



# Community Grants Program

New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYS P2I) provides financial and technical support for projects that raise awareness and understanding of pollution prevention practices and lead to implementation at the local level

## Air Pollution Prevention Program

### *Organization & Contact Information*

#### **Clean Air Coalition of Western New York**

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### *Project Description*

The Clean Air Coalition protects the right of Western New York residents to breathe clean air and live, work and play in a healthy environment. To protect this right, the Coalition organizes community members and builds diverse coalitions to implement initiatives to reduce environmental hazards. The Coalition was founded by residents in Tonawanda who suspected their health problems and the odor in the air were linked to the 53 industrial plants in their neighborhood. NYS Department of Environmental Conservation tested the Tonawanda area and released the *Tonawanda Community Air Quality Study*. The results were as follows:

- One monitoring site found significantly elevated concentrations of benzene and formaldehyde when compared to other areas of New York.
- Benzene levels were found at levels 75 times greater than the NYS Annual Guideline Concentration (AGC), which is based on a 1 in-one- million cancer risk.
- The annual average concentration for six air toxics (1,3-butadiene, acetaldehyde, acrolein, benzene, carbon tetrachloride, and formaldehyde), each exceeded the DEC's health-based annual guideline concentrations.

In order to increase awareness and understanding of how pollution prevention may help improve air quality among Tonawanda residents and industry, the *Air Pollution Prevention Program* will

- Host an educational panel for residents about the successful implementation of pollution prevention practices locally.
- Develop a short film focused on how pollution prevention practices can help reduce Tonawanda's air pollution issues.

### *Project Status*

The education panels are currently being developed .

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