

# Green\*Star

a quarterly publication of the Green Party of Pennsylvania

Vol. 6, Issue 3  
Summer 2008  
PRE-ELECTION  
ISSUE

## Signature Season Ends; Campaign Season Starts

By Blyden Potts

On August 1, GPPA submitted a nomination paper to the Bureau of Commissions, Elections, and Legislation (BCEL) in Harrisburg to place the names of Green Party candidates on the ballot in November, bringing signature collection to a close.

Success this season was mixed. GPPA got sufficient signatures to qualify all five of our legislative candidates to appear on the ballot, however we received too few signatures statewide to get Presidential nominee Cynthia McKinney and VP candidate Rosa Clemente on the Pennsylvania ballot.

The signature season got off to a weak start. Excepting Primary Day, Pittsburgh and Wyoming Counties where local candidates were the impetus to collect signatures, and two or three other counties, we got very few signatures prior to June. The lack of prominent statewide candidates, uncertainty about who would be the GP Presidential nominee, some Greens choosing to support Nader, various individual issues, and the limited number of local candidates were all contributing factors. By late June, over three months into the season, we still had fewer than 6000 signatures. Less than a quarter of the way to our goal with only a bit over a month remaining, and with neither GPUS nor the McKinney campaign having any help to offer until after the convention, the situation looked hopeless. A decision was made by the signature coordinator and the Steering Committee to suspend signature collection for statewide candidates and focus instead on the achievable goal of getting local candidates on the ballot, rather than ask volunteers to waste efforts.

Around the time of the convention word came

*(continued on page 2)*

## UP AGAINST THE WALL

By Larry Menkes

America faces a combination of crises that can only happen once in the history of civilization. We are frozen against a wall - ground zero of a collision between global climate change, peak oil, and global resource depletion. Any one of these, unchecked, could end civilization, as we know it.

Man-made gases are overwhelming the earth's ability to cope causing climate change on a scale that's turning deadly. Peak oil is closely related since burning fossil fuels creates greenhouse gases and wasting energy does it faster while hastening the end of affordable oil.

Burning fossil fuels is responsible for the industrialized world's unprecedented prosperity. Except for our poorest, Americans live lives of unprecedented ease and convenience. Inexpensive oil fueled industrial, technological, and agricultural abundance and unprecedented population growth. Oil is the basis of almost everything in our lives.

### THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL: PEAK OIL

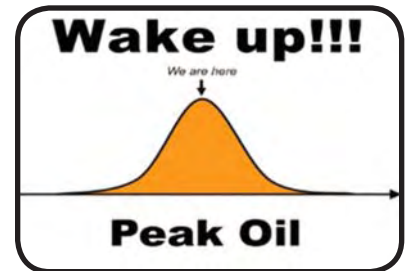
The era of cheap oil is over. High petroleum prices have finally captured America's attention. And anyone who knows exponential math and the oil industry knows we can't drill our way out of this mess.

To shock us, peak oil guru William Kunstler says that peak oil will unleash an economic shit-storm. It's been half a century since we were warned about this by M. King Hubbert. At the Association for the Study of Peak Oil (ASPO) they've gone from being prophets to becoming historians.

### DENIAL: NOT JUST A RIVER IN EGYPT

It's deceptive since peak oil is rarely in American news. And another human frailty blocks our appreciation of its danger. In research on peoples' reactions to catastrophic news, Elisabeth Kubler-Ross showed that we first deny it. Then, getting an-

*(continued on page 3)*



## Pennsylvania Greens Attend National Convention

By Hillary Aisenstein

This summer, nine Greens represented Pennsylvania at the GPUS National Nominating Convention in Chicago. Traveling by planes, trains, buses, and cars, the Pennsylvania delegation spent the weekend attending workshops, meeting candidates, and of course, casting Pennsylvania's votes on the convention floor.

The actual presidential nomination, which took place on Saturday, July 12, at the Chicago Symphony Center, yielded Cynthia McKinney and Rosa Clemente as the Green Party's Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates, in only one round of voting. Earlier that day, Allegheny County's Cecilia Wheeler distinguished herself as the spokesperson of the newly forming Latino caucus, argu-

*(continued on page 5)*



## Green Party of Pennsylvania Contact Information

P.O. Box 11962  
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1962  
888-PA1-GREEN  
www.gpofpa.org

### Steering Committee

Hilary Aisenstein, Chair  
Blyden Potts, Secretary  
Jay Sweeney, Treasurer  
Greta Browne Greg Catalone  
Robin White Jessica Ashman

### Administrative Committee

Blyden Potts  
Ed Bortz Traci Confer  
Mike Ewall

### Communications Committee

Randi Peters, Chair  
Hilary Aisenstein  
Paula Bronstein Guy Gray  
Skip Mendler Michael Ochs  
Mary Riley Charles Sherrouse  
Bob Small Chuck Steel

## Signature Season *(continued from page 1)*

that there were Reconstruction Party volunteers in Philadelphia who would help us collect signatures to get Cynthia McKinney on the ballot. They said they might be able to get 20,000 signatures in two weeks, which made achieving our goal possible, so we started collecting signatures again. Our efforts in the last two weeks were impressive, but it was not enough given how late we were, and as the season drew to a close the projected RP signatures failed to materialize.

