Today, the condition of housing is recognized by the World Health Organization as key among what are called "social determinants of health." But the notion of healthy homes harkens back for a century. Even Florence Nightingale said, "The connection between health and the dwelling of the population is one of the most important that exists." Having Healthy Homes is critical for our residents. As defined by HUD, "Healthy Homes" promote safe, decent, and sanitary housing as a means for preventing disease and injury. Emerging scientific evidence increasingly links health outcomes such as asthma, lead poisoning, and unintentional injuries to substandard housing.

Our regional topography and geological formations, as well as the above-average age and condition of our housing stock pose health risks to residents of southwestern Pennsylvania. Those risks include lead, radon, and mold. CCI is dedicated to both energy efficient and healthy homes. In fact, CCI produced and published a white paper - The Case for Healthier Homes.

2018 Land Art Generator Initiative Winners Soon to be Announced

While this article doesn't necessarily follow CCI's formula for what goes into our newsletters, it is an incredibly beautiful and interesting look at modern designs created for clean energy production. [Here](#) is the list of the winners from 2016, while new designs will be chosen at the beginning of this coming month. Take a brief hiatus before reading our featured stories and check out these futuristic designs that will take your breath away.

CCI Supports Energy Efficiency Bill SB 1236

Last month, CCI was one of 34 organizations that signed on to a Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance (KEEA) letter encouraging legislators to remove Pennsylvania's cap on utility energy efficiency investments. This is being done
In our last edition of 40 over 40, we are recognizing heroes in the pursuit of Healthy Homes.

**Paul H. Diegelman** - one of our earliest partners, who with CCI, the County Health Department, The Heinz Endowments, and CLEARCorps created Lead Safe Pittsburgh in the 1990s.

**Ray Firth** - a policy expert and passionate activist for protecting children and their development from the hazards of unhealthy environments.

**Dr. Karen Hacker** - current director of the Allegheny County Health Department whose efforts led to the county’s 2018 policy of mandatory lead blood level testing of all children under 2.


**Dr. Henry Needleman** - the undisputed pioneer in sounding the alarm for the perils of even low levels of lead in children by supporting the bi-partisan bill, SB 1236, which would "allow utilities to expand investment into energy efficiency programs for residents and businesses under Act 129." KEEA conducted an analysis this year that found the expansion of utility energy efficiency investment could deliver at least $240 million in additional benefits. [In this KEEA article](https://www.kneea.org/keea-bill-brief-sb-1236.php), CCI Executive Director, Jeaneen Zappa shows support for the bill by stating, "State programs for low-income energy customers combined with Act 129 bring the biggest impact and relief for neighbors whose energy costs represent a significant burden. Allowing utilities to invest more of their revenue in energy efficiency improvements, as this bill does, could help to introduce more diverse, creative or innovative conservation measures." Read more [here](https://www.kneea.org/keea-bill-brief-sb-1236.php).

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**8 U.S. Cities Pledge to Ensure All New Buildings Are Net-Zero Carbon by 2030**

Mayors of 19 major global cities, including eight cities in the U.S., have signed the Net Zero Carbon Buildings Declaration. With this, mayors have pledged to ensure that all new buildings in their cities operate at net-zero carbon by 2030 and that all buildings, old or new, meet net-zero carbon standards by 2050. Urban buildings can account for up to 70% of a city's total emissions. Steps like these, along with things like Pittsburgh-pledged [2030 Districts](https://www.pittsburgh2030.org/), are essential to decreasing global emissions and combatting climate change. Read more [here](https://www.pittsburgh2030.org/).

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**National Energy Improvement Fund Launches Online Efficiency Financing**
Energy Tips

Is it premature to start thinking about energy efficiency tips for the fall? We think not! Here are a few tips for energy saving with summer coming to an end:

1. Set back your thermostat - This seems so simple. It takes just 5 seconds, and it could shave $30 a month on your energy bill. Adjust it to the coolest level that's comfortable.

2. Clean warm air registers, baseboard heaters and/or radiators - Make sure that carpeting, furniture or draperies are not blocking them. Putting furniture over registers, or in front of radiators blocks the amount of heat that register/radiator can emit into the room, thus causing your system to run longer cycles, and (you guessed it!) cost you more money to operate.

3. Consider a humidifier - The health benefits from a humidifier are known, but the Fall/Winter energy savings you can get from a humidifier can be as high as 20%.

4. Lower your dishwasher and washing machine temperatures - Your dishwasher and washing machine use hot water from your house supply and drain it in a hurry. Heating up all of that water is much more costly in cold weather.

