



Allegheny County Clean Air Now (ACCAN) is a grassroots group of citizens concerned about air pollution from Neville Island.

A history of actions taken since January, 2012, to improve air quality in the communities downwind from the DTE Shenango coke plant on Neville Island

- **June, 2017** - Ben Avon Borough unanimously passes a resolution in support of ACCAN's campaign to ensure the changes we have seen since the Shenango coke works closed by keep the site pollution free, building a solar array, and donating their ERCs.
- **May, 2017** - Three ACCAN members attend the [DTE Energy shareholder's meeting](#) in Boston where the group speaks out in support of the company turning the site into a solar array and donating their emission reduction credits. We presented over 900 petition signatures and postcards from community members in support of our campaign. We presented copies of *Living Downwind* to Chairman/CEO Gerald Anderson, his staff and board members.
- **April, 2017** - [ACCAN releases Living Downwind](#), a collection of personal stories from residents who have been impacted by air pollution from Neville Island. The book tells the story of how lives were affected by the bad air when Shenango was open, how things have improved now that the plant is closed, and why we need to keep it that way.
- **April, 2017** - Emsworth Borough and Bellevue Borough pass resolutions in support of ACCAN's campaign to ensure the Shenango site stays pollution free and that improvements we have seen since the plant shut down continue. The resolutions call on DTE Energy to build a solar array and donate their ERCs.
- **March, 2017** - ACCAN and CMU CREATE Lab present at the National Environmental Justice Conference in Washington, DC - [Ingredients for Success: How Technology Can Serve Community Based Organizing and Storytelling](#)
- **March, 2017** - State Representative Adam Ravenstahl agrees to send a letter to DTE Energy calling on them to protect the community by building a solar array and donating their ERCs.
- **November, 2016** - ACCAN hosts its third annual community meeting attended by residents throughout the North Boroughs. The event included speakers from the Allegheny County Health Department, CMU Create Lab, and University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health. The focus was on what comes next for the Shenango site.
- **October, 2016** – ACCAN members and Clean Water Action Staff canvas the North Boroughs to get signatures on a petition asking DTE Energy to forfeit their Emission Reduction Credits and to get additional signatures on the solar array petition that ACCAN members presented to DTE Energy in May.

- **September 23, 2016** – ACCAN sent a letter to DTE Energy requesting that they forfeit their Emission Reduction Credits so that the legacy of Shenango would be cleaner air for our community and not air pollution from a new source.
- **September 14, 2016** – ACCAN member testified at the Board of Health meeting concerning Emission Reduction Credits (ERCs) for which DTE Energy plans to apply. DTE Energy could potentially sell these credits to a buyer of their sight or some new pollution source on Neville Island or somewhere else in the county. This could erase some of the improvement in air quality improvement that the community has enjoyed since Shenango's shutdown.
- **August 26, 2016** – ACCAN met with ACHD to get an update on Shenango's closure, Emission Reduction Credits (ERCs) for which DTE planned to apply, the status of retrospective studies and the status of other pollution sources on Neville Island.
- **August 1, 2016** – ACCAN member testified at an ACHD hearing concerning an amended Title V Permit for the Neville Chemical Company on Neville Island. Neville Chemical is a Major Source polluter and ACCAN believes that, considering the amount of emissions from the plant, monitoring by ACHD is inadequate.
- **July 13, 2016** – ACCAN member attended the Board of Health meeting to testify that the system of regulating pollution sources in Allegheny County is broken, because of ineffective regulation and inadequate enforcement of regulations.
- **May 15, 2016** – ACCAN members attended an "Air Expo" event in Clairton in support of the Clairton community's efforts to get ACHD to better regulate U.S Steel's Clairton Coke Works.
- **May 5, 2016** – Three ACCAN members attended DTE Energy's annual shareholder meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina, to present the solar array petition to the DTE Energy Board.
- **May 4, 2016** – ACCAN members testify at the Board of Health meeting requesting that the Health Department collaborate with other researchers to complete thorough retrospective studies of health impacts and emissions from Shenango. Testimony also asks for increased transparency concerning agreements that ACHD signs with polluters. EPA's process is transparent, but ACHD's is not.
- **May, 2016** – ACCAN continues their Stories Project to record the stories of residents living downwind from the DTE Shenango Coke Works. The stories are to record residents experiences before and after shutdown of Shenango. The stories will be compiled into a booklet that will be released in December, 2016, one year after DTE Energy announced the closure of the Coke Works.