In the end GPPA submitted somewhat more than 10,000 signatures. Roughly half of those came from Allegheny County. Philadelphia was slightly less than a quarter. The vast majority of the other quarter came from eight other counties: Berks, Cumberland, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, Wyoming, and York. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of signatures collected by GPPA volunteers were never submitted back to us at the end of the season, but these would not have been enough to change the outcome.

The main lesson we should take from the 2008 season is emphasizing the importance of running legislative and local candidates. They are the building blocks that make it possible to get state and national candidates on the ballot. It is particularly helpful when we can stack candidates from more local offices with legislative candidates whose districts subsume the local ones, as happened in Pittsburgh this year. Having strong state or national candidates is another key. After the convention, when we had a national candidate, our signature efforts were good, but prior to the convention when we had only stand-in state candidates our signature efforts were almost non-existent except where we had local candidates. If the GPUS annual meeting had been held a month, or even two weeks, earlier we might have had sufficient time to convert the momentum Cynthia McKinney brought out of Chicago into actual ballot access for her. It might also have been helpful to have set a goal of having legislative candidates file early in the season, as we did in 2006, to motivate early signature collection and build momentum.

As we enter the Fall campaign season Greens should promote the candidates whose names will appear on the ballot:

<b>Titus North</b>	<b>14th Congressional District</b>
<b>Jonah McAllister-Erickson</b>	<b>21st PA General Assembly District</b>
<b>Mary E. "Liz" Hughes</b>	<b>23rd PA General Assembly District</b>
<b>Jay Sweeney</b>	<b>111th PA General Assembly District</b>
<b>Guy Gray</b>	<b>133rd PA General Assembly District</b>

Getting these candidates on the ballot was an accomplishment. Thank you to all the Green volunteers who did get out and actively collect signatures to help achieve this.

GPPA will be submitting a formal notice to BCEL declaring that GPPA is running a write-in campaign with Cynthia McKinney and Rosa Clemente as candidates for the offices of President and Vice President, respectively, and submitting a list of potential electors associated with that write-in campaign, to ensure that write-in votes cast for McKinney and Clemente are officially counted.

### ***In This Issue:***

- Green Party 2008 National Convention highlights
  - Campaign Season Starts
  - Environment
  - Local reports
- And more!*

**DANCING TREES  
WEB DESIGN**  
DISCOUNTS FOR  
GREEN GROUPS & BUSINESSES  
**WWW.DANCINGTREETSWEB.COM**

**Cards By Bo**  
100% post-consumer  
recycled paper  
**www.CardsByBo.com**

# Newly Forming Green Caucus

... proved to be as energetic and efficient as the experienced ones, with some help!

By Ceci Wheeler

The 2008 Chicago National Convention was one of the most exciting conventions in our Green history. Hundreds of Greens met and shared enthusiastic hugs, information and goodies. Many knew each other; others were the new kids of the block. The anticipation to get the 2008 nominee was felt in every hall. State delegates ran around, making the last calculations for the voting call. All workshops and meetings were well attended, and their attendees were engaged and satisfied.

In the midst of this miracle, about eight lonely strangers met in a small, freezing, storage room which was continually disrupted by people who needed something from the room. In about an hour and a half time-frame, this group of people introduced themselves. A few of them were newbies and had just become registered Greens: a supporter of the Chicago Latino candidate for Congress, Omar Lopez, and a Latino candidate running for local office in Chicago (Dist. 14), Paloma M. Andrade. Yes, this was a newly forming Latino Caucus and it included Green del-

egates from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Arizona, Chicago, D.C. and Connecticut.

In the end, the Caucus' discussion could be qualified as ordinary but with great promise. Notwithstanding, this group of Green Latinos established their commitment to help the Green Party grow and establish itself as an official accredited Green Caucus, keeping in mind that Latino communities in America will play an important role in politics in the future.

To make it short, the story of the newly forming Latino Caucus did not end in the tiny, spooky and cold Clark 2 Room on the 7th floor of the Palmer House Hilton in Chicago, at the end of that meeting on Friday, July 12, 2008. Word that the draconian "Guest Worker Program" against undocumented migrants had infiltrated the 2008 Green platform spread through the large and fancy room of the Chicago Symphony Hall in less than 8 hours. An intense and rapid campaign to vote against the 2008 Platform, led by the Latino Caucus, succeeded. The Platform

Committee finds itself with the task of revising its contents again while the previous 2004 stands again on its own until a better one comes along.

It wasn't just the issue of the Guest Worker Program that was rejected from the Platform democratically and overwhelmingly by National Green delegates. There were other additions equally controversial that could've been stamped in the Platform, such as the ones on Palestine/Israel, women's rights and others, which did not appeal to the voters. However, there were certain additions competing to be in the Platform, such as the one on the environment.

Needless to say, the Platform Committee was recognized by their efforts to put together such a complicated document. But we were all winners; newbies learned from this convention that Greens not only preach, they carry and promote grassroots democracy. Now the world knows it.

