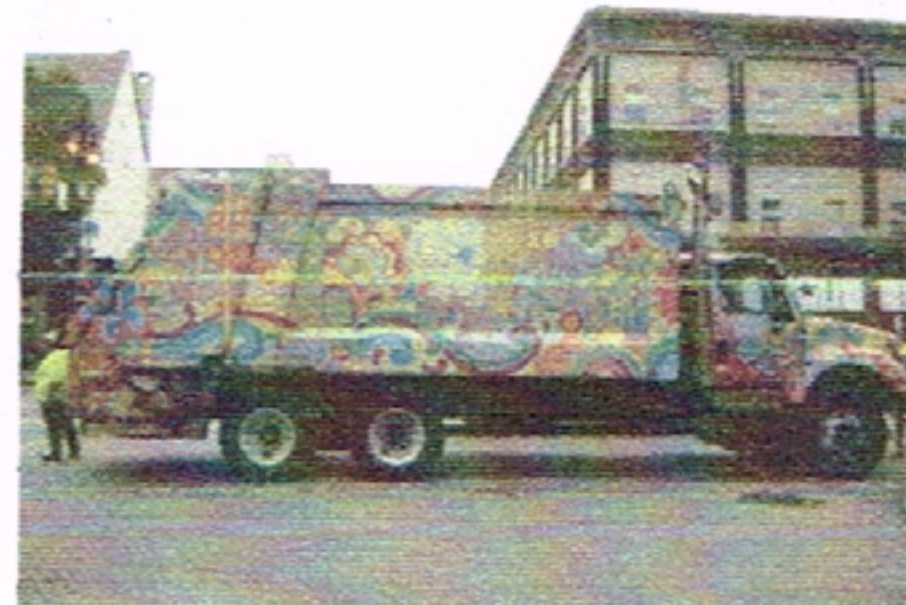




# CENTER CITY QUARTERLY



Newsletter of the Center City Residents' Association

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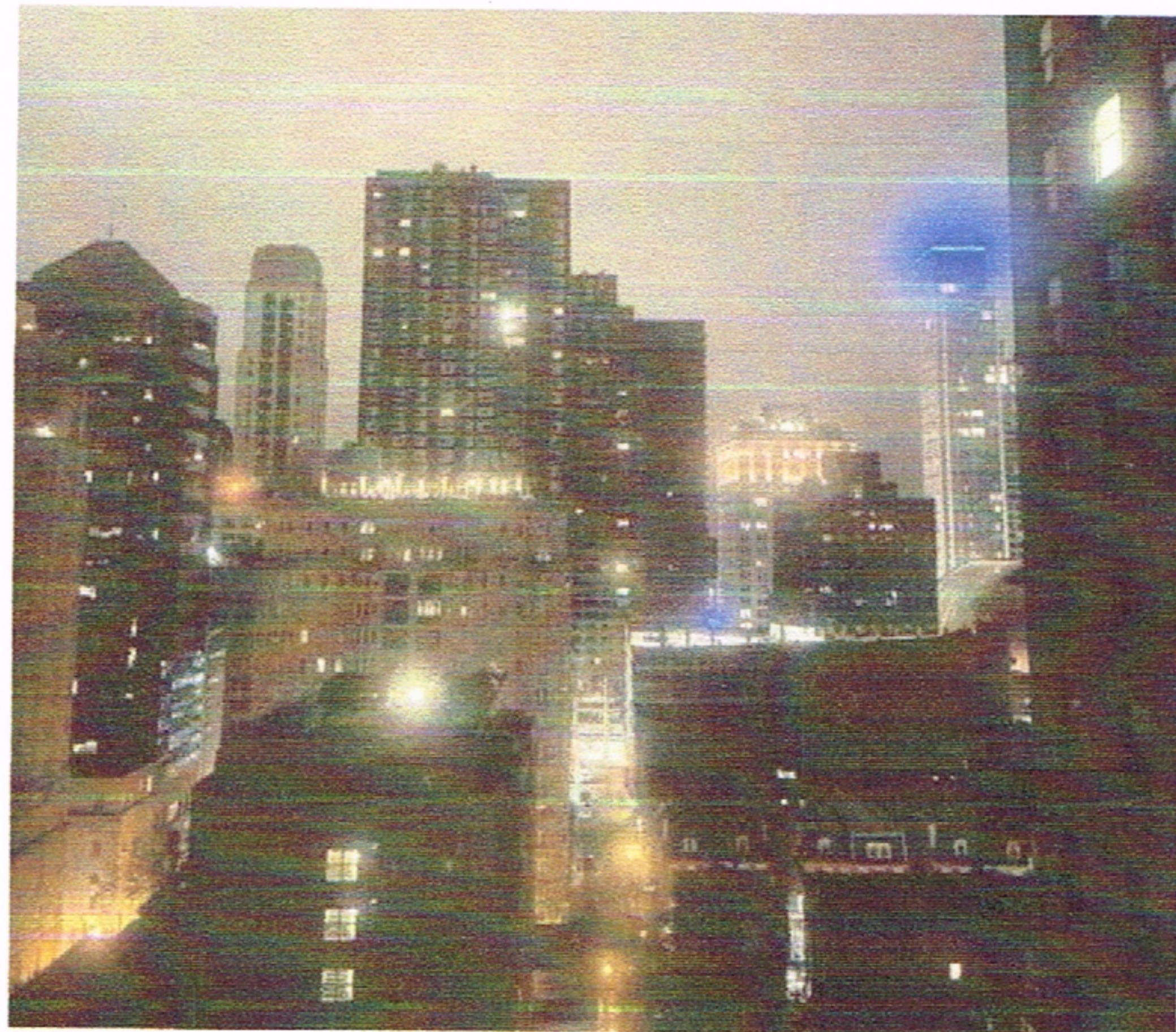
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## Our Greene Countrie Towne

# Philadelphia's Bird Protection Program Featured in Audubon Magazine

By Bonnie Eisenfeld



Philadelphia city skyline at 2:30 am. It appears that many buildings are in compliance with the appeal to dim lights late at night. (Picture submitted anonymously.)

