



WEST CHESTER GREEN TEAM NEWS

April 2022

Mission: The West Chester Green Team is a civic organization in West Chester, PA, that works to educate the local public and to establish and nourish green initiatives in the community in harmony with nature and each other, promoting the health of all living things and of planet Earth.

Inside: Celebrate Earth Week, Win dinner with Doug Tallamy, Fossil Fuels, Goose Creek Clean-up Recap, Plastic and Microplastic Pollution, and much more!



WCGT Calendar of Upcoming Events



When – What – Where.

April 20 & 23: Seeing the Milky Way, 7 pm April 20, Noon April 23. WCU Planetarium, 750 S. Church St., West Chester. Register for either day at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/seeing-the-milky-way-celebrating-the-night-sky-for-earth-week-tickets-297160794937>. See article page 5.

April 22: Earth Day in West Chester, begins 9 am at WCU with unveiling of this year's WCGT yard sign and presentation of awards. Corner of S. High St. & University Ave. View chalkings on N. and S. High St. reaching from University Ave. to Marshall St. from 9 am to 5 pm. For more info or to be assigned a sidewalk to chalk, e-mail westchestergoesgreen@gmail.com

April 24: East Goshen Sustainability Fair, 12-4 pm. Many sustainable vendors, giveaways, raffles, and seminars. Electric Vehicle Info •Solar• Geothermal •Recycling Information •Water Conservation• Pollinator Gardens •Sustainable Home products •SEPTA Info• Composting • Kids events. More info on the Township's [Facebook](#) page with postings (Cork and coffee Pod recycling collection during the Expo). East Goshen Township Bldg, 1580 Paoli Pike

April 25: East Bradford Environmental Advisory Council (EAC), 7 – 8:30pm, East Bradford Township Bldg, 676 Copeland School Rd.

East Goshen Sustainability Advisory Committee, 7 – 8:30pm, East Goshen Township Bldg, 1580 Paoli Pike

April 26: West Goshen Sustainability Advisory Committee, 6 – 8 pm, West Goshen Township Bldg., 1025 Paoli Pike

Westtown Environmental Advisory Council, 7 – 8:30pm, Westtown Township Bldg, 1039 Wilmington Pike (Rt. 202)

April 28: West Chester Sustainability Advisory Committee, 6:30 – 8 pm, Room 240, Borough Hall, E. Gay St.

Be sure to visit our Web site at <https://wcgreenteam.com/> and our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/WCGTeam/> (all are welcome to post environment- and sustainability-related items there). If you wish to support our work, please donate here: <https://wcgreenteam.com/contact-2/>

NOTE: Deadline for the May issue is April 30! We welcome contributions and suggestions from our readers for possible inclusion in a future issue. E-mail your ideas to Dianne Walsh at LDwalsh318@gmail.com.

The Homegrown National Park Project is Coming to You and So is Your Chance to Win Dinner with a NYT Bestselling Author!

By Cara Corridoni

As part of our commitment to improving biodiversity in the West Chester area, the West Chester Green Team is joining the largest cooperative conservation project ever attempted! The brainchild of Delaware University professor and [New York Times bestselling author Doug Tallamy](#), the Homegrown National Park initiative aims to restore biodiversity one backyard at a time and we would like you to be a part of it.



How to participate:

1. Learn more about how to turn your yard into a [homegrown national park](#).
2. Support the Green Team's initiatives to add biodiversity and beauty to the Borough's common areas with a donation of \$25 or more - and you'll be entered for a chance to win a delicious catered meal for you and a guest with Doug Tallamy!

On May 13, Doug will sit down for a special dinner with the West Chester Green Team and a few select members of the community. Help support native pollinator projects around the region with a donation of \$25 or more and one of them could be you!

Tallamy is a Professor and Chair of the Entomology and Wildlife Ecology Department at the University of Delaware and author of 2020 bestseller, *Nature's Best Hope*. His Homegrown National Park project is a grassroots initiative that aims to regenerate biodiversity through the planting of Native plants.

All donations must be received between April 1 and April 30 to qualify for entry. A winner will be selected at random from all qualifying donations. You do not have to enter the raffle in order to support biodiversity initiatives in our community. All proceeds raised will go to supporting the West Chester Green Team and the Doug Tallamy Homegrown National Park project. All donations and amounts are greatly appreciated. Winners will be notified on May 2.

