



Citizens for Alternatives to Chemical Contamination

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*Chapter Organizations:
Huron Environmental Activist League*

CACC Office Project 2010
Reducing CACC's Energy Footprint



Photo Credit, Kay Cumbow

Grateful Thanks and Holiday Cheer to our Membership from CACC!

The CACC Board of Directors sends our heartfelt appreciation to all of our members, donors and volunteers for your generosity and efforts in 2009. As the year ends, we ask you to join with us during the year ahead, in this critical work to protect our communities and the land and waters we love. Please contact us with your interests and concerns. You and future generations are the inspiration for the work we do. Your secure donations can be made online at: <http://www.caccmi.org/> or to: CACC, 8735 Maple Grove Road, Lake, Michigan 48632-9511. Donations to CACC are tax deductible as far as the law allows. Read on for a partial summary of work we have done together in 2009.

Return to our Roots - Building a Sustainable Vision for our Communities

CACC was founded by ordinary people, who came together to protect the health of their families and communities, by stopping the widespread chemical spraying of much of mid-Michigan. Those early members/volunteers built a foundation resting securely on sustainability - clean water and air, healthy soil, celebration in the form of wholesome food, the fine arts, and a circle that includes all life on Earth. Chemical spraying harmed the circle of life and people stood together to protect that precious circle, winning rights that Michigan citizens still have, today.

Today, we face far greater threats to the health of our communities and watersheds. Persistent toxins haunt the Great Lakes and all who reside here. Plankton, the base of our food chain, is decimated in these great waters. We use more than 80,000 chemicals in our daily lives, with little or no understanding of their complex, synergistic effects on DNA or the health of our watersheds. Genetically modified crops change the very structure of the food we eat. Energy efficiency and renewable energy *can* bring welcome change to a nation built on unsustainable consumption. Yet, unneeded coal and nuclear plants loom uncertainly in our future, promising harmful pollution from cradle to grave. Climate change threatens our crops and our way of life. In the midst of this, CACC works alongside other concerned groups - to lessen our human footprint, to protect our air and water, to speak out against dioxin and factory farm pollution - and to create a future where people treasure and protect the health of our neighborhoods and watersheds.

Voices for Earth Justice and Home for Peace and Justice, both Michigan organizations, have created new panels for the powerful grassroots project, the Great Lakes Health Banner. The Great Lakes Health Banner project, begun in Michigan by Mary Ann Stroup and Families for Environmental Awareness, carries on with CACC Director, Gretchen Michaels and Mary Ann. The Banner is a visual call to action to stop the widespread use of persistent toxins that bring long-term harm to our communities. The remarkable history of the Great Lakes Health Banner and the original Health Banner, created by Linda King and the National Environmental Network, can be viewed on CACC's website. Photos are posted of many of the 80 plus panels, representing groups throughout the Great Lakes region. To request a panel to voice your community's health concerns - or to find information on displaying part or all of the Banner, see our website: <http://www.caccmi.org/>

CACC's exciting plans to renovate and make our office in Lake Station energy efficient are moving forward. CACC held a work party in May. An energy audit is in the works for 2010. Once renovated, we plan to staff the office again and use this much-appreciated gift from a local donor as the center for CACC's environmental planning, networking and action.

CACC's chapter, the Huron Environmental Activist League (H.E.A.L.), together with Earth Justice (the legal arm of the Sierra Club) and other organizations, celebrated a landmark victory, when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A.) agreed to limit mercury and other airborne toxins at cement kilns, nationwide. In June, Bill Freese, CACC Director and Director of H.E.A.L., testified in Washington D.C. at an E.P.A. hearing, regarding health effects to Alpena residents, from mercury and other toxins emitted for decades by the Lafarge cement kiln in Alpena.

Victor McManemy, CACC Chair, songwriter and advocate for Indigenous Peoples everywhere, performed at the second Protect the Earth gathering in Michigan's Upper Peninsula - a regional call for people to work together to prevent metallic sulfide and uranium mining, which threaten to devastate northern Michigan waters.

