



THE LEAGUE LINE

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF BLUE RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE LEAGUE



TOXIC SYNERGY: FRACKING FOR DATA CENTERS

In September 2025, the North Carolina Oil and Gas Commission announced that they had been contacted by a company regarding a potential data center which would be fueled by an old gas well that was drilled in 1998. BREDL's CLEAN chapter is fighting back. (Page 4)



For more information on this story and others, visit our website!

<https://www.bredl.org>

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FIGHTING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE ERA OF TRUMP

BY: KATHY ANDREWS, BREDL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As environmentalists, we are living in tough times. President Trump has dismantled environmental agencies and signed a record number of executive orders not in our favor.

While talking with farmers and ranchers, President Trump called environmentalists "terrorists." The event was described as a celebration of agriculture on the White House South Lawn. According to the White House, hundreds of farmers attended in a time when farmers in particular are suffering from high fuel and fertilizer prices amid the Iran War. In addition, farm workers have ditched farm work in fear of ICE raids. Environmentalists are easy scapegoats.

In the first few months of Trump's presidency, he showed us how he really feels about the environment with executive orders and moving against climate science. He dismantled the EPA's Climate Research Office, shutting it down in 2025. Trump claimed studies on greenhouse gas emissions were unnecessary and politically biased. The administration slashed the Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility. The Department of Energy's Renewable Energy Office was defunded, doing away with 70 percent of the funding for solar and wind. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric climate monitoring programs were cut. The Department of Education, which included the Office for Civil Rights, was cut. According to advocates and civil rights organizations, there has been a surge in unresolved discrimination complaints. Environmental Justice programs were shut down. The EJ programs focused on pollution in minority and low income communities. Unfortunately, vulnerable communities are now facing increased health risks. All of these cuts and more will have a lasting impact on our environment. However, we can continue to work and engage communities across the country, even under harsh circumstances.

As advocates, we can encourage participation in our communities by doing the following:

- **Reach out and mobilize grassroots movements to raise awareness and engage communities**
- **Build coalitions with businesses to make environmental issues a priority**
- **Support clean technology**
- **Collaborate with local governments on environmental issues**
- **Promote and engage in public education campaigns to inform residents about environmental issues.**

By continuing to be involved in our respective communities, we can keep residents informed and motivated. We must continue working for environmental justice, even when we're faced with great odds.



FIGHTING THROUGH SONG: Members of Raging Grannies International engage in peaceful protests where they educate communities about environmental threats using humorous songs. In this image, the Triangle NC Branch of the Grannies can be seen performing at a recent World Water Day celebration in Durham, North Carolina.

Image by Theresa Torian

BREDL AIR MONITORING PROGRAM UPDATE

BY: CARE-4-AIR TEAM

Grant undergoes EPA audit

BREDL has just completed an EPA audit of our CARE-4-AIR grant. On February 25, EPA notified us that we had been selected for their Post Award Monitoring Process (PAMP). In our pre-audit meeting with EPA, we were told that all grant recipients who received money from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 will undergo a PAMP. In the past, EPA Region 4 would select around five grantees to audit during a year. This year, they are conducting around 70 audits.

The PAMP audit was performed by our regular EPA Technical Project Officer and EPA Administrative Project Officer. They were accompanied by two contractors from Tetra Tech. The contractors took notes, added comments, and assisted with drafting the report that both EPA and BREDL have signed off on.

Prior to our audit, we submitted documents pertaining to our work flow, financial draw downs, and expenditure invoices and receipts.

The PAMP consisted of four sections: financial, technical, terms and conditions, and miscellaneous. As expected, there were no issues of concern with how BREDL is handling our grant. Payment history, personnel costs, and funding were all consistent with our progress. Our work is on schedule and performed as promised. EPA expressed approval of how we document our work in our quarterly reports and final site reports. EPA stated that we are meeting the terms and conditions of our grant agreement.

