

# annual report

2014

Clean Air  
Carolina

*Your advocates for healthy air*



# your advocates for Healthy Air



## WINNER of 2013 Visionary Leadership Award

June Blotnick  
Executive Director

The year of 2014 was one of extraordinary growth for Clean Air Carolina. We expanded our statewide presence with new offices in Charlotte and Chapel Hill, enabling us to amplify our clean air education and advocacy initiatives. It was also a year of challenges to existing air quality policies and optimism regarding new proposed federal rules to protect the climate.

In April, Sustain Charlotte recognized our air quality work in the Charlotte region. In September, the Southeast Diesel Collaborative celebrated my direction of our multi-year campaign to clean up diesel pollution with the EPA Visionary Leader award. Both of these awards raised our stature within the environmental community in NC and across the Southeast.

Our program work centers on clean air quality for all North Carolinians. We began this journey 10 years ago at a time when air pollution from a variety of sources across the state gravely threatened public health. As we continue to mobilize communities, we are witnessing reductions of pollution sources in urban and rural areas as well as health gains across all socio-economic ranges, and, most importantly in our children.

The following achievements represent this year's work toward fulfilling our mission: to educate and advocate with our partners to reduce sources of air pollution across the great state of North Carolina.

Our **Medical Advocates for Healthy Air (MAHA)** initiative led the way by educating the public, policy makers, and the medical community about the latest research linking air pollution to health issues and diseases across the lifespan, including autism, Alzheimer's disease, and pre-term birth.

To broaden our outreach, MAHA launched a summer webinar series focused on environmental health issues in North Carolina. Designed to educate and offer ways to get involved, the webinars were recorded and are available on our MAHA website.

## Clean Air Carolina educates, advocates, and collaborates to ensure cleaner air.



Captain Clean Air with CAC Board Member Danielle Hilton (left) and her team "People Power" at our 5th Annual 5K Run & Walk for Clean Air.



# HEALTH

Medical Advocates for Healthy Air members presented a medical sign on letter with 100 signatures to the NC General Assembly in opposition to “fracking” projects in North Carolina.

**B**uilding on our efforts to engage the medical community in the call for cleaner air, we expanded our **Clean Air Pediatric Residency Training program** from Levine Children’s Hospital in Charlotte to include Duke University School of Medicine and Wake Forest University School of Medicine.

As a result of our increased outreach efforts, MAHA engaged hundreds of medical and health professionals on a variety of issues through sign-on letters, press conferences, public hearings and statements of support for stronger air quality regulations in jurisdictions ranging from regional to federal, including the EPA’s

first-ever limits on carbon pollution.

MAHA rallied to protect the state’s air quality monitoring system from severe legislative cutbacks. Our summer Stanback interns delivered medical masks to legislators with a powerful message to keep the air monitors in place. Thanks to clean air and medical advocates who contacted their state legislators, we defeated attempts to remove 56 of the 95 air quality monitors in our state’s air quality monitoring system. These monitors measure air toxins, particulate matter, ozone, and other pollutants, and the data they provide is an important tool for protecting the health of North Carolinians.

**Harnessing the medical voice to call for strong carbon rules that protect public health.**



June Blotnick and Jen Rennicks of Southern Alliance for Clean Energy partner for an Asheville press conference in support of new EPA rules on power plants.



# ENVIRONMENT

The Clean Air Carolina and Catawba Riverkeeper Alliance brings together two watchdog organizations keeping an eye on the safety of our air and water quality, and engaging the community in the protection of these essential natural resources. Learn more at [www.CleanAirandWater.org](http://www.CleanAirandWater.org).

The Clean Air Carolina and Catawba Riverkeeper Alliance launched the **Community Advocacy Leadership Training** in Charlotte's Northwest Corridor neighborhoods. Using hand-held monitors, community leaders tested ambient air quality in minority neighborhoods and along major roadways. The tests found that harmful levels of air pollution exist in these neighborhoods, indicating a need for permanent air monitors.

