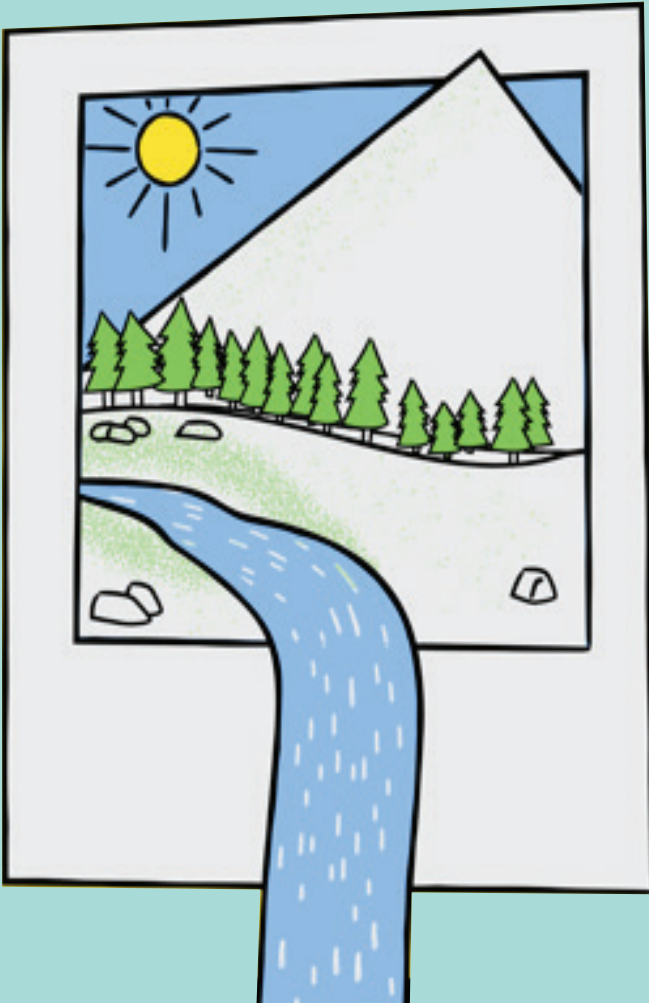


Take us into 2025!

—with the resilience of a River



**DCS shows up locally,
regionally, and globally.**

Only with your help, we can continue to protect your health, your home, and ensure a safe environment for your family.

What's at stake?

Help us fight for what's important to you.

**See accomplishments
and New Year plans**



DCS at work, locally.

To keep our air, soil, and water clean, we are pushing green alternatives to a proposed waste incinerator in Sullivan County.

DCS is working in coalition with Catskill Mountainkeeper, local concerned citizens, and GAIA (Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives) to prevent a potential “Waste-to-Energy” facility (actually an incinerator) which produces minimal energy and maximum pollution, like highly toxic dioxins, PFAS, and mercury. We are supplying vital perspectives and information to redirect Sullivan County’s urgent search for alternative ways to handle its waste.

Sullivan County’s current single-stream recycling doesn’t work, mostly being landfilled. Rather than trucking or burning trash, we are urging recycling and composting to be sorted by individual people. Data from the Wayne County recycling center, where people sort their recyclables into separate bins, show a saving of 25 to 30% of the total waste stream. Using their detailed operational plan, we are encouraging Sullivan County to take a similar approach.



DCS is still very involved with saving Milanville-Skinners Falls Bridge; however the bridge situation is in a PENNDOT hold for now. Watch our emails for updates.



Photo by David B. Soete

Empowering the grassroots

Over the last few years, DCS has made voter registration forms and voting calendars available to the local community. By tabling weekly at the Narrowsburg Farmers' Market and via DCS' storefront, we have mobilized hundreds of people to get out to vote.

We've created and distributed over 27,000 informational posters that have had a powerful impact clarifying facts and dispelling fossil fuel industry propaganda.



We have three posters available: “What’s in the Water?” focused on the Delaware River Basin, a second release focused on the upper Ohio River Basin, and “Frac Sand, Why Worry?” explaining the dangers of frac sand mining in the Midwest.