BREDL concludes data collection at Site 3

We concluded data collection at Site 3, Augusta, Georgia, on March 12. We are currently running the data through our quality control process. Afterwards, we will publish our Site 3 final report, which will be posted at www.bredl.org/beast.

BEAST in temporary hiatus while annual maintenance is completed

After we departed Site 3, we shipped off the NO2 analyzer, zero air generator, dilution calibrator, and NO2 external floor pump to Wilbur Technical Services in New Hampshire. We anticipate this annual maintenance to take four to six weeks. Once we re-install our equipment, we will deploy to Site 4 around mid to end of April. During this downtime, we shipped our Alicat handheld calibrators for their annual factory calibrations. We have already received those back.

No-cost budget revision and 2-month extension submitted

On February 9, we submitted to EPA a no-cost budget revision and request for a 2-month project extension. The budget revision is just to shift some funds between the budget categories. For example, move some funding from personnel to equipment maintenance. In addition, because of the annual maintenance, we requested the project be extended for two months to conclude June 30, 2027.

We hope to hear from EPA soon regarding our requests.

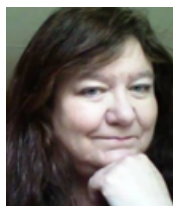
The CARE-4-AIR project is funded by a grant from EPA and a cost-share obligation from BREDL. EPA funding will provide \$365,368 along with BREDL's cost-share of \$67,486 for a total project amount of \$432,854. We have spent 78% of EPA funds and 78% of our cost-share obligation to date. BREDL also received supplemental funding at Site 3 from Southern Partners Fund.



ON THE ROAD AGAIN: The BEAST has now concluded data collection at Site 3 and, after some scheduled maintenance, will soon be headed to site 4.

POTENTIAL LEE COUNTY DATA CENTERS: A TOXIC SYNERGY

BY: THERESE VICK



In September 2025, the North Carolina Oil and Gas Commission announced that they had been contacted by a company regarding a potential data center which would be fueled by an old gas well that was drilled in 1998. The company calls itself Deep River Data and the proposed site is near the Deep River in Lee County, North Carolina. Lee County has the largest shale deposits in the state and has been fending off fracking for years.

The company is currently pursuing permits for the Butler #3 gas well, and DEQ records obtained by BREDL indicate they are inquiring about "forced integration" or "forced pooling", and plan to move "full steam ahead with the project". Lee County is facing a scenario that could impact thousands of acres. There is a regulatory vacuum guided by state laws that have not been updated in over a decade. If the state will not protect these property rights, local government must act, and Lee County residents asked the county to enact a moratorium on both fracking and data centers.

Additionally, Lee County contains thousands of acres of "severed" or "split" estates. Because North Carolina laws and regulations lack surface owner protections, these landowners have no control over mineral rights beneath their property, leaving them highly vulnerable. The 2013 Final Report of the Compulsory Pooling Study Group outlined recommendations for landowner protections, such as requiring fair offers and surface use agreements. However, these remain non-binding. There has been no further guidance on this topic from the Oil and Gas Commission.

Lee County is at a crossroads. What started as a quiet inquiry into an abandoned gas well near Cumnock has erupted into a county-wide debate over the future of their land, water, and industrial identity. While the company has stated they intend to use "conventional" drilling, many environmental experts and local groups, such as BREDL chapter Chatham Lee Environmental Action Network (CLEAN), argue that extracting usable amounts of gas from the Triassic Basin would almost certainly require hydraulic fracturing (fracking) -- a practice never before commercially realized in North Carolina.

CLEAN members, along with allies, have been on the ground organizing, educating, holding community meetings, and attending local government meetings. On March 16, the Lee County Board of Commissioners held a standing-room-only meeting. After hours of testimony from environmental lawyers and concerned residents, the Board voted 6-0 (with one abstention) to direct county staff to draft language for a moratorium on fracking and data center permits. Other counties and cities across NC and the US have enacted moratoriums on these types of facilities.