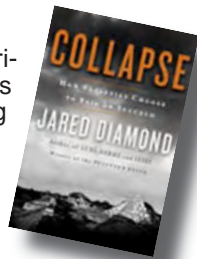
---

---

## Up Against the Wall *(continued from page 1)*

gry we blame, bargain, and then get depressed. After taking prozac we finally act appropriately.

By then we've lost valuable time. Further barriers block our way. In "Collapse: How societies choose to succeed or fail", Pulitzer Prize winning author, Jared Diamond, documents how previously powerful nations and societies perished. He describes how endangered societies and cultures ignore warnings and collapse.



### JAMES HANSEN: 20 YEARS LATER

The great climate researcher, James Hansen, sounded an alarm in testimony to the US Senate in June, 1988. This past June he said, "Again a wide gap has developed between what is understood about global warming by the relevant scientific community and what is known by policymakers and the public. Now, as then, frank assessment of scientific data yields conclusions that are shocking to the body politic. Now, as then, I can assert that these conclusions have a certainty exceeding 99 percent."



"I argue that a path yielding energy independence and a healthier environment is, barely, still possible. It requires a transformative change of direction in Washington in the next year."

On the eve of the recent G-8 Summit, Hansen told Japan's Prime Minister, "The past approach, and extensions now under discussion, are fatally flawed and would doom our children and grand-

children to an increasingly impoverished life on a more desolate planet. Clear thinking and bold leadership of the international community are essential in the next 1-2 years to change the course of human history."

### THE END OF CHEAP OIL IS JUST THE BEGINNING

As Americans struggle to cope with \$4 a gallon gasoline, US automakers struggle to stay afloat, SUV owners struggle to sell their gashogs, and homeowners at all economic levels are losing their homes because energy now costs more than their mortgage payments.

At the World Economic Summit at Davos, Jeroen van der Veen unveiled a study done by Royal Dutch Shell and vetted by MIT. They agreed with Shell's assessment that the industrialized countries could survive peak oil if they agreed on a plan to share the last of the oil and gas.

The other likely scenario hinted at a struggle of biblical proportions for the dregs of oil. Either way, they said global demand for oil will exceed supplies within seven years. Hearing that, the prominent oil investment banker Matthew Simmons commented, "I don't know why people are so worried about global warming destroying the planet, peak oil will do it first."

### COOKED SOLUTIONS

I don't think that the clear thinking and bold leadership Hansen wanted was in evidence, on July 10th, when Pennsylvania governor Ed Rendell signed a \$650M energy bill at the Codo Auto Parts site in York. The site is being developed as a certified energy-efficient residential/ office development.

*(continued on page 4)*

## In Uno, Plures

One sun  
For many trees  
Many rivers  
Feed one sea  
One Light  
But many eyes  
One Truth  
With many sides

One planet  
Many lands  
Many fingers  
For each hand  
One wind  
But many sighs  
Out of many  
One can rise

In that one  
Still many stand  
Many hearts  
Many hands  
Many faces  
Face one sun  
In one are many  
From many, one

© 2008

Skip Mendler

*("In uno, plures" - "Many within one" - is of course the flip side of the USA motto "E Pluribus Unum," "One out of many")*

## Local Organizing

Andy Blue frequently plays around the city. His work is solidly political, direct and without apology. One of the highlights of his set was "Daddy, what did you do in the strike". He mixed his originals with songs from known and little known folksinging predecessors, some of whom were new to his riveted audience.

Thomas Paine Cronin, President of AFSME Council District Council 47, has said, "In Philadelphia, Andy Blue has been the labor movement's best friend in music for the past 25 years." To see his albums and current schedule, go to [www.andyblue.com](http://www.andyblue.com)



Tom Nielson, now in Massachusetts, then took the stage. Anyone who heard him at our last State Convention knows how good his work is, with a pinch of sarcasm, a memory of Phil Ochs, and a determination to change the world, one song at a time. Oh, and he can rock, too.

Tom Nielson, The Bard Insurgent, grew up in a farm in upstate New York. He is a classically trained vocal soloist, who has opened for many well-known non-musicians, such as Caesar Chavez, Amy Goodman, Dennis Kucinich and Ralph Nader. He has played in 19 countries, including Cuba (The Martin Luther King Center Havana).

Tom has over 10 albums available on his web site, [www.tomnelsonmusic.com](http://www.tomnelsonmusic.com)

This kind of event, politics with music, is what other County Green Parties may consider (and may be doing) for both party-building and, dare we have it, some good Green fun.

## Up Against the Wall *(continued from page 3)*

The developer expects to cut energy use in half. Rendel told the audience that energy costs in PA could increase by 50% in the next few years because of deregulation. He said, "Unless we reduce demand, folks, we're cooked." At that rate we'd still be cooked. To avoid broiling, Pennsylvania, the third worst CO2 emitter in the country, would need far greater changes.

### SOLUTIONS FROM A SANER WORLD

In Europe the CEPHEUS Project promotes construction standards offering high comfort, minimal energy consumption and negligible heating costs. Passive House has already become their minimum new-construction standard. CEPHEUS does that at nearly the same cost as conventional construction standards. Japan, the bellwether of energy efficiency, is ten times more efficient than American manufacturing.