In 2009, CACC intervened with Don't Waste Michigan, Beyond Nuclear, Sierra Club of Michigan, Citizens Environment Alliance of Southwestern Ontario and others to stop construction of a proposed nuclear reactor at Monroe, Michigan. With no documented need for more power in Michigan in the foreseeable future, it defies reason that new polluting nuclear *or* coal plants should be on target for construction in our state. CACC will continue to work for energy conservation and efficiency - as well as renewable energy, such as wind and solar, which do not leave the long-lasting health impacts or pollution that coal and nuclear power both do.

CACC participated in Power Shift conferences in both spring and fall of 2009. Power Shift is a national youth organization seeking action on critical climate and energy issues. Victor McManemy performed his inspiring and powerful songs at Power Shift's rally at the Capitol steps in Lansing.

CACC participated in the important work of the Michigan Network for Children's Environmental Health this past year, and our goal is to expand that participation in 2010. One timely campaign that the Network endorses is the Healthy Toy Campaign, which seeks to ensure consumer right-to-know if toys are toxin free. See <http://www.healthystuff.org/>

Connie Beauvais and Stas Yascolt, two long-time active volunteers with CACC, brought new energy and vision to the CACC Board of Directors in 2009. Connie hosted the CACC board retreat at her cottage in Onekama in November of 2008 and again hosted the board in June, 2009, so that CACC could easily participate in the Great Lakes Energy Fair held in Onekama. David Gard, Energy Program Director for Michigan Environmental Council, spoke regarding the definition of Green Energy at CACC's General Membership meeting, held at the Fair. Stas drew a crowd by demonstrating a solar plug and play unit for CACC, to show the remarkable ease of using solar.

Thanks to the efforts of greatly appreciated volunteers, CACC once again cooked up hearty, healthy food for thousands of hungry people at the annual Wheatland Music Festival, our biggest fundraiser of the year. Stas Yascolt put his solar plug and play kit on display for CACC once more, to show people just how simple using solar energy can be! CACC Director and talented artist, Gretchen Michaels, created imaginative displays for CACC's Kitchen. Her soft-sculpture of Mother Earth has watched over many CACC events. CACC, as always, integrates fine arts and music into the vital work to protect our air and waters, recognizing that art and music lift us and sustain our spirits for the long haul!

In October, Sally Schemanski and Harold Stokes, members of CACC's Advisory Board, represented CACC at the Biennial Meeting of the International Joint Commission for the Great Lakes for the U.S. and Canada in Windsor, Ontario.

Pam Warren continues to serve as CACC's invaluable webmaster. Please check our website: <http://www.caccmi.org/> for recent changes. One goal for 2010 is to ensure that Pam has timely articles and graphics for the CACC website.

Sally Schemanski has taken charge of CACC's online ECO-calendar. Members may send environmental events to Sally for consideration for publication via CACC's website at <http://www.caccmi.org/>

Joseph Badura heads up the CACC canvass in Lansing, greatly extending our outreach and fundraising.

Josie Jubb maintains CACC's mailing list, an important task that keeps us in touch with our membership.

One of CACC's top priorities in 2010 is to improve communications with our membership, with implementation of a regular schedule for the CACC News and greater online communication.

CACC is involved in other efforts for sustainable living as well. We invite your greater participation in all of CACC's efforts to protect and celebrate the people and places we hold dear. Please feel free to contact us via our website or our address in Lake and make plans this year to join us in this vital work to create a healthy Great Lakes watershed, where *all* of our families and nature can thrive! We wish you Happy Holidays and a Sustainable New Year!

From the CACC Board of Directors: Victor McManemy, Gretchen Michaels, Ann Hunt, Connie Beauvais, Lucia Campbell, John Witucki, Stas Yascolt, Phill Hunt, and Bill Freese