- **April, 2016** – ACCAN collected 500 signatures on a petition that asked DTE Energy to install a solar array on the Shenango site. DTE has installed solar arrays on site in Michigan, where it is an electric utility.
- **March 2, 2016** – ACCAN member testified at Board of Health meeting urging the Board to approve funding for a CMU modeling and measurement study to understand the pollutant dispersion from the Clairton Coke Works.
- **January 27, 2016** - ACCAN met with ACHD to discuss the shutdown of the Shenango Plant, the remediation and reuse of the site, retrospective health and air emissions studies and other pollution sources on Neville Island.
- **January 13, 2016** – ACCAN member testified at Board of Health meeting asking the Health Department to complete retrospective health and emission studies, hold DTE Energy responsible for violations prior to shutdown and promote a clean reuse for the Shenango site.
- **January 6, 2016** – DTE Energy shutdown the coke battery at the Shenango Coke Works.
- **December 17, 2015** – DTE Energy announced that they would be shutting down the Shenango Coke Works in January, 2016. They cited the loss of its main customer AK Steel in Ashland, Ky. and declining demand in the North American steel industry as reasons for the shutdown.
- **November 19, 2015** - ACCAN holds [second annual community meeting](#) with ACHD and EPA focusing on continuing emissions issues from DTE Shenango and the 2012 consent decree. The Shenango Channel was officially unveiled.
- **November 17, 2015** – On the urging of ACCAN, Avalon Borough Council passes the same resolution that previous councils passed asking the Health Department to more strictly enforce air quality regulations on the industries on Neville Island
- **November, 2015** – ACCAN and Clean Water Action collect more than 250 postcards from residents in the North Boroughs community calling on EPA to reopen the consent agreements and get tough on DTE Shenango.
- **November, 2015** – ACCAN attended November 4th Board of Health Meeting and testified concerning violations that occurred during six power outages at DTE Shenango in recent months
- **October, 2015** -- Regular meetings with ACCAN and ACHD resume to talk about the notices of violations that had occurred because of power outages of the plant and what actions can be taken to reduce emissions at DTE Shenango including reopening the consent agreements.

- **October, 2015** – The Shenango Channel (shenangochannel.org), that was developed by CMU's CREATE Lab, is launched. The Channel includes 24/7 camera views of the DTE Shenango Plant taken by ACCAN's citizens camera that is located at the residence of an ACCAN member. It also includes "smell" reports and data from pollution monitors located in the community at ACCAN member residences. The Channel allows ACCAN members and our partners to note and report on emission events at DTE Shenango and to capture photos and video of the plant to send to regulators and to place in reports.
- **October, 2015** – On the urging of ACCAN, Bellevue Borough Council passes the same resolution that Ben Avon and Emsworth borough councils passed.
- **October, 2015** – On the urging of ACCAN, Emsworth Borough Council unanimously passes the same resolution that Ben Avon Borough Council had passed in September.
- **September, 2015** – On the urging of ACCAN, Ben Avon Borough Council passes a resolution asking the Health Department to more strictly enforce air quality regulations on the industries on Neville Island.
- **September, 2015** – Attend September 2nd Board of Health meeting to testify about the lack of enforcement of air quality regulations on the DTE Shenango plant including the multiple power outages over the summer.
- **September, 2015** – Thaddeus Popovich, ACCAN co-founder, writes an [Op Ed](#) that appeared in the September 3rd Post Gazette calling for DTE Shenango to be accountable for their violations and the effect of their pollution on our health. This was a response to an Op Ed that appeared in the Post Gazette on August 25th, written by Earl Bohn, President of Ben Avon Borough Council. Mr. Bohn's Op Ed romanticized the coke and steel industries and claimed that DTE Shenango had largely eliminated polluting emissions.
- **August & September, 2015** – At the August 18th and September 8th County Council meetings, ACCAN members, citing conflict of interest, testify asking council not to approve the appointment of Chester Babst to the Health Department's Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee. Mr. Babst is the lead attorney representing DTE Shenango against a citizen's lawsuit filed in May 2014 by the Group Against Smog & Pollution (GASP).
- **August, 2015** – Work with CWA and CMU's Community Robotics, Education and Technology Empowerment (CREATE) Lab, ACCAN began to interview ACCAN members and other residents to record their stories about how pollution from DTE Shenango is affecting their lives and their communities.