### THE PROBLEM WITH THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE

At the 1992 Earth Summit, President Bush declared that the American way of life is not negotiable. His son echoes that today. But global climate change, peak oil, and global resource depletion are imposed by nature, and nature doesn't negotiate.

Effective solutions will require us to drastically alter our way of living in ways that would shock most Americans. We've squandered the best years for preventing or minimizing these problems. A willing administration in Washington might help, but planning could take most of 2009. We'd have one year left to execute the bold

## The Sounds of Freedom

*By Bob Small*

On Sunday night, June 22nd, the Green Party of Philadelphia presented a duo of folksingers: Philly's Andy Blue and internationally known Tom Nielson. This intimate and exciting concert was at Germantown Friends Meeting.

Andy Blue frequently plays around the city. His work is solidly political, direct and without apology. One of the highlights of his set was "Daddy, what did you do in the strike". He mixed his originals with songs from known and little known folksinging predecessors, some of whom were new to his riveted audience.

Thomas Paine Cronin, President of AFSME Council District Council 47, has said, "In Philadelphia, Andy Blue has been the labor movement's best friend in music for the past 25 years." To see his albums and current schedule, go to [www.andyblue.com](http://www.andyblue.com)



Tom Nielson, now in Massachusetts, then took the stage. Anyone who heard him at our last State Convention knows how good his work is, with a pinch of sarcasm, a memory of Phil Ochs, and a determination to change the world, one song at a time. Oh, and he can rock, too.

Tom Nielson, The Bard Insurgent, grew up in a farm in upstate New York. He is a classically trained vocal soloist, who has opened for many well-known non-musicians, such as Caesar Chavez, Amy Goodman, Dennis Kucinich and Ralph Nader. He has played in 19 countries, including Cuba (The Martin Luther King Center Havana).

Tom has over 10 albums available on his web site, [www.tomnelsonmusic.com](http://www.tomnelsonmusic.com)

This kind of event, politics with music, is what other County Green Parties may consider (and may be doing) for both party-building and, dare we have it, some good Green fun.

leadership called for by Hansen.

While Hansen's clock ticks, 23 feet of sea level rise is melting in Greenland, and more in Antarctica and glaciers worldwide. A three-meter rise would put most ports under water at high tide.

### A GREEN SOLUTION

Efficiency and conservation could provide a rapid 50% reduction in energy use in America. It would cut roughly 50% of our greenhouse gas emissions, and save 50% of the energy costs. Reducing demand could bring down the cost of fuels and buy us time for more effective solutions. The savings could be used to make further gains. A Manhattan Project approach might stave off the worst effects. Yet stopping all emissions tomorrow means we'd still have 50 to 100 years of effect in the pipeline. Diamond showed that a crisis with a significant lag between cause and effect baffles humans.

The Stern Report showed that failure to quickly reduce greenhouse emissions will cost as much as 20% of global GDP, now and forever. Can we afford that when we can barely afford \$4 a gallon gasoline?

### WALKING OUR GREEN TALK

The Green Party of the US is virtually out of time to make a significant impact on climate or energy. Here's our last shot. For us to have any hope of creating a positive outcome we must become the change we wish to see in America. To do that will require the

## Cynthia McKinney in Philadelphia

On Sunday evening, July 20th, GOPP (the Green Party of Philadelphia) presented an opportunity to hear the US Green Party Presidential Candidate, Cynthia McKinney. This combination speech/ Q&A/ Fundraiser was at the Singapore (Vegetarian) Restaurant, 1006 Race St., in the Chinatown section of Philadelphia.



Cynthia McKinney

Cynthia McKinney, the former long-term Democratic Congressperson from Georgia, has long been an anti-war and progressive voice. She initiated impeachments proceedings against George Bush in 2002, which were not joined by the necessary numbers of other Congresspersons. After that, she was ousted from her post by the GOP, which is shown in the documentary *American Blackout*. She returned to Congress in 2004 and served one term. She was the only Democrat to have a report included in *A Failure of Initiative*, the Select Bipartisan Committee's Report on the US Government's failures to respond adequately to Hurricane Katrina.

Cynthia McKinney said she realized that "the Democrats had become no different than their Republican counterparts" and became a Green on her birthday, March 17th, 2007. During the speech she gave at this July event, she spoke of the need to have an "immediate withdrawal from Iraq", as opposed to Barack Obama's date of 2013. She also contrasted her views on universal health care, Afghanistan and a host of other progressive issues, with those of her "major party"

counterparts. She also answered numerous questions from the packed audience, mostly Greens from the five county area.

Currently, **Cynthia McKinney and Rosa Clemente, the first all women of color Presidential Ticket**, are not on the Pennsylvania ballot. We did not attain the 27,000 signatures needed in this most regressive of states.



Rosa Clemente

### **How we can aid the Cynthia McKinney Campaign**

However, Cynthia and Rosa are on the ballot of adjacent states, such as Delaware and New Jersey, and they will be asking for help from Pennsylvania and we should be able to do this, especially as they had come to help us. For anyone interested in working with Delaware Greens, please contact me at 610-543-8427 or bobthepoet@yahoo.com.

Hopefully, others will come forward to coordinate with NJ Greens, etc.