The conversation now moves to the Sanford City Council meeting on April 7, where residents are expected to demand similar protections within city limits. There may or may not be additional inquiries from other companies looking to site data centers in the area. One data center is like finding a cockroach -- there are a hundred more you do not see. For now, the Deep River project serves as a wake-up call for the region: as the AI boom moves into North Carolina, our local leaders are being forced to decide exactly what price they are willing to pay for a "high-tech" future.

If your community is concerned about data centers, contact staff@bredl.org

UNDERSTANDING DATA CENTERS

Many cities and counties do not currently have ordinances in place regulating data centers. This has led to a growing number of communities putting temporary moratoriums in place, as officials work to understand their options.

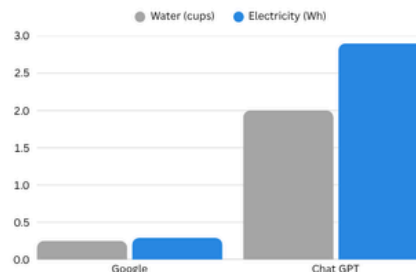
A GROWING ENERGY CONCERN

300%
INCREASE IN
ENERGY
CONSUMPTION

Like all technology, data centers will become more efficient as new innovations come about, however this does not mean that they will become less power hungry. Their energy consumption is still projected to grow by 300% as **generative AI processes become more advanced and require more computing power.**

Source: <https://www.esi.org/articles/view/data-center-energy-needs-are-urging-power-grids-and-threatening-the-climate>

CHAT GPT V. GOOGLE SEARCH



Source: <https://www.esi.org/articles/view/data-center-energy-needs-are-urging-power-grids-and-threatening-the-climate>

LIMITED ECONOMIC BENEFITS

While data centers typically employ few permanent employees, they can bring hundreds of temporary construction jobs and millions of tax dollars to economically distressed communities. However, economists have mixed opinions on the long-term economic benefits of data centers. This is largely due to their short life span and stress on the power grid.

ENORMOUS RISKS

There are a number of problems associated with data centers, including excessive water and electrical consumption, air pollution from back-up generators, land use concerns, data gravity and clustering, along with the numerous ethical concerns involved with the proliferation of AI.



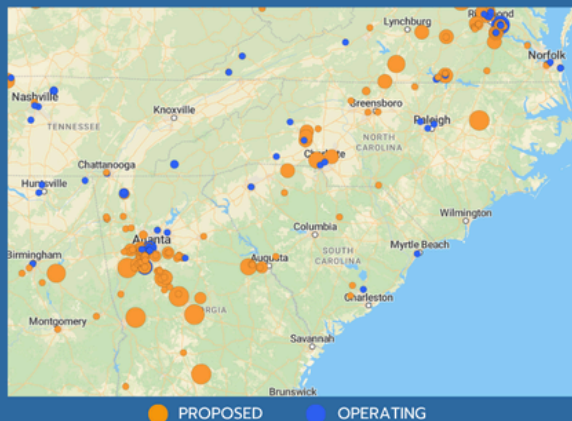
Northern
Virginia's
Story

LAND USE CONCERNS

The proliferation of data centers threatens forests and land planned to be used for agriculture and even housing. In 2024 Toll Brothers received what they described as an offer they "couldn't refuse" from an unknown company looking to purchase vacant land that they had intended to use for housing. The 180 acre parcel sold for \$180 million. *The map to the right shows hyperscale data center projects, both proposed and in operation, across much of BREDL's coverage area.*

Source: <https://www.esi.org/articles/view/data-center-energy-needs-are-urging-power-grids-and-threatening-the-climate>

PLANNED AND OPERATING HYPERSCALE DATA CENTER PROJECTS



AIR POLLUTION

Air pollution stemming from data centers disproportionately affects certain low-income communities, partly because of their proximity to power plants or backup generators at the data-processing centers.