- **August, 2015** – Clean Water Action (CWA), works with ACCAN, submitted an application to the Heinz Endowments' Summer Intern Youth Philanthropy Program for a grant to fund joint advocacy efforts concerning DTE Shenango.
- **June, 2015** – Participates in "[The People's Pilgrimage](#)": a nine mile walk and rally done in support of Pope Francis' Encyclical and the upcoming United Nations Climate Change conference.
- **June, 2015** – ACCAN meets with ACHD for an update and to discuss issues, particularly the [power outage at the plant on June 11th](#) where the plant shut down and lost control of their processes, sending raw coke oven gas into the air for more than hour.
- **June, 2015** – ACCAN meets with EPA Air Quality staff in Pittsburgh to review EPA January inspection report.
- **May, 2015** – Four ACCAN members attend [DTE Energy shareholders meeting in Washington, D.C.](#) and testified about the problems with DTE Shenango.
- **April, 2015** - [Air Pollution & Heart Health](#) - Wayne Cascio, MD, Director EPA
 - Environmental Public Health Division presentation at Allegheny General Hospital.
- **March, 2015** - Community members and environmental groups [present "Closed Window Award" presented to DTE Shenango](#) on first day of spring for their continued pollution of the community
- **March, 2015** – Visit to Pittsburgh by Shawn Garvin, EPA Region III Administrator, & David Arnold, EPA's Deputy Director, Air Quality Division.
- **March, 2015** – ACCAN members attended and testified at March 4th Board of Health meeting to testify about Community Health Improvement Plan.
- **March, 2015** – ACCAN members meet with ACHD on March 3rd for progress report, to discuss issues, and for an update on their enforcement activities against DTE Shenango.
- **February, 2015** – ACCAN members testify at the February 17th County Council meeting asking council to not approve the appointment of Mark Aloe to the County's Finance & Development Commission. During Mr. Aloe's tenure as CEO and special projects director of Shenango, over a 20+ year period, the plant was cited and fined for numerous violations and forced to sign a consent order with EPA.
- **February, 2015**- Seven ACCAN members meet with EPA Regional Administrator, Shawn Garvin, & staff at EPA Region III headquarters in Philadelphia.

- **January, 2015** - ACCAN members attend and testify at January 7th Board of Health meeting concerning Community Health Assessment and the fact that despite it being the most voted on health indicator, air quality was not included in the plan.
- **December, 2014** – BBC produces a [story on ACCAN's fight with DTE Shenango](#) and aired it on BBC World News and BBC World Pop Up.
- **November, 2014** - First in-[community ACCAN/ACHD meeting](#). 150 participants attend a meeting to hear what ACHD is doing to improve the air quality.
- **October, 2014** – ACCAN participates in Pittsburgh leg of the cross country [Climate March](#).
- **October, 2014** - [Citizen's Breathe Cam](#) set up in ACCAN member's home to monitor Shenango on a 24/7 basis.
- **September, 2014** - First meeting with ACCAN and Allegheny County Health Department to discuss reductions in pollution and improve transparency.
- **June, 2014** - Grassroots [Allegheny County Clean Air Now \(ACCAN\)](#) formed with residents sick and tired of the poor air quality and inaction from regulators.
- **May, 2014** - [GASP citizens' lawsuit against DTE Shenango](#) is filed because of the shortcomings of the consent agreement.
- **April, 2014** - [ACHD consent agreement](#) (and [amendment](#)) with DTE Shenango requires the plant to make improvements on the facility and imposes a \$300,000 fine. No public hearing occurred.
- **March, 2014** - Community coalition of [35 member coalition petition](#) in the North Boroughs hosts press conference calling for ACHD to get tough on DTE Shenango after data shows that the plant violated health standards on 330 days of a 432 consecutive day period ending September 2013.
- **December, 2013** - [Neville Island Good Neighbor Working Committee disassociates from DTE Shenango](#) via letter of resignation presented at main gate.
- **January, 2012** - meetings between Neville Island Good Neighbor Committee (predecessor to ACCAN) and DTE Shenango.
- "Smoke reading" done at least monthly by ACCAN members.

