

## THIS ISSUE

*Reconnecting to Communities*

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*Community Science & Tools*

*NC Farm Bill*

*Environmental Justice Policy*

*Thank You to Members*

## VOLUNTEER WITH US

Are you interested in working with communities for Environmental Justice?

Join us as we revamp our volunteer program! You can work remotely or come to our Asheville or Durham offices.

Some volunteers currently are working on:

- Developing social media templates
- Creating 'contact cards' for county environmental health directors
- Translating our tool guides into Spanish

All these efforts help make CWFNC's work possible, empowering communities through research and information as we strive for greater protection from polluting industries.

Ready to Join?

Fill out our interest form at:  
[tinyurl.com/cwfnc-volunteer](https://tinyurl.com/cwfnc-volunteer)

## RECONNECTING WITH COMMUNITIES

Here at Clean Water for NC, we are a team of dedicated individuals working with communities to protect our water and air, and to combat cumulative and disparate impacts on rural, low wealth, and BIPOC communities. Much of our work is interwoven to not only take on a cause ourselves, but to ensure communities have the necessary tools available to lead the charge!

We have reinstated our community science and air & water monitoring efforts, reinvigorated our volunteer program, and hope to get back to conducting speaking engagements, tabling, door-to-door outreach, continued advocacy, and more.

Our statewide partnerships with academic and advocacy groups also continue to grow and have allowed us to access more resources to further our mission of safe, clean water and empowered communities. We are excited to announce that we've been collaborating with a team at UNC to draft policies and organize outreach to private well users in rural NC counties!

Whether you're a new member or long-standing partner, let's join together to reconnect and re-engage in our community organizing. So, what matters to you? What issues are you facing in your communities? What do you think? We would love to hear from you and are excited to see your smiling faces again!

## WHO WE ARE

Clean Water for NC is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization with a mission to promote clean, safe water and environments and empowered, just communities for all North Carolinians through organizing, education, advocacy, and technical assistance.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marshall Tyler, *Chair • Oriental*  
Anita Simha, *Vice-Chair • Durham*  
Nathanette Mayo • *Shiloh*  
Emma Sellers • *Charlotte*

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Northeast Organizer

## OUR COMMITMENT



## DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Clean Water for NC continues to work toward a vision of clean, safe, accessible water for all North Carolinians, protected by empowered, educated communities and a publicly accountable government and economy. We were founded upon the principles of Environmental Justice, and we acknowledge that social justice is key to environmental progress. After 2020's summer of racial reckoning, we continue to reflect on the ways we can cultivate an organizational culture that centers and advances the values of diversity, equity and inclusion. Our commitment to these values demands that we reexamine our work and impact to ensure we do not perpetuate societal harms.

## ACTIONS WE'RE TAKING

Implementing mandatory racial equity and LGBT+ safe zone training for all staff and providing additional professional development. Changes we've made include greater attention to use of pronouns, and an acute focus on inclusivity in our recruitment and retention efforts.

Reviewed and revised personnel policy and employee expectations considering equity and inclusivity. We've increased support for staff who may encounter sexual, racial or other forms of harassment and discrimination in their work, as well as a put into place a more extensive problem resolution procedure.

Centering environmental justice in our programs and initiatives including greater focus on language equity, indigenous rights, holistic responses to community concerns and continued communications to ensure community needs are centered. We are also recommitting to partner on initiatives and events with BIPOC organizations, businesses and institutions.

# EMPOWERED, JUST COMMUNITIES

## LANGUAGE EQUITY



DEQ recently published their Public Participation and Limited English Proficiency Language Access Plans to better inform the public about opportunities to participate in hearings and comment periods. Fostering “meaningful involvement” sits at the core of DEQ’s goals. However, Clean Water for NC identified some gaps between these agency goals and what is actually happening on the ground.

### GAPS IN “MEANINGFUL INVOLVEMENT”

- DEQ’s outreach materials for proposed polluting facilities are provided in English.
- Public hearings are only facilitated in English.
- Supporting documents about proposed facilities, including public notices, are only shared on DEQ’s website in English.

Non-English speaking community members may request language assistance services during the permitting process, but this opportunity is not clearly outlined in outreach materials or on DEQ’s website.

We respect DEQ for the work they do, and understand their capacity is limited to fully investigate the language preferences of a potentially impacted community.

### FILLING THE GAP

We’ve provided recommendations to DEQ about how outreach can be more inclusive: highlighting community members’ right to request ASL and translation services.

We utilize our Community Tools (*see page 5*) to better understand the demographics of impacted communities and reach out to these areas about proposed polluting facilities and opportunities to voice their concerns.

## BEYOND THE PERMITS

We are excited to have Spanish-speaking staff work with Latinx nonprofits and meet with their members to provide translated materials regarding their drinking water sources.

This effort is a follow-up to a report we published *with volunteer Lee Barnes* about Mobile Home Parks, where we found that the majority of Spanish-speaking communities we visited were not receiving their Annual Water Quality Report at all, and those who did were not receiving the report in a language other than English.

All North Carolinians have a right to clean water and air. We are looking forward to building the capacity of non-English speaking community members to participate in DEQ hearings and better understand their rights to receive environmental health information in their language of choice.



