



## STEWARDS OF OUR EARTH *All of God's Creation*

Social Justice Committee, Holy Cross Parish, Mt. Airy, December 3, 2023

### *Good News for Our Communities and Our Earth*

#### **Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)**

“Governor Shapiro has taken a decisive step in appealing the Commonwealth Court decision to strike the RGGI. [See Bulletin column 11/19/23.] This is fantastic news for Pennsylvania's future and economy, as RGGI plays a crucial role in addressing climate change and promoting a sustainable energy future for our state. **RGGI will provide millions in investments for clean energy and environmental justice projects - and will help create new jobs....** RGGI has the potential to be a cornerstone of our state's efforts to combat climate change and promote clean energy.” (Molly Parzen, Executive Director, *Conservation Voters of PA*, 11/22/23)

#### **EPA to Award \$2B in Grants for Environmental Justice**

“The Biden administration is making \$2 billion available to community groups, states, and tribes to **clean up pollution and develop clean energy in disadvantaged communities** in what officials called the largest-ever investment in environmental justice. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Michael Regan called the grant program unprecedented and said it ‘has the promise to turn disadvantaged and overburdened areas into healthy, resilient, and thriving communities for current and future generations’.... The program is intended to address multiple, overlapping problems in poorer communities instead of trying to take on problems ‘one small grant at a time,’ said John Podesta, senior adviser on clean energy.” (Matthew Daly (Associated Press), *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 11/22/23)

#### **Clean Air – A Right for All**

“Environmental and health groups celebrated an important step towards clean air after a federal appeals court denied the requests of industry and states to block the EPA’s **Good Neighbor Rule....** The Good Neighbor Rule, a vital measure **aimed at reducing cross-state air pollution**, requires coal-burning power plants and other high-polluting industrial sources to decrease emissions that contribute to smog.... The **EPA estimates that the Good Neighbor Rule, when fully implemented, will prevent more than a million asthma attacks and at least a thousand premature deaths each year.** This rule will also improve the health of forests and waterbodies harmed by ozone and its precursor pollutants.” (Kathleen Riley, Senior Associate Attorney, *Earthjustice*, 10/13/23)

#### **American Climate Corps**

“This executive action **creates a massive green jobs training and placement program that will build pathways for ... careers to tackle the climate crisis.** There's so much work to be done to build the clean energy economy, make our communities more resilient to extreme weather, clean up air and water pollution, and close the nature equity gap - and this program will create 20,000 new jobs to do exactly that.... This **program will prioritize the communities most harmed by pollution and climate impacts....** It will train and mobilize a diverse generation of young people in conservation and climate resilience related work, from restoring coastal wetlands to planting trees in communities suffering from extreme heat to deploying clean energy and more.” (Jackie Ostfeld, Director, Outdoors for All Campaign, *Sierra Club*, 09/20/23)

**“A technological and economic development which does not leave in its wake a better world and an integrally higher quality of life cannot be considered progress.”** – Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* #194

Comments on this column may be directed to the Social Justice Committee at [socialjustice@holycrossphl.org](mailto:socialjustice@holycrossphl.org).