The Alliance and Central Piedmont Community College's Center for Sustainability co-hosted the first annual **Clean Air-Clean Water Film Festival** to raise awareness about the connection between air and

water pollution. Over 100 participants watched clips of *Living Downstream* and *Carbon Nation*, and the entire short film of *A Message from the Marcellus: What NC Needs to Know About Fracking and the Natural Gas Industry*.

Clean Air Carolina installed a new **Ozone Garden** at McDowell Nature Preserve in Charlotte. The garden, sponsored by Daimler Truck Financial with assistance from Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation, is part of a network of bio-monitoring gardens that includes a public garden along the Greenway and gardens at six public schools. Park staff will use the garden to show how ozone pollution affects both plant and human health.

Building partnerships to keep an eye on the safety of our most vital natural resources.



Volunteers from Daimler Truck Financial and staff from Mecklenburg County Parks Rec helped install a new ozone garden at McDowell Nature Preserve.



# ECONOMY

Our roundtable discussions across the state engaged business, faith and medical leaders in conversations with policy-makers, highlighting the multifaceted benefits of renewable energy.

Clean Air Carolina joined the national Climate Action Campaign to help build strong support for the **Clean Power Plan**, the Obama Administration's proposal to limit carbon pollution from all existing power plants. Our collective efforts garnered thousands of signatures from across North Carolina, including those of hundreds of medical advocates, and millions of comments nationwide. With our partners, we provided avenues for North Carolinians to voice their concerns through Citizens' Hearings, press conferences and letter-writing campaigns.

Clean Air Carolina brought together business, faith,

and medical leaders as well as policy leaders from both parties, to participate in roundtable discussions of the environmental, health, and economic benefits of clean energy. Events in Greensboro, Chapel Hill and Asheville affirmed the EPA's Clean Power Plan as a win-win for the economy, health, and jobs, for reasons beyond simply reducing the air pollution that causes climate change. Representative Pricey Harrison highlighted how NC's significant solar and wind resources, combined with supportive state policies such as the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (REPS) and renewable energy tax credits, drove growth in clean energy jobs.

Advocating for a transition to a sustainable, 21st century energy economy.



Rep. Harrison and Icoal business leaders participated and spoke at the "Cleaner Air with Today's Energy Solutions" event in Greensboro, NC.

## 5th Annual 5K Run & Walk for Clean Air

Clean Air Carolina held its fifth annual **5K Run & Walk for Clean Air** to raise awareness about the importance of clean air policies for public health and a sustainable planet. The family-friendly event was held at the beautiful and historic Rural Hill Farm in Huntersville, NC.

Each year, the 5k helps educate how air pollution triggers asthma and other respiratory problems and threatens lung development in children. The event also serves as a "green" model for other race events in and around the Charlotte region by taking the Pledge of Sustainability offered by the national network, Athletes for a Fit Planet, and by committing to environmentally-responsible practices. All race participants received t-shirts made locally from 100% recycled plastic bottles and a "virtual" race bag packed with

coupons from 5K sponsors. Signage with factoids and tips related to air quality was displayed along the event trail.

Thank you to our 2014 5K Run & Walk for Clean Air race participants and sponsors:

Carrier Corporation, Omega Sports, Mountain Khakis, Allergy Asthma & Immunology Relief, Andrew Roby Contractor, Great Outdoor Provision Company, EarthSpun Yarns, Charlotte Acupuncture, Charlotte Area Transit System, EarthFare, Crown Town Creative/ EcoMark, Moms Clean Air Force, Rachel Myers Photography, The Odom Firm, Attorneys at Law, The UPS Store South End, Charlotte Energy Solutions, Commonwealth Animal Hospital, Common Market - South End, Ivy's Diaper Service, O2 Energies, Pasta & Provisions, Sierra Club, and Sport Clips Huntersville.

