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**“Power Toward a Just Future” Parade through Downtown Philly
City organizations and Carnival march for local solar, ecojustice and clean energy**

Philadelphia, PA – A broad intersectional coalition boisterously paraded through the streets of downtown Philadelphia today calling for the City, PECO, and SEPTA to “Go Local Solar”. Carnival de Resistance marshalled artists with activists to create a stunning parade filled with expression.

The groups and city residents called for the use of renewable and clean energy sources; an end to power generation using fossil fuels, including fracked gas; and support for locally generated solar energy employing city residents at union wages with a work force that reflect the demographics of the City. The groups offered measureable, concrete milestones to facilitate PECO, SEPTA, and the City government to convert to a renewable economy that will transform environmentally burdened neighborhoods to healthy communities.

“We are working to make real Mayor Kenney’s goal of 100% renewable energy and put it on the fast track. We are calling on the Mayor to develop renewable energy on City roofs and property and to make sure the workforce mirrors the City’s demographics. Advancing renewable energy will clean our air, improve our health, and create local jobs and economic growth,” **said Tracy Carluccio, Green Justice Philly Steering Committee and Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network.**
<https://www.facebook.com/GreenJusticePhilly/>

“Bill-saving solar is more than a climate solution, the growing industry is also a pathway to good work and a good life for thousands of families. PECO’s rate hike intensifies the burden of high energy bills, and its dirty energy remains one of the biggest challenges in the fight for clean air and healthy communities,” **said Lina Blount, board co-director of Earth Quaker Action Team.** www.eqat.org

"We have all come together to make sure that Philadelphia enacts energy justice for our residents and does its part as a global citizen to bring about a renewable energy future for our planet. Our actions and words emanate from the depths of the human spirit, the place within us that knows we can only be healthy if the Earth itself is healthy," **said Rabbi Mordechai Liebling of Philadelphia chapter of PA Interfaith Power and Light.** <http://paipl.us/home/>

"As a longtime resident of Nicetown and representative of the Nicetown CDC Neighborhood Advisory Sub-Committee speaking on behalf of the 30,000 neighbors in the affected area, we demand SEPTA stop the construction of the gas plant and urge them to move toward renewable energy and electric buses immediately. SEPTA has already contributed more than enough pollution into our community through hundreds of diesel buses at Midvale station since the mid 90's. Mayor Kenney successfully ran on a platform of renewable energy for Philadelphia, so why aren't major entities like SEPTA and PECO being held to that goal?" **said Eric Marsh, vice-chair of the Nicetown CDC Neighborhood Advisory Sub-Committee.** <https://www.neighborsagainstthegasplants.com/>

"At the heart of our Carnival de Resistance is a commitment to deepening our relationship with our planet and working for environmental justice. We are delighted to bring out our clowns, drummers and musicians to partner with communities working for solar energy and against fossil fuels. Our response to the climate crisis is rooted in songs and stories that have brought people together around the fire for thousands and the understanding that our play is as important as our work," **said Tim Nafziger, Carnival de Resistance organizer.** www.carnivalderesistance.com

The parade began with a rally at PECO's headquarters where EQAT revealed that PECO profits more than \$1 million per day off its customers in the Philadelphia area, the poorest big city in the country, and yet is pushing a rate hike which will harm the most vulnerable and will stick to the same polluting energy.

Marching down Market Street, the parade made a stop at the SEPTA headquarters to demand the transit system convert to renewable energy and to say NO to environmental racism and declare "No SEPTA gas plant in Nicetown!" 350.org Philly and Neighbors Against the Gas Plants see public transit as essential for a just and sustainable society and called for public transit to go fossil free.

The parade ended at the City Hall courtyard where Green Justice Philly made certain that Mayor Kenney and City Council could hear the calls for the City to meet its energy needs by local solar generation on city infrastructure, to enlist other large city institutions to go solar, and to ensure that the new jobs will go to Philadelphia residents, with a commitment to ensuring the workforce reflects the racial demographics of the city as closely as possible and are under union conditions.

The Carnival de Resistance's traveling arts carnival, eco-village demonstration, and community engagement initiative is making raucous noise in Philadelphia, through Tuesday, August 7th, with more than 30 artists and activists from across North America animating a Midway, Demonstration Eco-Village, and many workshops and events, described at: carnivalderesistance.com

Partnering with Green Justice Philly, the parade is cosponsored by diverse groups from Philadelphia. Sponsoring organizations who are taking part in the parade are (in alphabetical order):

350.org Philadelphia
Arch Street United Methodist Church
Berks Gas Truth
Better Path Coalition
Bucks Environmental Action
Carnival de Resistance
Clean Water Action of PA
Delaware Riverkeeper Network
Earth Quaker Action Team
Environmental Justice Center of Chestnut Hill United Church
Food and Water Watch Pennsylvania
Green Justice Philly
Neighbors Against the Gas Plants
Northwest Greens
PA Interfaith Power and Light
PennEnvironment
Philadelphia Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility
Sierra Club - Southeastern PA Group
Sunrise Movement
The Center for Returning Citizens
Tikkun Olam Chavurah
Trash Academy
Weavers Way Co-op

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