



# Community Screening & Discussion Guide

## CHESHIRE, OHIO

Use your screening of **CHESHIRE, OHIO** as a tool for educating your community the environmental and public health impacts of coal-based energy production, and the steps communities can take to protect their rights. This guide offers some background information, helpful tips & discussion questions for an informative, rewarding screening.

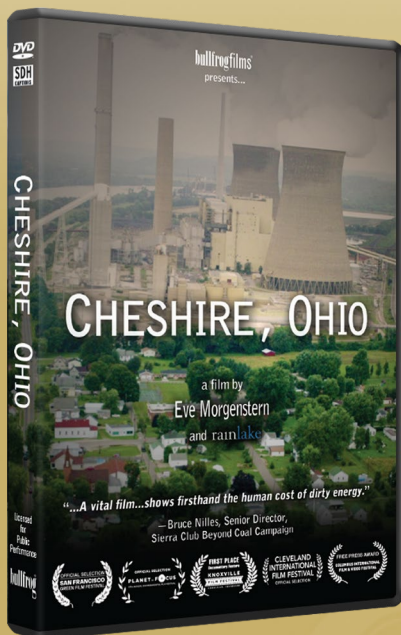
Good Luck!

### what you'll find inside!

- about the film & filmmaker
- ready to watch! screening guide
- ready to act! handout

### About the film

Filmed over a decade, **CHESHIRE, OHIO** follows a community devastated by coal, starting with American Electric Power's buyout and bulldozing of the titular Ohio River community after exposing them to harmful emissions. Returning now almost emptied town several years later, director Eve Morgenstern follows the case of 77 plaintiffs who have filed a lawsuit against American Electric Power over cancers and other diseases they developed from working unprotected at the plant's coal ash landfill site. As the cycle of pollution from coal continues, viewers see how one quintessential American town suffers from our reliance on carbon energy.



### About the filmmaker

Eve Morgenstern was born on Long Island and raised in Brooklyn, NY. She received an MFA in Photography from the San Francisco Art Institute and a BA in Art History from Vassar College. She is a photographer and documentary filmmaker whose work addresses themes of home, architecture and the environment. Eve has been awarded artist residencies at The Lower Manhattan Cultural Council and The MacDowell Colony.

# ready to watch!

## Ideas and best practices to help make your community screening a success!

**1. Publicize Your Event!** This is the most important step because it not only tells the world what you're up to, but it lets the Bullfrog Community team know what your plans are so we can help you publicize your event. Visit [http://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/cheshire\\_ohio](http://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/cheshire_ohio) to register and get the word out about your upcoming screening. You can also email us at [info@bullfrogcommunities.com](mailto:info@bullfrogcommunities.com) if you need help getting started!

**2. Visualize Your Goal!** What do you hope to achieve with your screening? Your goal could be to generate a lively post-film discussion about issues raised in the film, gain support or recruit volunteers for a local grassroots campaign, or raise funds for a group on your campus or in your community. Or, you can simply use the screening to provide an opportunity for your audience to watch and learn together.

**3. Where To Host?** Consider which locations in your area would be ideal for accommodating a community film screening of the size you anticipate: downtown movie theaters, churches and synagogues, town halls, community centers, public libraries, school auditoriums, university and college venues, warehouses at a business and outdoor screenings at parks and playgrounds, and even private homes have been venues for many successful community screenings.

**4. Find A Partner!** Give some thought to who is already working on this issue in your community. Can they help sponsor the event? Spread the word? Speak on a panel discussion after the screening? Some potential partners include: student groups at universities and colleges; a local public or campus library; representatives from local religious congregations or faith-based community groups; local chapters of national/global activist or grassroots organizations; faculty members at nearby universities and colleges; reporters/journalists from local news publications such as newspapers and magazines; local nonprofits; and any community organizations that share goals or views with the film you are screening.

**5. Invite A Guest Speaker!** Guest speakers and panelists are a great way to encourage discussion and debate after a community screening. When people are engaged and thinking about the issues they will stay engaged long after the screening has passed. Contact representatives of local non-profits, faith groups, journalists and reporters from local media outlets, or teachers and professors who have expertise and/or insight into the issues raised by the film, and invite them to attend your screening and participate in a discussion or Q&A session with your audience.

**6. Engage Your Audience!** Use this discussion guide to engage your audience. Included in this guide is a section called Ready to Act!, — which can be used as a handout — listing additional resources for further investigation about key issues raised in the film.

**7. Spread The Word!** Think about the best methods available to you for publicizing your film screening to people in your community. Sending emails to a contact list, creating event notifications on Facebook, Google+, Eventbrite or an online community calendar, using Twitter to announce your event, and placing screening announcements in local newspapers and newsletters is a good start. In addition to this guide, you can find and download a screening poster and press photos at [http://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/cheshire\\_ohio](http://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/cheshire_ohio) that can be used to help publicize your event.

**8. Tell Us How It Went!** Visit [http://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/cheshire\\_ohio](http://www.bullfrogcommunities.com/cheshire_ohio) to tell us about your event. Contribute to the film's discussion page to help other student groups, universities, non-profits, congregations and community groups further the discussion and put on successful screening events of their own. Where was your screening held? Who attended? What went well, and what was challenging? What did you discuss? Your feedback will help others to organize their own events, and will energize Bullfrog Communities as a whole.

# ready to act!

handout

## **Beyond Coal | The Sierra Club** - <https://content.sierraclub.org/coal/>

Not only is coal burning responsible for one third of US carbon emissions—the main contributor to climate disruption—but it is also making us sick, leading to as many as 13,000 premature deaths every year and more than \$100 billion in annual health costs. The Beyond Coal campaign's main objective is to replace dirty coal with clean energy by mobilizing grassroots activists in local communities to advocate for the retirement of old and outdated coal plants and to prevent new coal plants from being built.

### Beyond Coal Campaign Goals

- Retiring one-third of the nation's more than 500 coal plants by 2020
- Replacing the majority of retired coal plants with clean energy solutions such as wind, solar, and geothermal
- Keeping coal in the ground in places like Appalachia and Wyoming's Powder River Basin

## **Coal | Earthjustice** - <https://earthjustice.org/climate-and-energy/coal>

Coal-fired power plants are the single biggest source of greenhouse gases in the United States, accounting for more than a third of all emissions. They also pollute our air and our water, causing and worsening respiratory illnesses like asthma, emphysema and bronchitis. To save our health and the health of our planet, we have to stop burning coal.

### Earthjustice goals:

- ADDRESSING WASTE AND EMISSIONS through litigation and advocacy that establishes and enforces national regulations for power plant waste like coal ash.
- RETIRING DIRTY AND COSTLY COAL PLANTS through litigation that forces the retirement of the oldest and dirtiest plants, blocks the construction of new ones, and creates incentives for investing in clean, renewable sources of energy.
- PREVENTING COAL EXPORTS through work to prevent the permitting of terminals that would ship mountains of coal overseas to be burned.
- STOPPING EXTRACTION AND MINING through efforts to ban mountaintop removal mining and other extraction practices, to protect the health, air and water of local residents, and to send a signal to the coal industry that coal's time as an energy giant is nearly done.

## **The Center for Biological Diversity Climate Law Institute**

[http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/climate\\_law\\_institute/](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/programs/climate_law_institute/)

The Center's Climate Law Institute was founded to unite programs in coordinated and ambitious strategies to protect wildlife, ecosystems and communities from the catastrophic dangers and damages of climate disruption.