Platform

HBC Energy Capital (HBC), a division of the National Energy Improvement Fund (NEIF), has introduced its new online portal. Built for rapid processing of financing for commercial, non-profit and municipal energy improvements, this online portal can be used by both contractors and customers to customize lease, and loan financing options and eliminate first cost barriers to improvements. These improvements can include lighting, HVAC and renewable energy - among other things. This “enhanced automated platform, coupled with HBC’s dedicated energy lending specialists, is a one-stop shop financing solution for commercial, non-profit, and municipal energy efficiency projects.” Check out the platform here!

Grid Modernization Energy Initiative Moves Ahead in Rhode Island

On Aug. 24 the RI state Public Utilities Commission (PUC) approved a new model for compensating National Grid for operating and maintaining utility poles, transmission lines, and substations. For the next three years a portion of National Grid's revenue will also go to making the power grid more cost-efficient and accommodating to renewable power, electric vehicles, and energy storage. The objectives include 1,000 megawatts of renewable energy and high-tech electric meters. These technologies are projected to reduce long-term costs for ratepayers by having third-party companies pay fees for providing new services to the...
quickly approaching and you don't want to miss out on this special event! Get your tickets now while you still have time! Tickets here.

KEEA to Host Western PA Energy Efficiency Forum on October 3rd at Energy Innovation Center

This roundtable forum will provide an opportunity to learn more about the region's thriving energy efficiency industry and how existing state policy supports energy efficiency.

Refreshments and light fare will be available. To RSVP and for questions, please contact Matt Mahoney, KEEA's Western Pennsylvania Program Manager, at mmahoney@keealliance.org or call 412-324-7262.

Upcoming Events

Hartwood Hay Day and Family Green Fest September 22

CCI is 100% Committed!

CCI has officially been added as a Climate Reality Project 100% Committed Partner. While a Partner must dedicate themselves to 100 percent renewable energy by 2030, CCI decided to flip the switch immediately, and is now completely powered by Pennsylvania wind. This program from the Climate Reality Project is working to "bring more cities, towns, businesses, colleges, and universities together to commit to reaching 100 percent renewable electricity." As a proud partner, we are happy to say that the switch to renewables and opportunity for creating a healthier environment has felt incredible! Read more about 100% Committed here.

Healthy Homes = Healthy People

Having a healthy home environment is a core element for every member of the building industry-architects designing homes for people; builders building homes; and family members concerned about their family's health. Research continues to show home health as increasingly important as we gain a better understanding and additional knowledge of the issues related to air quality. In this article, it was found that there is still not
a high level of knowledge and understanding about the issues of air quality in buildings throughout the residential building industry. In 2017 in the U.S. alone, 21,000 deaths were attributed to radon exposure. Long-term exposure to this and other lethal elements in a building, that are invisible but can be detected with the right devices, may shorten a person's life span by 10 to 20 years if gone unaddressed. Read more here.

City's "No Brainer" Energy Savers Need Tweaks for Public Acceptance

Takoma Park, a Montgomery County Maryland suburb, could soon be lit with hundreds of LED streetlights, saving the city thousands of dollars in energy costs. "The lure of vast energy savings and a reduction in the carbon footprint have led municipalities here and across the country to switch to LEDs. Montgomery County plans to replace 25,000 roadway lights with the technology and anticipates saving $850,000 in energy costs a year. Even with all of these benefits, residents are finding their own problems with the lighting - submitting comments like "The light is very harsh and bright," and "It's like an operating room." A little public static is to be expected when making these kinds of far-reaching changes. The city plans to make some adjustments and move forward with its energy savings. Read more here.

PA Residential Code Update Lunch and Learn on October 9th

THE NEW IRC BUILDING CODE AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY: WHAT YOU MUST KNOW AND DO!
Starting October 1, all new residential construction and all additions or structural alterations to existing residential structures must comply with updated provisions in the PA Uniform Construction Code. The Review and Advisory Council recommended last Spring that the Commonwealth adopt the 2015 Internal Code Council (ICC) Model Codes, with a few notable exceptions. The resulting adopted IRC requirements step up the energy efficiency requirements for residential buildings by 27% over the previously observed 2009 code. Builders can tackle the new requirements through design, construction and performance tactics, and will need to consider building envelope and duct system performance along with the efficiency of mechanical equipment. The code includes stricter air tightness requirements and blower door testing. The duct sealing & testing standards also have gotten much stricter, and will require modifications in design and practice to meet these new standards. Join us for a quick overview of the key changes and what you must do to comply with the new code. Register here before spots fill up.