[Donate now!](#)

Prize:

Attendance for you and a guest at a dinner for NY Times bestselling author Doug Tallamy hosted by the West Chester Green Team. Dinner will consist of a relaxed buffet style dining with indoor and outdoor seating, an Indian vegetarian menu, wine, beer and soft drinks.

If you have any questions about the raffle, please email the West Chester Green Team [<westchestergoesgreen@gmail.com>](mailto:westchestergoesgreen@gmail.com)

How it Works:

We will track all the donations of \$25 or more received during the month of April. All qualifying donations will be entered into a random number/name generator (easily available online). The generator will give a name/or number associated with the donation. This will be our winner.

Tallamy, con't.

Rules:

Donations must be a minimum of \$25 USD to qualify.

Donations to the raffle are not tax deductible.

Donations must be received between 12 AM EST April 1, 2022 and 11:59 PM EST April 30, 2022.

Winners will be notified by May 2, 2022. Winner will have 5 days to confirm receipt and acceptance of prize, otherwise a second winner will be notified.

This and That:



Community Garden Update

As of the end of March, all raised beds at our two extant community gardens have pretty much been taken by enthusiastic 2022 gardeners, who are looking forward to planting early crops like peas and spinach as soon as spring stages a comeback.

We might still have a small amount of unclaimed space, probably 4 x 4 feet. If you'd like to see whether we might be able to make any space available to you in 2022, please visit our web site at <https://wcgreenteam.com/2022/03/03/looking-for-garden-space-this-summer/> to find out how to apply.

There is no cost to you.

You might also look at some other options:

- If you have access to potential garden space that is not yet suitable for planting, think of installing a raised bed or planting directly in the ground.
- You can actually grow quite a lot on a sunny balcony (herbs, strawberries, tomatoes...) or in pots on a patio or driveway (think butternut squashes festooning your former parking space...).
- Do you have a lawn of which you are willing to see less (and spend less time and energy on maintaining)? See and consider imitating Courtney Finneran's experiences in "Lawn to Native Pollinator Garden Conversion" at <https://wcgreenteam.com/2021/07/06/lawn-to-native-pollinator-garden-conversion/>.
- Do you have the urge to plant and maintain gardens but really no access to space? Think of joining in one of our several projects to beautify and nourish pollinating insects in publicly visible locations. For background, see the last 2 sections of "2021 Recap: West Chester Tree Team and Living Landscapes" by Courtney Finneran at <https://wcgreenteam.com/2022/01/02/2021-recap-west-chester-tree-team-and-living-landscapes/>. And we have new projects almost underway in 2022. Plant not for yourself but for the planet!

Need advice? Let us know at westchestergoesgreen@gmail.com.

Celebrate Earth Week at the West Chester University Mather Planetarium

Come celebrate Earth Week and the wonders of the night sky at the West Chester University Mather Planetarium on either April 20 or April 23. This special presentation will feature digital astrophotography by amateur astronomers from all over the world, including stunning images of the Milky Way, our home galaxy. But for many, the beauty and serenity of the night sky is vanishing. Light pollution is washing away our view of the cosmos. But all is not lost: light pollution is a problem we can fix, so we can rediscover the beauty of our nighttime environment.

We will be joined by special guest State Senator Carolyn Comitta on Wednesday. The event is co-sponsored by the West Chester Green Team, the West Chester University Office of Sustainability, the College of Science and Mathematics, and the WCU Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology.

Reservations are free. Use the QR codes below to register (or use the link in our events calendar) for either April 20 or 23. The planetarium is located at 750 S. Church St., West Chester.

SEEING THE MILKY WAY
CELEBRATING THE NIGHT SKY FOR EARTH WEEK

Wednesday, April 20th at 7 PM & Saturday, April 23rd at noon
at the WCU Planetarium

Come celebrate Earth Week and the wonders of the night sky at the West Chester University Mather Planetarium. These two special presentations will feature digital astrophotography by amateur astronomers from all over the world, including stunning images of the Milky Way, our home galaxy. But for many, the beauty and serenity of the night sky is vanishing. Light pollution is washing away our view of the cosmos. But all is not lost: light pollution is a problem we can fix, so we can rediscover the beauty of our nighttime environment.

The Wednesday evening showing will feature special guest State Senator Carolyn Comitta. The Saturday event at noon celebrates West Chester University's 150th Anniversary. There will be activities for adults and children throughout the WCU science complex on Saturday from 1 - 3 PM.