Also, the **Voter's Choice Act** has been introduced by State Senator Mike Folmer ([www.senatorfolmer.com](http://www.senatorfolmer.com)). He needs Co-sponsors and we are asking everyone to contact their local State Reps and ask them to co-sponsor. Please feel free to contact me about details on this.

Bob Small  
Delaware County Green Party  
610-543-8427, bobthepoet@yahoo.com

### **Instant Runoff Voting is Sweeping the Country!**

Instant runoff voting (IRV) is one of the most exciting electoral reforms in the United States. Voters have approved IRV by significant margins in nearly all municipalities and cities where it has been introduced to voters. IRV legislation is also rapidly gaining support in a number of state legislatures.

#### *What is IRV?*

IRV is a voting system for single-winner elections that guarantees majority winners in a single round of voting. IRV allows voters to vote their hopes instead of their fears by ranking candidates in order of preference without worrying about spoiler dynamics or wasted votes. IRV also eliminates the need for low-turnout, high-cost runoffs.

Explore <http://instantrunoff.com> for more information on how IRV works and where it is used. Read the growing list of prominent leaders endorsing IRV and find out how you can get involved in improving elections on the local, state and federal levels.

### **Is the Green Party worth an hour of your time per month?**

### ***Isn't it time to do something to fight the corporate parties?***

We ask you to send us either a pledge to volunteer with local GPPA activities one hour each month, OR donate the monetary value of one hour of your time per month. For example, if your salary is about \$30,000 or wage is \$15/hour the suggested contribution is \$180 for the year. That is just under 50 cents per day, less than the price of a cup of coffee. Or, if you think the Green Party is worth less than an hour per month, please send us what you think it is worth.

Green Party of Pennsylvania  
P.O. Box 11962  
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1962

## Kempton Wind Turbine Workshop

By Jay Sweeney

The Wind Turbine Installation Workshop at the Kempton Community Center was a worthy project for the Mid Atlantic Renewable Energy Association. A group of individuals diverse in age and occupation participated in the workshop under the guidance of Berks Solar's Bill Hennessey and Instructor Jenny Heinzen. Jenny, a master electrician, has overseen the installation of a number of wind turbines including a 65 kilowatt (kW) turbine on the campus of Lakeshore Technical College where she teaches.

The workshop included a slide presentation, lectures, and hands-on installation and observation. By the end of the second day, the turbine was up but was not turning.

The third day consisted of a presentation on conservation and energy auditing by MAREA member Phil Jones and a basic electricity presentation by Jenny. Unfortunately, by the time lunch was over, the turbine was still not spinning. It was attempting to yaw or rotate to align with the prevailing wind, but, was somehow hung up. After some tinkering with the baseplate by some of the engineers and electrical contractors, the turbine swung into place and vigorously spun while the workshop participants cheered and watched in awe.

Come to the PA Renewable Energy Festival and see the turbine for yourself. MAREA will be monitoring the progress of the wind turbine to gather information and educate the public about the benefits of wind power. Last year's 2 kW solar installation on the Kempton Fire Hall was visited as a field trip. Since June 2007 this unit has generated 3000 kW hours of energy.

---

## Voters' Choice Act Bill Introduced by State Senator Mike Folmer

The Pennsylvania Green Party did not get any statewide or national candidates on the ballot this year, because we did not get the 27,000 signatures required by the most restrictive ballot access laws in this country.

We realize many of you cannot attend Green Party meetings or help with the petitioning process but there is one thing each and every one of you can, and we hope will, do. We need as many people as possible to contact their State Representative and Senator, and ask them to co-sponsor the Voters' Choice Act bill being introduced by State Senator Mike Folmer (<http://senatorfolmer.com/press-2008/072408.htm>).

If you can at least send a letter or e-mail to your State Representative and Senator, and follow it up with a phone call, it could be the most important action you can do for the Pennsylvania Green party this year!!

Anyone who can schedule an appointment please do. Please let us know what help we can give you, from a sample letter to accompanying you at the Representative's or Senator's office.

Bob Small, Pennsylvania Ballot Access Coalition  
[www.paballotaccess.org](http://www.paballotaccess.org)  
 Chair, Delaware County Green Party  
 610-543-8427

## Concord Ecovillage: A Living Example

By Eric A. Cohen

Putting their ideals into practice, Concord Ecovillage is a group working to create "old-fashioned community the new-fashioned way".

They are a part of the cohousing movement, now decades old and gaining new momentum in the United States. Cohousing is an approach to intentional community that attempts to create the best of neighborhood life in today's cities, suburbs, and towns.

"We can all describe a great neighborhood. A pack of kids running outside. A casserole for the guy who broke his leg, parents talking on a porch, and someone to feed your cat or help shovel the walk." This is group member Eric Cohen. "But nowadays, great neighborhoods don't happen by accident. In particular, roads and the car culture, and McMansions on mammoth lawns, all militate against them."

Concord Ecovillage is working to change this in southern Chester County. They will be creating a village of 30 or so families, with buildings densely clustered to preserve portions of their site as green space. Cars will be banished to the periphery, paths will link the buildings, and the common house -- meeting, workshop, and play rooms, a kitchen for weekly group meals -- will stand at the physical and emotional center.