Most migrating birds travel at night, navigating by the moon and stars. Artificial night-time lights can disorient the birds, causing them to collide with buildings and die. Audubon Magazine reports that Bird Safe Philly, a program started in 2021 to save migrating birds, has proven to be successful in reducing the number of bird deaths.

In early October 2020, to convince high-rise building managers to dim their lights, Audubon Mid-Atlantic volunteers collected window-strike bird victims on Philadelphia streets as evidence of the tragedy. The Audubon volunteers brought the bird victims to ornithologists at Drexel University's Academy of Natural Sciences, who will study them and create a record of what happened to different species. The Academy houses a collection of a quarter-million bird specimens, used for scientific research all over the world.

The following year, from August 15 to November 15, 2021, to protect migratory birds traveling along the Atlantic Flyway, more than 100 commercial, municipal, and residential building managers agreed to dim non-essential lights from midnight to 6 a.m. This year, Bird Safe Philly, a coalition led by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, Audubon Mid-Atlantic, and

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two local Audubon Society chapters, instituted Lights Out Philly during peak spring migration period, April 1 to May 31. Lights Out Philly participation is voluntary. Buildings associated with the Building Owners and Managers Association, Liberty Property Trust, and Brandywine Realty, all support the program.

According to Keith Russell, Audubon Mid-Atlantic's Discovery Center Program Manager of Urban Conservation, "Blue and green light is far less attractive to birds migrating at night than white light. We recommend that blue and green light be used in cases where artificial light at night is required.

"Determining the effectiveness of lights out programs is not a simple thing to do because glass can continue to cause birds to collide with buildings independently of lights, and because lights that cannot be extinguished at night can cause collisions even if many other adjacent lights have been extinguished.

"Years of data collection are needed to prove the effectiveness of a lights out program. An independent monitoring organization gathered data in 2021 and concluded that the lights out program is helping to reduce the number of collisions caused by artificial light at night.

"Unfortunately, the number of new buildings in Philadelphia with all glass facades appear to be increasing and will cause

the number of collisions caused solely by glass to increase." Glass exteriors reflect sky and landscape, and are hazardous to birds during the day all year round. Bird-safe buildings install dots or hang cords to decrease reflectivity. Birds collide with low-rise buildings too, so homeowners are encouraged to participate in bird safety.

iNaturalist.org sponsors a web-reporting project to monitor bird-window collisions in greater Philadelphia for BirdSafePhilly. According to the website, "Data collected through this project will help to identify which buildings pose the greatest threats to birds, and provide information on the timing of collision events, and on which species are most affected. This will inform the development of Bird Safe Philly's Lights Out program and other measures to prevent bird deaths, and to assess the effectiveness of these measures." You can join this project and report any findings. Instructions are on this [website](#).

E-Bird, an online database of bird observations, lists notable migrating birds seen so far this season near Rittenhouse Square: Palm Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and Ruby-throated Hummingbird, among 13 other species sighted so far.

More details at [Lights Out | birdsafephilly](#) and in *Audubon Magazine*, Spring 2022 issue.

## Our Greene Countrie Towne

# Clean Air Action Fund Will Combat Fossil Fuels in Pennsylvania

By Joseph Minott

The Clean Air Council, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Center City Philadelphia, has launched a sister organization, [the 501\(c\)\(4\) Clean Air Action Fund](#), designed to address a major problem: Pennsylvania's elected officials hear too much from fossil fuel lobbyists, and not enough from environmental advocates and the countless environmentalists throughout the Commonwealth.

Clean Air Action Fund is fighting climate change and its impacts throughout Pennsylvania by focusing on four key issues: rapidly and deliberately phasing out fossil fuels; building a green economy; protecting democracy; and influencing state and federal policy.

As a 501(c)(4) group, Clean Air Action Fund is legally permitted to engage in a broader range of activities than Clean Air Council, including election work and increased lobbying activities, using those tools to push climate action and environmental protection to the top of the political agenda in Harrisburg and beyond. Building on the Council's reputation for supporting environmental policies based on sound legal and technical analyses, the Clean Air Action Fund will persuade candidates for office, elected officials, and other policy makers to commit to taking bold action to address the climate crisis, and will hold them accountable.

The Clean Air Action Fund's website will have the latest voting information, endorsements of environmental champions, and information about the most important environmental legislation under consideration in Harrisburg. The site will help you take

action, contact your legislators, and make your voice heard. To get the latest information about climate action in Pennsylvania, go to [cleanairactionfund.org](#).

*Joseph Otis Minott, Esq. is Executive Director and Chief Counsel of the Clean Air Council, and has been a force in the Clean Air Council for over 35 years.*

## Carbon Pollution Regulation Published by PA Dept. of Environmental Protection Links PA with Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

*Pennsylvania has officially taken the most significant policy step to combat climate change in its history. From now on, the costs of carbon pollution emitted by fossil fuel-fired power plants in the Commonwealth will also be borne by polluters, not solely by the residents and taxpayers who suffer the impacts of that pollution. Pennsylvania's program is projected to cut up to 227 million tons of carbon pollution by 2030, deliver billions of dollars in public health benefits, and provide hundreds of millions of dollars annually for reinvestment in Pennsylvania's families and communities.*

From a statement by Joseph Otis Minott, Esq., Executive Director and Chief Counsel of Clean Air Council