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER

April 20th, 2022 April 23rd, 2022

Co-Sponsored by the West Chester Green Team's Dark Skies Committee, the WCU Museum of Anthropology & Archaeology, the WCU College of Sciences and Mathematics, and the WCU Office of Sustainability

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Marc Gagné at mgagne@wcupa.edu.

Mondays at Melton is Branching Out

Last year's very successful environmental education program for children at the Melton Center will happen again this coming summer with a change of time to 4 pm. Rani Norley will be organizing the camp and running it with the help of Jamie Atkins of the Melton Center. Rani will be assisted by Prof. Megan Schraedley and Cara Corridoni, both WC Green Team board members.



Joining Mondays at Melton is a new program now in the planning stages for Westside Community Center. It will also be on Mondays but at 7 pm so it will be more available for working moms. Sarah Daniels connected us with this opportunity, and Prof. Jessica Nagle will be a leader of the effort. Also helping out are WCGT board member Nora Ziegler and Renee Perna. Renee will offer a program on Jamaica, complete with a story, crafts and Jamaican food tasting.

Sign up for these camps will begin in May. The programs are for children 5-10 years old and are free.

Porchfest Update and Reminder



Porchfest is on its way! May 21st is the day, with the 22nd as the rain date. So far, we have 12 sponsors, 29 porches and 41 performers and bands! There will also be at least several food trucks. Be sure to save the date so you can stroll around town in the vicinity of Everhart Park and enjoy the music. There will be children's activities, too.

This is a free event organized by volunteers and bringing you the diverse and exciting music scene of southeast PA. Special thanks go to organizers Beth Quarfot, Noel Hedgecock, Miggy Mason, Rani Norley and Shruti Malelo. Co-sponsored by the WC Green Team and Mayor Lillian L. DeBaptiste.

Annual Spring Community Cleanup in West Chester

It's been a long, windy winter, and our streets, alleys, and parks are in need of some tidying. Grab some gloves, roll up your sleeves, and let's get our town looking its best the weekend of April 23rd and 24th, capping off Earth Week 2022.

How to participate and support this event:

- Sign up as an individual or team and claim your 2-5 block cleanup area (or as many as you'd like!)
- Help get the word out by sharing the Borough's Facebook and Instagram announcements or use the image below and the following link: <https://www.west-chester.com/684/Cleanup> on your own social media pages. You can register there, too!
- Prior to the event a cleanup kit will be delivered to the address you provide, or if outside of the Borough you can pick up your kit at 401 E. Gay Street the week of April 18th
- Get out there! The Cleanup will take place on Saturday April 23rd and Sunday April 24th, whenever convenient for you and your team and the weather cooperates
- Take a picture of your team in action and post to social media using the hashtag #CleanAndGreenWC
- Finally, drop off trash bags at the closest designated drop-off location (a map will be included with your cleanup kit)



EIA Projects Continued Burning of Fossil Fuels Thru 2050

by Bill Haaf

The hope has been that by 2050 the US would use at least 95% renewable energy plus nuclear. But, unfortunately, the [US Energy Information Administration](#) (EIA) does not forecast that.

If EIA is right, the CO₂ and CH₄ in the atmosphere will also continue to grow about 2 ppm / yr to reach over 470.ppm. Plus, more melting of permafrost releasing even more greenhouse gases.

Fossil Fuels, con't.

The results: more heat; stronger storms and hurricanes; much more rainfall; more sea level rise; more extensive flooding; more dead trees and fish; oceans continuing to heat up, killing much life in them; more populations exposed to higher temperatures; unknown consequences for food crops.

See the [chart below from EIA](#): even electricity, which should be the easiest to replace fossil fuels, is forecast to become only 44% renewables and 12% nuclear (since nuclear power plants produce no GHG emissions, they are a great energy source; the GHG embedded in the steel and concrete are offset in less than one year of operation).

The following [quote from IEA](#) says it all for total energy used for all purposes not just electricity:

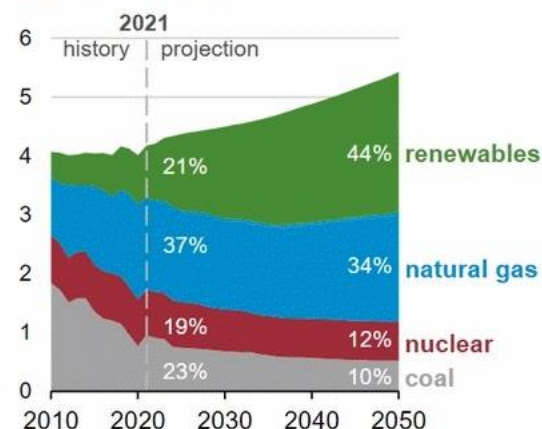
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS REMAIN THE MOST-CONSUMED SOURCES OF ENERGY IN THE UNITED STATES THROUGH 2050, BUT RENEWABLE ENERGY IS THE FASTEST GROWING