But "ecovillage" is also about the "eco". Homes will have passive and active solar capability, be highly insulated, energy-efficient, and built to be as low-impact as possible both in construction and over the buildings' lifespans. "We want to be a living example of doing better by our environment", says Janet Pelletier of Concord Ecovillage.

*To Learn More:*

The Concord Ecovillage Web site, [www.concordvillage.org](http://www.concordvillage.org), includes FAQs, and a link to the group's Yahoo group.

Monthly group potluck meetings are a great way to meet members and learn more.

And Concord Ecovillage is doing presentations and community education on cohousing, green housing, and green development. If your group would like to arrange for a talk contact Anthony Aufdenkampe at [aufdenkampe@stroudcenter.org](mailto:aufdenkampe@stroudcenter.org).

## McKinney and Clemente nominated for President and Vice President candidates by the Green Party of the United States Convention in Chicago

Cynthia McKinney and Rosa Clemente received the necessary votes in the first round of delegate voting to be nominated for the Presidential and Vice Presidential candidacies of the Green Party of the United States.

Links to various speeches by McKinney and Clemente, as well as media coverage of the convention, are available at the Green Party's websites' [www.gp.org](http://www.gp.org) and [www.greenpartypa.org](http://www.greenpartypa.org).

Green party leaders have turned their attention to achieving ballot status and placing the nominees on state ballots for the November general election. "We have 22 state ballot lines, and are aiming to have Cynthia McKinney and Rosa Clemente on as many ballot lines as possible on Election Day," said Cliff Thorn-ton, co-chair of the Green Party of the United States. "Greens in states with secure ballot lines are assisting other states with

petition circulating, organizing, and fundraising."

In Pennsylvania the petition signature collection efforts were given a renewed effort during the last two weeks of July, but unfortunately fell short of the over 25,000 signatures required by the state elections ballot access laws.

Efforts to encourage voters to consider write-in votes (for any office, but especially the statewide offices of attorney general, auditor general, and treasurer) can help to bring attention to the ballot access hurdle in PA.

Greens are also organizing efforts to demand that Ms. McKinney be allowed to participate in the presidential debates beginning in September.

---

---

### Up Against the Wall *(continued from page 4)*

quarter-million American Greens to begin living in ways that exemplify our values.

If a majority of Greens learn to live like we clearly understand these historic changes, we have a chance to influence other like-minded groups in America. We could partner with individuals and organizations with a proven track record on positive change. We won't be the stars of the show but we could become the best supporting actors.

250,000 Greens can't prevail over 160 million Democrats and Republicans. But if by our actions we can attract enough independents and a sizable number from the major parties, we can influence how they think, speak, and act. The power of example can amplify our voices.

Difficult as this might seem, living lightly on the earth makes a lot of sense as a personal survival strategy. Net-zero living is cool, and feels good to those who are already doing it. The coolest part is the cost savings in a period of energy-induced inflation.

Greens will have to learn about how to adapt to an energy con-

strained world. Our actions would be our energy, climate, and peace platform. That behavior isn't left or right, but it would be in front of virtually everyone out there. It's radical and a long shot but we might succeed.

Are we smart enough to choose strategies out of Gandhi and King's playbooks? Are we that disciplined? Can we give up hope of capturing high office for 2009? Is there a better option left for Greens?

We have an opportunity to work collectively with other organizations for the common good. We have a powerful weapon at our disposal, the power of example. Wield it!

Energy efficiency and conservation can buy us time to ramp up renewable energies like solar and wind. It's the only fiscally responsible energy strategy for today. It can free us from Middle Eastern oil and oil wars. As the centerpiece of the Green Platform, it could transform US Greens, America, and the world.



---

---

### Convention '08 *(continued from page 1)*

ing forcefully to vote down the proposed 2008 platform over a controversial provision relating to guest worker programs. The Latino Caucus, as well as many other Greens, did not believe guest worker programs deserved any mention in the platform; their efforts were successful with the defeat of the proposed platform, the Immigration section, number 4, Guest Worker Program. (In fact, they would have rather seen a statement that guest worker programs are not supported by the Green Party.) Said Cecilia, "It wasn't just the issue of the Guest Worker Program, which was very popular among Greens supporting the environment, in-

cluding the Oregon delegates. For years, immigrants' rights advocates have been struggling against this draconian piece of law that has allowed instability and a type of slavery-system on immigrant workers. We acknowledge the sincere effort of the platform committee for being sensitive to the needs of immigrant workers but we have to state in the strongest terms our opposition to any guest worker program other than simply an adequate humane immigration program."

Pennsylvania Chair and national delegate Hillary Aisenstein spent her time in Chicago as more than just a delegate,

but also as a new co-chair of the Annual National Meeting Committee, the group responsible for planning the convention. Aisenstein joined the committee last year when Pennsylvania hosted the 2007 meeting in Reading. "Overall, the convention was a great success but next year we're definitely going to plan a more informal and much less expensive meeting," remarked Aisenstein, referring to the one major complaint of convention attendees, the high cost. "Unfortunately, summer in downtown Chicago is quite pricy."

