

Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH)
Pennsylvania Cancer Coalition (PCC)
Environmental Health Workgroup (EHWG) Meeting Notes
Date: October 21, 2025

Participants: 9

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|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Fern Gilkerson | 6. Danyelle Gibson |
| 2. Nate Burden | 7. Susan Perrine |
| 3. Stacy Sowers | 8. Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis |
| 4. Jennifer King | 9. Ned Ketyer |
| 5. Andre Green | |

Meetings are usually held on the third Tuesdays of the month from 1:00pm-2:00pm. Any new and interested members referred to this workgroup must initially use the online form found on the [PCC website](#). They must also specifically request to join the [Environmental Health Workgroup](#). Click for the [PA Cancer Coalition website](#) and click for the [PA Cancer Control Plan](#).

[Past meeting notes can be found here.](#)

The EHWG Action Plan Document is on the [PCC Environmental Health Workgroup page](#).

Member Updates

Nate Burden, PA Indoor Environments Association Chapter President, and Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis, Women for a Healthy Environment (WHE) Executive Director, led a successful effort to pass legislation requiring mandatory radon testing in Pennsylvania schools. This bipartisan victory marks an important advancement in protecting children's health and improving environmental safety statewide. See their press release here: [Radon in Schools Working Group Announcement - Women For a Healthy Environment](#)

CENSWPA & upcoming webinars:

- **October 29, 12:00 – 1:00 PM:**
Understanding the Link Between Firefighting and Cancer: Opportunities for Prevention and Awareness

Register here:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/cWaUChlTRgGfs0BC7QklbQ>

- **November 10, 12:00 – 1:00 PM:**

Elevating Recent Community Environmental Wins

Register here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?secret=8y7ZILdg>

The EHWG and the PCC shared a notice with the PCC members about a watch party held on October 21. The event featured a documentary focused on the Shell Plastic Plant in Beaver County, highlighting the broader public health and environmental harms of the petrochemical industry.

Education Subcommittee

This Subcommittee is soon launching a November 2025 - April 2026 webinar series: “A Targeted Approach to Reducing Environmental Cancer Risks in Pennsylvania.” Register for the series here [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#):

- **November 11th, 1:00 - 1:45 PM**

The Clinician's Role in Environmental Health Assessment

Dr. Ned Ketyer, President of Physicians for Social Responsibility, PA, will emphasize the critical role of environmental and social determinants of health in cancer risk assessments for healthcare providers.

- **December 9th, 1:00 - 1:45 PM:**

Healthy Homes for Healthy Kids

Michelle Naccarati-Chapkin, Executive Director of Women for a Healthy Environment, will explore how children are uniquely vulnerable to environmental toxins and share strategies for creating healthy home action plans with safer alternatives to common household products.

Policy Subcommittee

This Subcommittee is planning a two-tiered approach to strengthen environmental health advocacy and engagement:

1. **Legislative Engagement:** Virtual town halls to connect lawmakers, advocates, and residents to discuss key environmental health bills and promote civic participation.
2. **Community Partnerships:** Support for local retailers and makers of non-toxic, safer products to link healthy consumer choices with local economic growth.

Next Meeting

The next EHWG meetings are scheduled for 11/18/25, 1-2pm.