Key takeaways from the Reference case and side cases

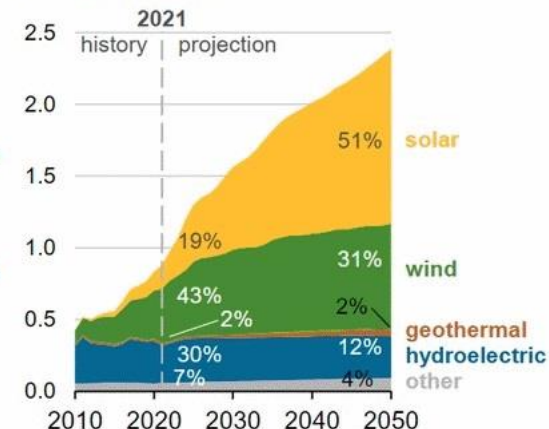
- Motor gasoline remains the most prevalent transportation fuel despite electric vehicles gaining market share
- Energy-related carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions dip through 2035 before climbing later in the projection years
- Energy consumption increases through 2050 as population and economic growth outweighs efficiency gains
- Electricity continues to be the fastest-growing energy source in buildings, with renewables and natural gas providing most of the incremental electricity supply

EIA projects that renewable generation will supply 44% of U.S. electricity by 2050

**U.S. electricity generation
AEO2022 Reference case**
trillion kilowatthours



**U.S. renewable electricity generation
including end use**
trillion kilowatthours



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Outlook 2022* (AEO2022)
Note: Biofuels are both shown separately and are included in petroleum and other liquids.

Plastic and Microplastic Pollution

by Indira al-Rashid, West Chester Green Team intern

In today's world, plastic is commonplace. We use plastic in just about every aspect of our daily lives, even if we don't actively seek to. But as we utilize single-use plastics in our stores, restaurants, and at home, we continuously put ourselves and our environment at risk. Single-use plastics are made up of petrochemicals and are intended to be disposed of directly after use.



The proliferation of single-use plastics has led to the global spread of microplastics in our environment. Microplastics are particles of plastic measuring less than 5 millimeters in diameter, or smaller than a single grain of rice. These microplastics spread into our waterways, potentially suffocating and causing starvation in our wildlife, such as fish and birds. It was recently found by the PennEnvironment Research and Policy Center that as of March 2021, one hundred percent of tested Pennsylvania waterways contained microplastics. These microplastics can now be found in the food and water you consume and even the air you breathe. Microplastics can lead to possible cell death or allergic reaction in humans and are virtually impossible to avoid consuming in today's world.

So, what can you do to help reduce the spread of plastics and microplastic pollution in your ecosystem? Well, as of January 1st, 2022, a plastic-ban ordinance went into effect in West Chester and the same is true in some nearby municipalities and counties. More and more communities are joining the movement of banning single-use plastic bags and straws in local restaurants and businesses. Patrons are now encouraged to bring their own reusable bags along when they shop. The ordinance states that businesses should charge a ten-cent fee to customers looking to shop in their stores, in hopes it will encourage people to bring their own bags, and reduce the use of single-use plastics.

It is up to us as a community to reduce the use of single-use plastics in order to further prevent the spread of plastic and microplastic pollution in our air, food, and water. What are some other ways you can think of to reduce your own plastic use?

Goose Creek Park Clean-up Recap

by **Lucinda Bauman**, West Chester Green Team intern

On March 26, Chester, Ridley, and Crum Creek Watersheds Association organized its annual countywide stream cleanup. In total, thirty-five sites were depolluted, twelve of them along Chester Creek. In Thornbury Township, community members gathered to clean the abundant waste out at Goose Creek Park.

In just this section of Chester Creek, residents salvaged dozens of pounds of polluting waste. Tiny plastic scraps, bulky tractor tires, food packaging and much more were retrieved and disposed of. This pollution disrupts the creek in many ways, such as entangling aquatic life, preventing vegetation from growing, and degrading the water quality. So, these cleanups play a crucial role in protecting our local watersheds and creeks.