On Friday and Sunday, the National

## HOW TO STOP A TIRE BURNING PLANT IN PENNSYLVANIA

What does an urban community do when it is assaulted by plans to build the world largest dedicated tire-burning plant in a downtown residential neighborhood?

It gets PISSED!

Erie Renewable Energy, LLC think it knows a rust-belt sucker when it sees one. A miniscule 60 jobs on a KOZ brown-field are proposed for the site in order to place itself as an electricity provider when the PA electricity rate-caps come off in 2010. (Can you say windfall profits?)

A grass-roots organization named K.E.E.P (Keep Erie's Environment Protected) formed in Erie in the summer of 2007 to fight this proposed environmental monstrosity in the face of a community revolt and (expected) local governmental inertia.

Green Party environmental expert Mike Ewall, in conjunction with the local Green Party in Erie, has assisted in part with the formation of a grassroots organization that has taken the town by storm.

Here's what the folks in Erie are saying: "If this project is developed as planned, we will be faced with potentially having to move our processing plant and likely our distribution plant south of Erie and possibly Erie County for the sake of maintaining food safety and product integrity."

This quote comes from Bruce Kern, a

food processing company owner near the proposed tire-to-toxic-death plant. K.E.E.P. has now to date 29 letters from local business in clear opposition to the construction of the proposed tire-burning plant.

The proposed tire-burning plant filed for its air-quality permit, a signal important hurdle in being granted a go-ahead by the PA DEP in December of 2007. In its application, Erie Renewable Energy (since when are tires renewable?) said its operation would be officially listed as a "major source of hazardous air pollutants" (HAP). The application goes on to reveal that it is designated as a Title V polluter which will produce an estimated (on a good day) over 1,500 tons of pollution each year in the Erie community, translating into just over 4 tons of gas and particulate matter per day. This is in conjunction with two other Title V polluters in the Erie city limits already in operation.

Does the Erie community need this kind of "business investment?"

"It's my home. It's my neighborhood. It's my city. I think I need better assurances than they have given so far," said Dzuricky, an East Sixth Street resident. "We are not going away," Dzuricky said. "We are still mobilizing. We are in this for the long haul."

Tim Reim, representative of the local Green Party, and other K.E.E.P. officials

also challenged the contention that the type and volume of pollutants the plant would emit would not represent a health threat.

Reim stated, "How do you dump 229 tons of particulate matter containing things like dioxins in the air and tell the community it is not going to have an effect?"

"Erie must be in the forefront of good environmental standards," he said. "This is not an anti-business resolution. This is a pro-environment resolution. Are we willing to jeopardize future businesses, and most importantly are we willing to jeopardize our own citizens for 60 jobs? I'm interested in the health, safety and welfare of residents," Cappabianca said. "I want to protect the air in Erie."

These are the words of our courageous City Councilperson, Pat Cappabianca, backed by a second Erie Councilperson, Jessica Horan-Kunco, in response to a Continuous Emissions Monitoring System Ordinance (CEMS) crafted by Mike Ewall to address the environmental needs of the citizens of Erie.

Six separate surrounding local township governments have publicly stated their opposition to the construction of the tire-burning plant.

And yet the corporate criminals who place profit over people persist in their plans to build the plant in Erie. Its original

### GPPA Donation Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Amt. Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \* see instructions box for donation requirements

Employer Info \_\_\_\_\_

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ copies (\$15/ea.) of the "Party with a Purpose" CD, whose cost will be deducted from my donation, including shipping & handling (no tax)

Please send me more information about the Green Party of Pennsylvania

Please subscribe me to the Green Star for 1 year at \_\_\_\_\_ (\$25 suggested donation) I prefer to receive Green Star in  hardcopy  electronic format

### Support the Green Party of Pennsylvania!

### Donation Tips & Instructions

- Make checks or money orders payable to the Green Party of Pennsylvania
- Please include all contact information
- If your donation is over \$200, state law requires us to also have your employer's contact information
- Individuals may only donate \$2000 in a given year
- Donations are not tax-deductible
- CD orders will have the cost of the quantity, plus \$3 for shipping & handling deducted from their donation
- Mail form to:

Green Party of Pennsylvania  
P.O. Box 11962  
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1962



cost projection has sky-rocketed from an estimated \$90 million to now \$350 million, while shedding possibly 30 of its projected 60 long-term jobs.

Concerns about possible tire fires, rail and truck traffic issues, local ammonia on-site storage and local tourism, along with regional grape-growers concerns continue to beleaguer the plans of the proposed tire-burning plant's local construction and out-of-town investors.

K.E.E.P. has had enormous success in garnering support among its many aroused citizenry. Community inspired raffles, fundraisers and anonymous donors have given a growing group of dedicated activists the incentive to continue the fight.

A recent Erie City zoning hearing board ruling which found against a preliminary approval of ERE's plans has further enhanced K.E.E.P.'s standing in the community as a viable force against the forces of environmental degradation.

In addition, the Erie County Medical Society released a statement this last month which read in part:

"...the Erie County Medical Society is concerned that simply meeting DEP standards will not adequately define the health risk to our citizens over time. It is our position that an independent health impact assessment be obtained to further delineate the burning facility.

