



## Chester Environmental Partnership

May 31, 2019

Councilman Mark Squilla,  
Chairperson Streets and Service Committee  
Philadelphia City Council  
City of Philadelphia

Councilman Mark Squilla:

The Chester Environmental Partnership [CEP] supports Covanta Energy transporting Philadelphia trash to the Covanta facility in Chester. Covanta Energy has been a good neighbor to the residents and City of Chester.

Reverend Dr. Horace W. Strand, established the [CEP], a non-profit organization designed to address worsening conditions in Chester due to policies and regulations established by government agencies and their lack of action in addressing the environmental challenges facing Chester and the lack of community cohesiveness. The CEP seeks to improve the quality of life, safety and health of the resident by supporting efforts that reduce pollution and inequity through cooperative action.

The CEP consists of a coalition of government leaders, regulators, academia, healthcare providers, environmental and health institutions, industry leaders, student representation, non-profit organizations, community and faith-based leadership. The CEP addresses zoning, land use, permitting, environmental protection and environmental health risk intervention, job/minority business creation, smart growth and economic development. Covanta Energy has been a partner and supporter of CEP.

The CEP has worked hard monitoring Covanta Energy through the state's eFACTS and Chester Host Municipality Inspections. Violations and industry actions are announced and addressed at CEP bi-monthly meetings with the PA Department of Environmental Protection and EPA. As reported by DEP, Covanta Energy has had no violations. Through cooperative action, the CEP

will opposed and not support industry that is seeking a permit if in violation. CEP has accomplished successful programs for Chester residents such as:

- 2018-19 DVRPC funding to begin I-95 work in Chester.
- Annual Save Your Soles Day has reduced the amputation rates in Chester
- Chester Host Municipality Inspectors & CEP Volunteer [HMI] for Covanta.
- CEP, Chester and faith-based annual community and HHHW cleanups.
- CEP Annual Chester High School 4-year Scholarship Program.
- CEP EPA Care Grant for Asthma in Chester homes and schools.
- Keep Chester Beautiful Affiliate of Keep America Beautiful.
- CEP support for Covanta Energy's "Rx for Safety" drug take-back programs; a preferred solution by environmental justice and urban communities.

The CEP is prepared to tackle environmental challenges in Chester and understand the value of trust, collaboration, teamwork and investment. CEP encourages economic growth, stability and sustainability and the CEP is the instrument to make change for the greater good of the City of Chester.

Horace Strand

Dr. Horace Strand, Chairman

Chester Environmental Partnership

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cc: Honorable Mayor Kenny

Council President Darrelle Clark

Brian Abernathy, Managing Director

Michael Carroll, Deputy Managing Director for Office of  
Transportation and Environmental Sustainability