



## 2015 Milestones & Highlights



### Advancing public health protections in Maryland

MdEHN is pleased to share our evaluation of progress made on Environmental Health in Maryland in 2015, and to extend thanks to all our partners and to the many health advocates who helped make these wins possible. See below also for what's ahead in 2016!



**Reducing Toxics in Public Schools: Nov 20 statewide workshop for peer learning on GreenCleaning in Maryland school districts**

With support from the Maryland State Department of Education, Region 3 of the US EPA, and the American Lung Association of the Mid-Atlantic stakeholders, MdEHN held

a statewide workshop to promote peer learning among school districts. 21 of Maryland's 24 public school districts participated with 79 people attending.

In 2016, we hope to help build out Maryland's Green Cleaning Community of Practice to reinforce the health protective value of phasing out toxic chemicals from school environments.

[Contact Allison Rich for more information](#)

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## Fracking Moratorium: a 2.5 year stay on permits for drilling in Western Maryland

With a diverse coalition of activists from across the state, MdEHN helped pass Maryland's moratorium on drilling for natural gas in Western Maryland. The case for a moratorium was enhanced by our analysis of the public health threats and by our continued tracking of emerging research that indicates no safe methods have yet been demonstrated by industry.

In 2016, Concerned Health Professionals of Maryland will assure that emerging scientific studies and analysis of health effects from the gas industry are brought to the attention of the Governor and other policy-makers. [Contact Rebecca Rehr to participate](#)

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## Public Health Advocates: with the Maryland Public Health Association, building a corps of health policy advocates in Maryland

Together MdEHN and the Maryland Public Health Association educated legislators on public health protections, took stands on public health issues, and delved into policy opportunities at the MdPHA annual meeting in September.

Join us in Annapolis on January 26th from 5 - 7 PM to continue the conversation with our state elected officials. [Contact Matt@Healthcareforall.com to RSVP](mailto:Matt@Healthcareforall.com)

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## Environmental Health and Baltimore City: examining the role Environmental Health played in the life of

## FreddieGray

Building from the tragedy of Freddie Gray's death, MdEHN convened a conversation on the role of lead poisoning, air pollution, and other environmental hazards in the neighborhoods where he grew up. We challenged our network to help us promote health protections that will minimize or eliminate these threats to city children, such as reduced brain development, lung function, and cognitive development.

In 2016, we will work to increase community participation in decisions about pollution sources in their neighborhoods. [\*Contact Rebecca Ruggles to get involved\*](#)



**State Agencies: helping state agency work groups embrace an environmental health perspective**

In 2015, MdEHN staff were active on the Cumulative Impacts work group of MDE, as well as three work groups of the Maryland Climate Change Commission, and the Children's Environmental Health and Protection Advisory Council.

Join us at these public meetings in 2016 to assure that environmental health concerns are addressed as major state policy decisions are made.



**Hospitals and Sustainability: blending Community Benefit responsibilities with environmental health and sustainability**

With the Health Care Sustainability Leadership Council, we explored environmental health policies that can protect patients and hospitals. With MdH2E, we jointly published our paper on [\*Community Benefit and Sustainability\*](#).

Hospital administrators shared their concerns about superbugs and antibiotic resistance, related to overuse of medically important antibiotics in factory farming. In 2016 we will be working on steps to address this critical threat to human health. Contact Rebecca Rehr for more information.

## **We wish everyone a very healthy New Year!**

2016 promises many further opportunities to protect human health, through pollution control, the transition to healthy renewable energy, and the growth of green practices in schools. Stay tuned!