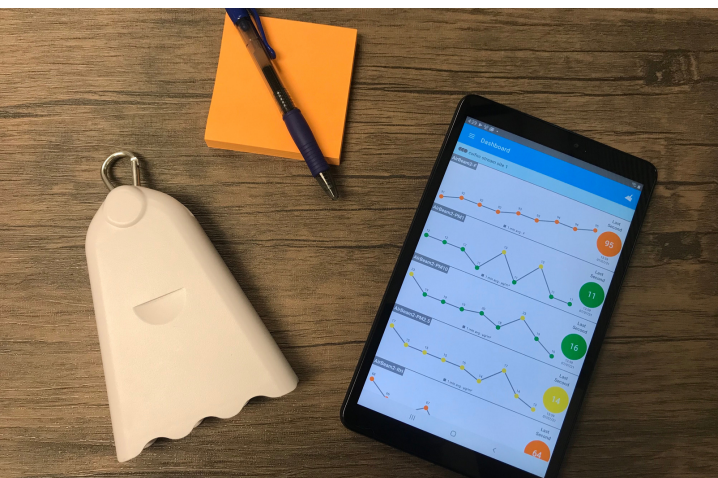
## COMMUNITY SCIENCE INITIATIVE

CWFNC uses scientific research and community consultation to inform our work, prioritizing efforts with low-income and BIPOC communities who experience disproportionate impacts. We review permits, policies, and legislation and often find that they are not as protective as they should be for communities. We may be small in number, but we do what we can to reach community members and gather information within short windows of public input and participation. But the fact is, the data isn't always there.

Waste from industrialized poultry facilities is just one issue that has been particularly concerning because of the lack of regulation and, therefore, information. The poultry industry has exploded in our state and research shows poorly managed waste can have negative impacts to air, groundwater, and surface waters. Our own environmental agency lacks basic information about these poultry operations, including where they are located, how much waste is produced, and where that waste gets spread.

Neighbors deserve to understand the impacts of the industries in their communities, and companies should be held accountable if their practices are harmful. If the data isn't available, what if we gather it ourselves? I'm talking about you, me, friends, neighbors, partner organizations - Community Science!

With the help of our partners and donating members we've already begun. In July, we kicked off our air monitoring efforts using equipment loaned from CleanAIRE NC and collected our first water samples with guidance from Waterkeeper Alliance!



Together it's possible to expand our reach and build a case for better protections for NC communities. There are many ways to get involved!

- Donating
- Volunteering
- Sharing your concerns
- Connecting others to our work

Contact [amanda@cwfn.org](mailto:amanda@cwfn.org) to find out more.

# TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER



## COMMUNITY TOOLS

Clean Water for NC's Community Tools Project aims to address the difficulties users face with online tools and web applications developed by public agencies, by identifying resources and creating easy to follow guides and tutorials. By mapping important information about facilities, pollutants, water sources and other publicly available resources, users can gain the knowledge they need to face challenges in their area. Below we feature two tools, and you can stay up-to-date with this project by checking out the "Tools" webpage on [CWFNC.org](http://CWFNC.org)!

## DRINKING WATER WATCH

Want to learn more about your public drinking water source? Look no further than the Public Water Supply Section's Drinking Water Watch search engine. Use this tool to look up your drinking water system, like the name of your city's water utility, and find contact information, records of past violations, and much more! Want to download a copy of your Consumer Confidence Report? Click on the "CCR Report" link at the bottom of the search page. You can find this tool on our website, or go to [tinyurl.com/NCDEQ-DWW](http://tinyurl.com/NCDEQ-DWW)

## NATIVE LAND TOOL

The Native Land tool is a map you can use to see where Indigenous territories, treaties, and languages are located across North and South America, as well as other parts of the world. In the U.S., acknowledging Indigenous land rights and learning more about the place you live is an important first step toward equity and inclusion. To learn more, check out and support [native-land.ca](http://native-land.ca) today!

For additional resources, videos, and fact sheets on these tools and more, go to [CWFNC.org/tools](http://CWFNC.org/tools)

## ATTENTION PRIVATE WELL USERS!

Did you know most wells have never been inspected or tested for more than bacteria, even when state and local agencies knew of nearby contamination?

CWFNC is excited to get back on the ground and work to strengthen protections for our state's 3 million+ well users. In addition to drafting policy recommendations to strengthen protections and increase funding for testing, we are building partnerships with county Environmental Health Departments to organize outreach and well testing activities in rural communities.

Help us better understand your community needs and concerns – Take the Survey! Responses are anonymous and will only be shared with staff to better inform our Well User Protection campaign and outreach activities. No personal information is being collected.

To get started, visit [tinyurl.com/surveycwfnc](http://tinyurl.com/surveycwfnc) or scan the QR code below!



## HURRICANE SEASON AND DROUGHT

From wildfires in the Pacific Northwest to flooding in Europe, the effects of climate change are being felt now more than ever before. Part of this new awareness is gearing up for the worst while hoping for the best. The 2020 Atlantic hurricane season produced 30 named storms, 7 of which became major hurricanes. Now, in 2021, another active season is expected.

