPA

A Pennsylvania-based research,
organizing and networking center for
the grassroots environmental justice
movement.

www.ActionPA.org

Environmental Racism in Chester

The DelCo Alliance's webpage

www.ejnet.org/chester/

Mapping Environmental Justice in Delaware County

2006 Report by Swarthmore students
on environmental pollution in DelCo.

www.ejnet.org/chester/delco-swat.pdf

Energy Justice Network

The Energy Justice Network is the
grassroots energy agenda, supporting
communities threatened by polluting
energy and waste technologies.

www.EnergyJustice.net

Can You Find The
Top 15 Polluters in
Delaware County?



www.ejnet.org/chester/delco-swat.pdf

DelCo Alliance for Environmental Justice



Working to improve the
lives of every resident of
Delaware County
by reducing toxic
emissions throughout
our area

Initiatives

- ❖ Prevent new polluting industries from targeting Chester
- ❖ Reduce waste and toxic pollution in Delaware County
- ❖ Work with local political parties and office holders to pass stronger environmental policies
- ❖ Sponsor film screenings and panel discussions of *Laid to Waste* to raise awareness
- ❖ Conduct educational “toxic tours” of industries along the Chester waterfront
- ❖ Collaborate with local community groups to form stronger coalitions around environmental issues
- ❖ Develop curriculum about environmental justice for local schools
- ❖ Facilitate the engagement of local community members and provide access to information

Victory!

Chester was targeted with what would have been the world’s largest tire incinerator. Koach Energy withdrew their proposal in 2008 following pressure from the DelCo Alliance.

History

In the 1990s a group of Chester residents protested the presence of four toxic polluting, foul-smelling industries near their homes. This pollution contributes to the high rates of asthma, cancers, lead-poisoned children, low-birth weight babies and many other health problems.

Besides holding street demonstrations, the Chester Residents Concerned for Quality Living, with support from the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia, sued over Thermal Pure (the nation’s largest medical waste autoclave), SRS (a planned contaminated soil plant), and DELCORA (the county’s sewage treatment plant and sludge incinerator) for violations of law.

The suit uncovered a troubling link between members of the PA Supreme Court and Thermal Pure. The SRS suit would have gone to the U.S. Supreme Court had not the company withdrawn its permit application, apparently to avoid setting a damaging precedent. DELCORA agreed to reduce its smokestack emissions and pay for a lead poisoning prevention program.

Ultimately Thermal Pure shut down less than a year after it opened. SRS never opened. The trash incinerator (now the largest in the nation and owned by Covanta) and DELCORA are still open.

Today the City of Chester still suffers from one of the worst cases of environmental racism in the U.S. Nearly all of the polluting industry in Delaware County is concentrated in or near Chester.

The Principles of Environmental Justice

- Demand that public policy be based on mutual respect and justice for all peoples, free from any form of discrimination
- Call for universal protection from extraction, production and disposal of toxic/hazardous wastes and poisons that threaten the fundamental right to clean air, land, water, and food
- Demand the cessation of the production of all toxins, hazardous wastes, and radioactive materials, and that all past and current producers be held strictly accountable to the people for detoxification and the containment at the point of production
- Demand the right to participate as equal partners at every level of decision-making, including needs assessment, planning, implementation, enforcement and evaluation
- Affirm the right of all workers to a safe and healthy work environment without being forced to choose between an unsafe livelihood and unemployment
- Protect the right of victims of environmental injustice to receive full compensation and reparations for damages as well as quality health care
- Affirm the need for urban and rural ecological policies to clean up and rebuild our cities and rural areas in balance with nature, honoring the cultural integrity of all our communities
- Oppose military occupation, repression and exploitation of lands, peoples and cultures, and other life forms

* drafted and adopted by Delegates to the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit, 1991. For a full copy of the Principles, see: www.ejnet.org/ej