## Grants & Awards

- Fred & Alice Stanback
- Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation
- Energy Foundation
- Climate Action Coalition
- Sustain Charlotte *Community Sustainability Award*
- 2013 Southeast Diesel Collaborative *Visionary Champion Leadership Award*

## Youth Engagement

- Duke University Stanback Internship Program
- Davidson College, Sustainability Scholars Internship Program
- Ozone Garden sponsored by Daimler Truck Financial

## Clean Air Carolina 2014 Board of Directors

**Mary Joyce, Chair**  
Principal, Mary Joyce Consulting

**Ericka-Ellis Stewart, Vice-chair**  
Donor Relations Specialist,  
Mental Health Association of Central Carolinas, Inc

**Jonathan Gross, Treasurer**  
Director of Tax Credit Finance,  
State Tax Credit Exchange

**Libby Cable**  
Non profit Consultant

**Jim Godfrey**  
Principal, Perkins + Will

**Danielle Hilton**  
NC Field Organizer,  
Moms Clean Air Force

**June Lambla**  
Owner, Lambla artWORKS, LLC

**Martha Odom**  
Attorney, The Odom Firm, PLLC

**Gary Silverman**  
Professor & Chair,  
Public Health Sciences, UNCC

## 2014 Staff

**June Blotnick**  
Executive Director

**Ernie McLaney**  
Deputy Director

**Terry Lansdell**  
Program Director

**Kelly Picarsic**  
Online Communications

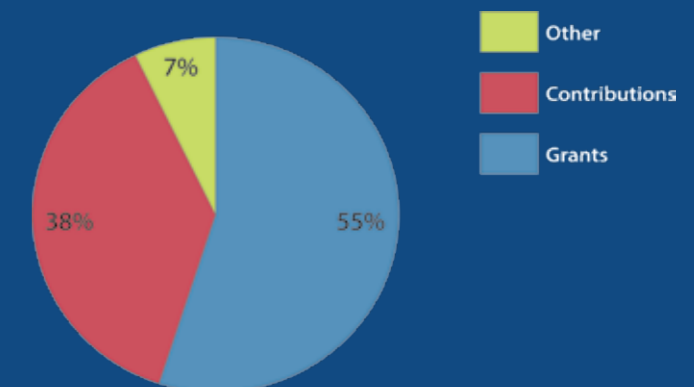
**Leslie Ruprecht**  
Admin Assistant

**Rebecca Cheatham**  
MAHA, Charlotte Manager

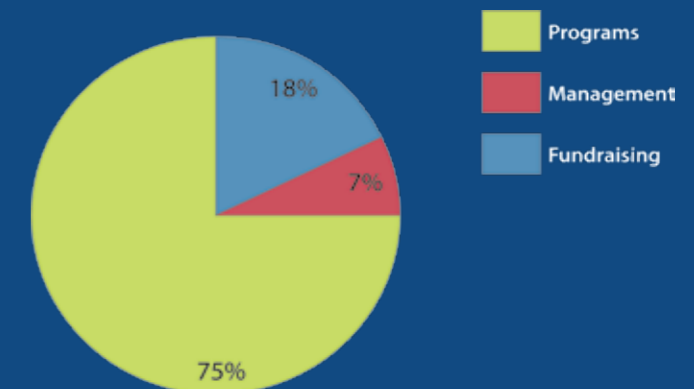
**Gayatri Ankem**  
MAHA, Chapel Hill Manager

## 2014 Financials

Support & Revenue



Expenses





# Thank You

It is with humble gratitude that we thank all of the many volunteers, sponsors, and donors across North Carolina who have contributed to the overall success of Clean Air Carolina. It is only through your support that we are able to achieve our goal of ensuring cleaner air for all North Carolinians.

Your continued support and partnership will allow us to maintain and grow the many vital roles we play in our state's environmental health.

There are several options to continue your valued support. Your time, financial contributions, advocacy, and partnerships are what keep us going throughout the year and we ask that you continue to sustain us as a champion of clean air for North Carolinians today and in the future.

Learn how you can get more involved by visiting our websites:

[CleanAirCarolina.org](http://CleanAirCarolina.org)  
[MedicalAdvocatesforHealthyAir.org](http://MedicalAdvocatesforHealthyAir.org)  
[Run4CleanAir.org](http://Run4CleanAir.org)  
[CleanAirandWater.org](http://CleanAirandWater.org)

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