For those North Carolinians living in coastal areas or the eastern half of the state, the flooding and ruin from Hurricane Florence in 2018 might still feel fresh. And while we can't prevent natural disasters from occurring, we can react better in the moment if we're prepared. Keeping an emergency supply kit, knowing where shelters are located, and assessing the flood risk for where you live are all things that can be done ahead of time.

Clean Water for NC wants you and your family to stay safe! To help make these efforts easier, we've gathered a list of resources for hurricane preparation and recovery. Visit [linktr.ee/CleanCurrents](https://linktr.ee/CleanCurrents) or scan the QR code below.



# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



## NC FARM BILL LOCKS IN BIOGAS

On July 2nd, Governor Cooper signed the NC Farm Act of 2021, a section of which specifically creates a general permit to streamline the creation of “directed biogas” operations on farms. In these projects, methane is collected from anaerobic digesters covering animal waste lagoons and then directed into natural gas pipelines.

This sounds resourceful, right? Well, it's not that simple, and both environmental groups and community members have rallied against the harmful, one-size-fits-all permitting of these biogas operations on swine farms. Despite this pushback, Gov. Cooper **endorsed** the bill, leaving community members hog-tied to problematic lagoon and sprayfield systems.

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, JUST TALK?

Environmental Justice (EJ) has become a popular political platform, but if you are an impacted EJ community member, what does that mean for you?

**Sept 2020** - NCDEQ's Environmental Justice and Equity Advisory Board (EJEAB) was chartered to “mitigate the environmental or public health impacts in communities disproportionately burdened by environmental harms”.

**Nov 2020** - Community members spoke out against impacts of harmful air permits for the first of many swine biogas operations. DEQ issued the permits.

**Jan 2021** - People spoke out again against impacts of water quality permits for these same swine biogas operations. DEQ issued the permits.

**Feb 2021** - EJEAB received several public comments requesting a Special Meeting on the harms of directed biogas.

**April 2021** - NC Farm Bill is filed including one-size general permits for swine biogas. Letters, petitions, & meetings followed to educate legislators and the governor about harmful impacts.

**July 2021** - Senate passes Farm Bill, governor signs. EJEAB has yet to schedule a special meeting on swine biogas.

Environmental Justice should be more than a label paired with policies and boards. Communities are still waiting for action.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT 7

## THANK YOU TO MAJOR DONORS & FOUNDATIONS

Phillip and Christine Albro	Katie and Jeff Hicks	Fred and Alice Stanback
Allison Vinson Abney	David Hinton	Brad Stanback and
Asheville Friends Meeting	Mac Hulslander	Shelli Lodge-Stanback
Ann Batchelder and	Richard Kark	Dr. Shaler and Carolyn Stidham
Henri Kieffer	Diane Kent	Phyllis and Richard Stiles
Amy Brown North	Lynn Kohn	Hope C. Taylor
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Cloud Mountain Foundation	Little Acorn Fund H	Mark Trustin and
Dandelion Fund Community	Jennifer McGovern and	Marcia Angle
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Mary Katherine Goodwin and	Ann Louise Barrick	Ruth Zalph
Chip Hood	Patagonia	Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation
Tom Heffner	John Runkle	Anonymous Donors
Annie Helton	Nancy Ryman	

## THANK YOU TO OUR NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

Rudy Beharrysingh	Jeri Gray	Amey Miller and	Kathleen Austin Sronce
Nancy Bennett	Geraldine Hall	David Kiel	Charles Stohr and
Katie C. Breckheimer	John Hinnant	Esther B. Pardue	Donna Johnston
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Thelma Sharon Garbutt	Ron McCollum	Paul Smith and Judy	Williams
Dr. Daniel Graham	Michael McCue	Futch	Douglas Wingeier
Deborah Graham	Barbara Merrill	Sue-Anne Solem	Erica Wood

## JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

☐ \$25    ☐ \$50    ☐ \$100    ☐ OTHER    ☐ I'LL GIVE ONLINE AT [CWFNC.ORG/DONATE](http://CWFNC.ORG/DONATE)

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

(OPTIONAL) MY GIFT IS IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO CLEAN WATER FOR NC, 1070 TUNNEL RD., BLDG. 4, STE. 1, ASHEVILLE NC 28805**

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**CLEAN WATER FOR NORTH CAROLINA**

**1070 TUNNEL RD., BLDG. 4, STE. 1**

**ASHEVILLE, NC 28805**

**WWW.CWFNC.ORG**

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## **SAVE THE DATE: SEPTEMBER 25TH FALL MEETING**

### **Fall Public Meeting:**

**Saturday, September 25th**

Details to come! Check back on our website and your emails.

### **Gathering Questionnaire**

We normally host a public gathering every year with staff, board members, volunteers, and anyone else who would like to join. This is a chance to get to know one another in a relaxed environment, and really just plain have fun!

We want to hear from you about potential public gatherings, including the type of entertainment, venue, and food you prefer.

To share your thoughts, scan the QR code or visit [tinyurl.com/cwfnc-survey](https://tinyurl.com/cwfnc-survey)