Luxuriously Comfortable





Organic Mattress Store

**1075 Main Street  
Hellertown, PA 18055**  
Beautiful Showroom  
local to Philadelphia

**Call Toll Free 1-866-246-9866**  
[www.TheOrganicMattressStore.com](http://www.TheOrganicMattressStore.com)

Wholesomely Organic

**Mattresses + Pillow Tops + Comforters & Duvets + Organic Sheets + Wood Beds  
Moisture Pads + Wood Cribs + Organic Pet Beds + Natural Wool Carpet**

◆ Vivetique ◆ Royal-Pedic  
◆ Greensleep  
◆ OMS Private Label  
**Factory Direct Pricing**

In other words, an independent health impact assessment study of the data should be conducted before the PA DEP rules to give ERE, LLC its valued air-quality permit.

What can PA Greens do to help K.E.E.P. in Erie? Go to: [www.stopburningtires.com](http://www.stopburningtires.com) and click HOW TO HELP.

Or Contact:  
Tim Reim  
Green Party of Erie County  
2708 W. 33<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Erie, PA 16506  
(814) 838-1193  
(814) 572-6653 – cell  
Deaconb60@Hotmail.com

### Convention '08 *(continued from page 5)*

Committee of GPUS conducted business meetings. Friday's session included the election of three new members of the national Steering Committee: Sanda Everett of California, Craig Thorsen of California, and Jill Bussier of Wisconsin.

Other Pennsylvania delegates who attended: Katrina Brabham, Titus North, and Ian Samways of Allegheny County; Paula Bronstein and Bob Small of Delaware County; and Eric Hammel and Charles Sherrouse of Philadelphia County.

AFTER 8 ORIGINALS

JUST FOR YOU JEWELRY

[www.after8originals.com](http://www.after8originals.com)

Custom, Handmade  
original jewelry

## Paper and Planet



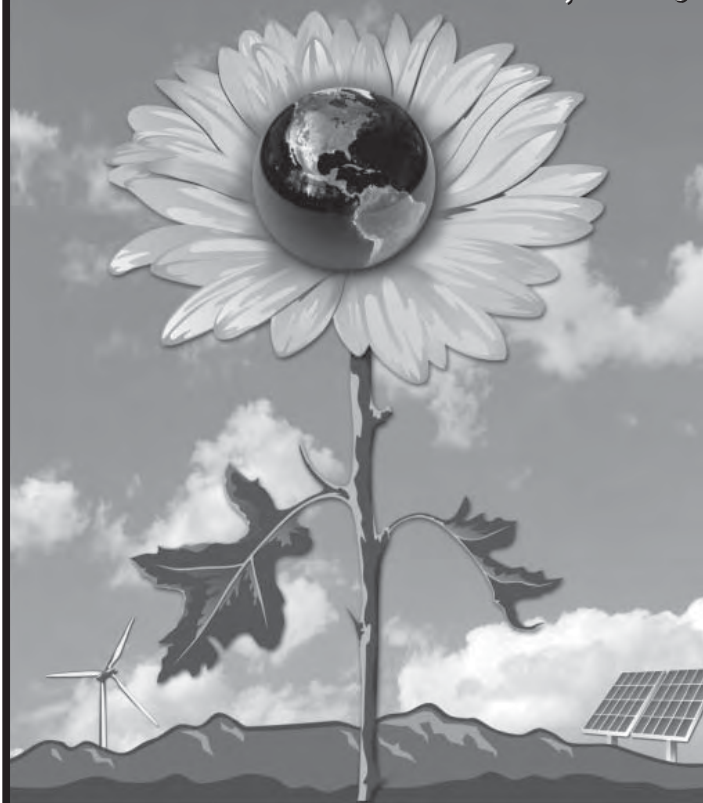
we're putting it all together at  
[greenlinepaper.com](http://greenlinepaper.com)

recycled office papers, toner & ink, compostables,  
tissue & towel, kitchen/restaurant, natural cleaners,  
fair trade foods

Call 800-641-1117  
for our national products brochure.  
GreenLine Paper Company, Inc.  
631 S. Pine Street, York, PA 17403



GROWING THE  
**SOLUTIONS**  
A True Celebration of Earth Friendly Living



Join Us for Our 4th Annual

**PENNSYLVANIA**  
renewable energy  
& sustainable living  
**FESTIVAL**

**September 19,20,21•2008**

Kempton, PA (10 Mi. North of Kutztown, PA)

Exhibitors, Workshops & Speakers on  
Renewable Energy • Alternative Transportation  
Organic Farming • Green Building  
Music • Children's Activities • Much More!

This Year's Musical Guest

**Livingston Taylor**

Win a Hybrid Car!

[www.paenergyfest.com](http://www.paenergyfest.com)

**VISIT the PA GREEN PARTY at Booth 53 in Kempton at the  
PA Renewable Energy & Sustainable Living Festival!**

*The Green Party of Pennsylvania is an independent political party working to strengthen democracy, advance social justice, protect the environment and promote non-violence.*

Green Party of Pennsylvania  
P.O. Box 11962  
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1962

BULK MAIL  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
SWARTHMORE, PA  
PERMIT NO. 3

