

## California Here We Come

The fight to reduce the pollution that causes global warming took an important step forward in July when California Gov. Gray Davis signed a bill that will require automakers to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). No state has yet taken such a step and the move sent shockwaves through the automobile industry. It also added to pressure on New York Gov. George Pataki to release details of the plan developed as part of his Greenhouse Gas Task Force. Pataki appointed the global warming panel last year, saying that he wanted to make the state a leader in the effort to control climate change. The Governor said his plan would be ready this summer, but with no indication that a strategy was forthcoming, leaders of the Cap Carbon in New York Campaign held an Albany press conference on July 25 calling on the Governor to release his plan.

"Through the Greenhouse Gas Task Force, Governor Pataki studied how to reduce New York's emissions of heat-trapping gases. Now it is time for the state to act," said Anne Reynolds, Air and Energy Program Director at Environmental Advocates of New York (EANY) and a participant in the Governor's panel. Together, transportation and electric plants generate more than half of all excess CO<sub>2</sub> released into the atmosphere. In New York, the Cap Carbon Campaign has been urging the Governor to agree to at least a 30 percent reduction of power plant emissions from 1990 levels. While Massachusetts has capped CO<sub>2</sub> emission rates for power plants, no state has yet placed a hard cap on total carbon emitted. Such a move would represent a breakthrough similar to the recent California initiative on vehicles.

Meanwhile, Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee Chair Thomas DiNapoli has also weighed in with an announcement that he will introduce legislation in New York to mirror the new California law. Under the federal Clean Air Act, New York can choose the California statute, even though it is tougher on the auto industry than federal regulations. The California rulemaking will likely take years – the auto industry is threatening both litigation and a statewide referendum to void the new law – as will a tough legislative fight on the issue in New York. In contrast, there is nothing stopping Gov. Pataki from capping carbon pollution from power plants now. For more information, visit:

[www.capcarbonnow.com](http://www.capcarbonnow.com). \*

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#### Environmental Advocates of New York

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to oppose threats to the  
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and air quality standards.

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## On the Alert

■ **Off the Point:** Last year, *The Green Sheet* reported on a proposed golf course development on an old landfill at Ferry Point Park in the Bronx (*Get the Point*, January 2001). As predicted, the developer, Ferry Point Partners, turned the site into a new construction and demolition debris dump. Now the weight of the trash has caused the old landfill to sink, forcing methane gas to migrate toward residential areas. The state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) halted work on the project a few months ago, but the developer wants DEC to modify its permit to allow them to bring in more debris. Responding to comments submitted by the NYC Environmental Justice Alliance (NYCEJA), DEC has required the developers to provide additional information. Then, DEC will have two weeks to decide whether or not to hold a public hearing, something the community wants. Send letters requesting a public hearing to Michelle Moore, NYS DEC, 47-40 21st St., Long Island City, NY 11101. For more information, call Matthew Malady, NYCEJA, at 212-239-8882.

■ **It's Erie:** After two years of delay, why not delay some more. That was the attitude of the Erie County Legislature at a July meeting when it came to pesticide neighbor notification. Although the votes were there to pass the law, the leadership, in an attempt to defeat the measure, would not allow the bill to be discussed or voted on. Instead, they have agreed to deal with the issue at their next meeting on September 5. Activists are now putting pressure on County Executive Joel Giambra to support this common sense measure. Call him at 716-858-8500. Also call your own Erie County legislator. Tell them that advance notice allows neighbors to take simple precautions – like closing windows and bringing toys indoors – to protect themselves and their children, pets and property from inadvertent exposure to dangerous chemicals. For more information, contact Michael Davoli, NY Public Interest Research Group, at 716-568-1039 or [mdavoli@nypirg.org](mailto:mdavoli@nypirg.org).

■ **Saratoga Battlefield:** Saratoga Mountain is at risk of being dramatically altered. Pompa Brothers, Inc. wants to open a strip mine and build an on-site processing plant to crush and screen stone that will result in the permanent removal of 237 acres, nearly a mile long section, from the top of Saratoga Mountain on the Kayderosseras Range in the Town of Greenfield. The blasting and mining will affect air and water quality, children's safety, homes, roads, wildlife and quality of life. Comments on the project's environmental impacts were due to DEC in June. If DEC approves the project, it must still go before the Greenfield Town and Planning Boards for a permit and zoning change. It is not too late to contact local officials now and voice your opposition: Robert Stokes, Town Of Greenfield Supervisor; Daniel Pemrick, Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals; Gary Dake, Chairman of Planning Board; and Theresa Ellsworth, Chairman of Environmental Commission. They can all be reached at: Greenfield Town Hall P.O. Box 10 Greenfield Center, NY 12833. Visit [www.greenfieldconcernedcitizens.com](http://www.greenfieldconcernedcitizens.com) for more information.

# The Month Ahead

## August

**1-27:** *Revealing the Edges: Communities and Infrastructure Along the Waterfront*, an exhibit sponsored by the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance and Municipal Arts Society. Urban Center, 457 Madison Ave. (between 50th and 51st Streets). Call 1-800-364-9943.

**4:** Tours of Organic, Ecological, and Alternative Farms, sponsored by the Troy Waterfront Farmers' Market and the Regional Farm & Food Project. Visit farms in Rensselaer, Saratoga, Washington and Schoharie Counties. Also 8/18, 9/8, 9/29. Free. Call 518-427-6537 or email: farmfood@capital.net.

**8-11:** 7th Annual Grassroots Radio Conference, hosted by WJFF/Radio Catskill and the Grassroots Radio Coalition. Meeting of community radio stations from across the country discussing all facets of grassroots radio from basic technical details to the overarching importance of community media in the struggle to reshape the commercial media superstructure. Callicoon Center (Sullivan County). Call 845-482-4141.