Contact DCS to get your hard copy of one or more posters, or head to our website for downloadable PDFs—actually best to hold them in your hands!



Photo by David B. Soete

DCS is doing strong legal work with results!

Last year, DCS was the only one who stepped up to prevent oil and gas liquid waste from being brought to the Delaware River Basin and disposed of on roads. Our lawsuit closed that loophole, preventing an environmental disaster.

We are ready to reopen our case if we find that oil and gas drilling waste is being used as a deicer in winter or other uses. Liquid oil and gas waste, misleadingly called “brine,” has heavy metals and other toxic and radioactive content that will harm water, residents and surroundings.

There are other legal matters that require our attention over the next year, and lawyers are expensive. Your donation today makes sure we have the resources to fight for you.

RGGI (Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative), is a multistate market-based approach to cap and reduce CO2 emissions and compensate for fossil fuel industry damages.

PA’s former governor Tom Wolf signed the agreement, but the Commonwealth Court has since denied its legality, calling payments for

damages ‘fees or taxes’, meaning that only the legislature can approve them.

In addition, the oil and gas industry and the pro-fossil fuel PA legislature argue that air is not subject to Article 1 Section 27 (The Environmental Rights Amendment), claiming the air is not owned by the Commonwealth but by individual property owners.

The PA Supreme Court has taken the case, and **DCS’s amicus brief—constructed by our attorney Lauren Williams—makes a strong case** that RGGI strives to compensate the Commonwealth and its citizens for damages caused by the oil and gas industry, for which they currently have no liability.

The Environmental Rights Amendment in the PA constitution is a bedrock to environmental protection. With your help, we can continue to defend it.

“The people have a **right** to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment. Pennsylvania’s public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come. As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefits of all the people.”

—Pennsylvania Constitution Article 1, Section 27

Continuing to fight to reduce unfair industry exemptions

The oil and gas (and coal) industry benefits from exemptions to major federal protective laws that remove liability for their damages making community and individual redress difficult to impossible.

Why exemptions?

Since the 1980s, these industries have worked to receive legal exemptions including: classifying waste as "special," so it gets no oversight, removing oil and gas workers from OSHA regulations, and exemptions for "exploration and production" in the 2005 Energy Policy Act from the Clean Water, Clean Air, and Safe Drinking Water Acts and four other protective federal laws.

Exemptions are actually subsidies paid downstream by the environment, the people directly nearby, and our larger global community.

Over a number of years we have appealed in writing and in meetings to a half dozen congresspeople to use the Congressional Research Service to quantify, in dollars, what the exemptions are worth to the industry. Each time they reply, "Yes, what an excellent idea, I'll make that happen" but they don't.

WE ARE NOT GIVING UP! With your help, we will go more public, involve more organizations, approach more congresspeople and make the exemptions potentially embarrassing if not removed. We will prevail.

Help us keep going next year!

Building on foundational successes like the Delaware River Basin Commission's (DRBC) vote to ban high volume fracking in the Delaware Basin in February 2021, Damascus Citizens will continue its work to make fracking a thing of the past for the generations to come.

We will continue to insist that gas is just one more fossil fuel that needs to be phased out as rapidly as possible and to work for a sustainable, renewable future.

This year giving locally matters more than ever. Please consider pitching in for our legal fees and continued advocacy. Only together, we can be the little, grassroots organization that makes a BIG difference.

DCS is like a river. We are tenacious, resilient yet needing and worthy of care and attention.

Your contribution is fully tax deductible!

Damascus Citizens for Sustainability is a 501(c)3 tax exempt, non-profit.

Use **PayPal /credit** card at:
www.DamascusCitizens.org

Or send a **check** to:

DCS
P.O. Box 147
Milanville, PA 18443

Our office is now in the Narrowsburg Union, by appointment. DCS's Main Street storefront (open 12-3 Sat and Sun) is acting as a hub for environmental programming for all ages.

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