ACCAN & Shenango Media Coverage:

- Allegheny Front June 9, 2017
[Children who live near pollution have twice the risk of asthma](#)
- Allegheny Front - June 9, 2017
[Sharing stories to fight pollution](#)
- Allegheny Front - June 1, 2017
[Life smells better after Shenango](#)
- Post-Gazette - May 5, 2017
[Sun instead of coal? Group wants to build a solar array at shuttered Shenango Coke Works](#)
- Post-Gazette May 3, 2017
[Asthma at "epidemic" levels in regions schools, experts say on World Asthma Day](#)
- Next Pittsburgh - April 21, 2017
[What's it like "Living Downwind" of Shenango Coke Works?](#)
- Allegheny Front - December 16, 2016
[Could the Former Shenango Coke Works Site Become a Solar Farm?](#)
- Tribune-Review October 25, 2016
[Shenango coke works owner agrees to 225k settlement over air pollution](#)
- Post-Gazette - May 2016
[Turn Shenango into a solar farm](#)
- Tribune Review January 6, 2016
[Shenango, Inc. begins shutdown of Neville Island coke plant.](#)
- Tribune-Review December 17, 2015
[DTE will shutdown Shenango coke near Pittsburgh mid-January](#)
- Post-Gazette December 18, 2015
[DTE to close Shenango coke plant, affecting 173 workers](#)
- Post-Gazette - November 20, 2015
[Regulators reviewing Shenango Coke Works compliance with 2012 consent agreement](#)
- Post Gazette - November 16, 2015
[Shenango Channel keeps an eye on the Neville Island sky](#)
- The Citizen - Sept 22, 2015

[Ben Avon balks at anti-pollution resolution](#)

- Post Gazette Editorial Board - September 13, 2015
[Dirty Shenango: Power outages are no excuse for air pollution](#)
- Post Gazette - September 10, 2015
[Allegheny County tells Neville Island coke plant to address emissions](#)
- Trib- September 8, 2015
[Allegheny County Health Department tells Shenango to fix problems at Neville Island coke plant](#)
- Post Gazette Op-Ed - September 3, 2015
[Clean up the Shenango coke works](#)
- Post Gazette Op-Ed - August 25, 2015
[Industrial attraction: How Pittsburgh treats Shenango coke plant can hurt recruiting](#)
- Trib - July 12, 2015
[Northgate schools combat asthma triggers in children](#)
- Trib - March 29, 2015
[Carnegie Mellon's Spek Device monitors indoor pollution](#)
- City Paper - March 20, 2015
[Residents give closed window award to Neville Island Shenango Coke Works](#)
- Trib - March 4, 2015
[Officials will train camera on Neville Island Coke Plant](#)
- Post Gazette - February 12, 2015
[Allegheny County residents carry fight against Shenango Inc. coke works to local governments](#)
- WESA - January 2015
[County To Pursue Increased Air Quality Monitoring Federal Compliance in 2015](#)
- Post Gazette - December 28, 2014
[LTE: Shenango is polluting my neighborhood and I wish Vanguard would use its clout to make it stop](#)
- Pittsburgh Quarterly - Fall 2014
[Is Better Good Enough?](#)
- Post Gazette - October 17, 2014

[LTE: Allegheny Co. must recognize the risky air quality resulting from the Shenango works](#)

- WESA - October 1, 2014
[Air Quality Complications and Shenango Coke Plant](#)
- Trib - May 8, 2014
[GASP sues Neville Island coke plant over air pollution concerns](#)
- Post Gazette - April 8, 2014
[Allegheny County reaches consent agreement with Neville Island coke plant to reduce pollution](#)
- Post Gazette - March 2014
[Shenango's duty: DTE Energy must end its 'horrendous' record](#)
- Post Gazette - March 23, 2014
[Coalition pushing for action on Neville coke plant](#) (Barbershop piece)
- Post Gazette - March 31, 2014
[LTE Post-Gazette: It's time for this bad neighbor to go](#)