**9-11:** Northeast Organic Farming Association's (NOFA) 28th Annual Summer

Conference. Hampshire College, Amherst, MA. Fees vary. Contact Dennis or Audrey Cronin at 508-799-2278 or nofareg@juno.com.

**15:** *Meet Your Meat*, a video showing followed by discussion of meat industry practices and factory farming vs. organic farming. Video not appropriate for small children. Park Slope Food Coop, 782 Union St., Brooklyn. Call the Coop at 718-622-0560.

**17:** *A Day in the Country*, the Western NY Land Conservancy's annual benefit featuring a wet art sale, bicycle tour, storytelling, pot luck dinner and music. Olmstead Camp, 12820 Benton Road, Sardinia. Call 716-687-1225.

**27:** *Lower Manhattan Rebuilding – Putting Pedestrians First*, Auto-Free New York Meeting. Briefing and walking tour. Meeting room, 104 Washington St. NYC. 6:00PM-8:00PM. Call 212-475-3394 or visit: [www.auto-free.org](http://www.auto-free.org).

## September

**2:** Labor Day Picnic & Songfest, sponsored by NYC Labor Chorus (NYCLC) and Hudson River Sloop Clearwater. Celebrate the unity between workers and environmentalists. Waryas Park, Poughkeepsie. 12:00PM-4:00PM. Call NYCLC at 212-595-6600 or 845-454-7673 ext. 102.

**5-8:** *One Earth*, 2nd Annual Century of the Environment Conference, sponsored by Lifebridge Foundation, EF Schumaker Society, and others. For environmentalists, educators, scientists, business leaders, spiritual teachers, grassroots activists. Omega Institute, Rhinebeck. \$375; housing available (additional). Call 800-944-1001 or visit [www.eomega.org](http://www.eomega.org).

**8:** NYC Century Bike Tour 2002, sponsored by Transportation Alternatives. Features a selection of distances and magnificent views of NY's bridges, neighborhoods, and parks. Register online at [www.transalt.org](http://www.transalt.org).

**18:** Radon in Ground (well) Water, a presentation on radiation and radon basics. Teatown Lake Reservation Nature Preserve and Education Center. Ossining. 7:30PM-8:30PM. Free. Limited to 60 people. Call 914-762-2912.

**21:** 16th Annual Coastal Cleanup, coordinated by the American Littoral Society. Collect and record the litter around your lake, river, bay, sound or ocean. Call Barbara Cohen, Beach Cleanup Coordinator, at 718-471-2166, or visit: [www.alsnyc.org](http://www.alsnyc.org).

**29:** *Ochs at the Oaks: Benefit Concert on The Sound*, sponsored by the New Dawn Foundation and the Hudson River Clearwater Foundation, features the music of Phil Ochs with special guests. The Oaks, 590 Davenport Ave., New Rochelle. 1:00PM-6:00PM. Call 914-632-8084. (See FYI.)

## For Your Information

**Sound of Music:** Spend the afternoon of September 29 enjoying a festival of music at The Oaks, on Long Island Sound in New Rochelle. *Ochs at the Oaks: A Benefit Concert on The Sound*, sponsored by the New Dawn Foundation and the Hudson River Clearwater Foundation, will feature the music of Phil Ochs, performed by several different musicians and groups. The benefit will also include *A Taste of The Sound*, a pre-festival tasting provided by local restaurants and caterers. The Oaks is a place of renewal for those working for social change. Proceeds from the concert will benefit The Oaks' youth program. Visit [www.theoaks.qpg.com](http://www.theoaks.qpg.com), or call 914-632-8084. (See *Calendar*.)

**Head for the Coast:** Make plans now to attend the Quality Communities, Quality Coasts Conference & Exhibition at the Empire State Plaza Conference Center and the Egg in Albany, New York, October 22 - 23, 2002. This conference, sponsored by the New York Department of State's Division of Coastal Resources, will feature how-to sessions, instructional workshops and network opportunities. Pre-register by Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> to save on your admission. For a copy of the registration form and additional information, visit [www.dos.state.ny.us/csti/qc2002.html](http://www.dos.state.ny.us/csti/qc2002.html), or call 518-474-6000.

**Health Center:** EnviroHealthAction is an education and action center that provides an online community for health professionals and others interested in environmental health. It is designed to provide busy professionals with the opportunity to access important resources and deliver valuable input to policymakers. EnviroHealthAction has information on important environmental health topics like toxics and health, safe drinking water and chronic disease and the environment. Visit EnviroHealthAction at: [www.envirohealthaction.org](http://www.envirohealthaction.org).

**Body of Knowledge:** A new website on chemical body burden issues is now up and available. The site was developed by Coming Clean, a coalition of groups across the US working together to raise awareness about toxic chemicals and the companies that produce them. The website, [www.chemicalbodyburden.org](http://www.chemicalbodyburden.org), answers common questions about the chemical load we all carry in our bodies, and provides links to recent studies on chemical body burden, information on specific chemicals and their health effects, ideas for addressing the problem and current action alerts.

## Activists' Corner

**Within REACH:** Residents Environmentally Active for Change (REACH) formed in 2000 as a result of the ongoing chemical contamination problem left behind by 3M, General Electric and Black & Decker in Brockport, NY, just west of Rochester. These companies are gone from Brockport, but their toxic chemical aftermath remains in the environment.

According to the state Department of Environmental Conservation, the levels of contamination in Brockport are many times over New York's limitations for residential areas. PCBs, VOCs, cyanides and metals are among the contaminants that have been found in Brockport and Clarkson soil and stream tests. It's REACH's position that the companies responsible for the pollution should take full responsibility for cleaning up their environmental degradation.

Visit REACH online at: <http://home.rochester.rr.com/reach4brockport/>.

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