A DATA CENTER IS NOT AN OFFICE BUILDING

When companies such as Microsoft and Amazon introduce data centers plans, there is often a misunderstanding of what is being proposed. Data centers are not office buildings; they are storage buildings meant to house computer servers. Data center jobs are typically limited to security guards and a few technicians who maintain the servers.

MISSION FINALLY ACCOMPLISHED

By: Renee Cail



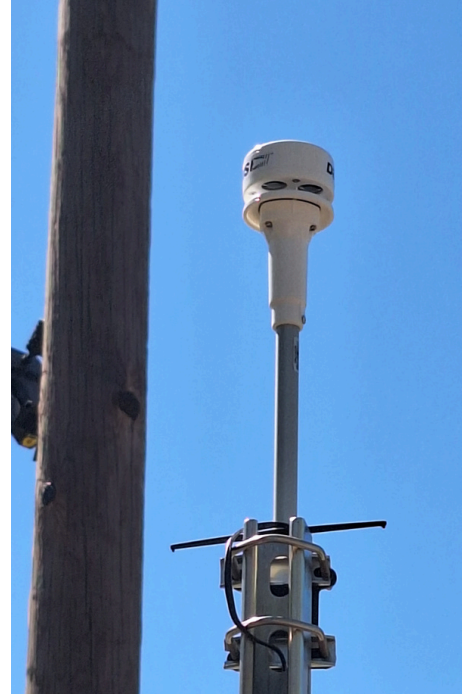
The city of Lithonia, Georgia was established in 1856. It was called “the city of stone” because it thrived as a major granite quarrying hub after the railroad arrived in 1845. This small, quaint town currently has a population of approximately 2,500 residents. The area has a deep Black history, including the historic Flat Rock community. Black quarry workers were instrumental in building the city, with landmarks like the 1938 Bruce Street School (the first for Black children in the area) built by the community. The quarry produced the stone used in the Brooklyn Bridge.

Lithonia has a documented history of racial terror, lynchings and mob violence. The Dekalb County NAACP Lynching Remembrance Marker was stolen from Lithonia Park during Black History month in February, 2024. These events have not deterred residents’ determination to continue to highlight the significant achievements they have accomplished throughout the years.

In 2026 Lithonia is inundated with hundreds of manufacturing plants such as cement plants, asphalt plants, construction plants, packaging plants, food plants, steel plants, disposal companies, and 2 aggregate/mining companies. In addition to the aforementioned industries, Lithonia is home to many storage facilities, gas stations, salvage yards, auto repair shops, and funeral homes.

In past years there were attempts to build a massive biomass plant, a slaughterhouse, additional cement plants, and other unwanted industries in Lithonia. Many of these attempted projects were opposed and ultimately rejected by the Stonecrest City Council after intense community pushback.

Last year BREDL chapter, CHASE joined the Metro-Atlanta Clean Air Initiative (MACAI). The goals of the project are to reduce air pollution by identifying emission sources, increasing community awareness of the pollutants that are present, and providing open access to air pollutant data. The long term goal of MACAI is to identify pollutants in five communities and reduce human exposure.



On Saturday, March 28 -- after many conversations involving Emory University professor, Eri Sakaikwa, Lithonia Councilwoman, Diane Howard, Lithonia Mayor and Council, community members, and members of CHASE -- we were able to set up the monitor for safe operation in the yard of a local resident. We are ecstatic!!! The students from Emory will be mapping the data and sharing the results with the community. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!!!!



TEAMWORK: CHASE members, alongside Emory University students and staff. The groups worked together to install an air monitoring device, the data from which will be mapped by the students.

AN UPDATE FROM BREDL'S RABUN GAP CHAPTER

BY CHERIE FAIRCLOTH, CO-FOUNDER, RABUN GAP CHAPTER

It's been a while since Tom Resta and I have checked in with the group. But by no means have we stopped our vigilant watch on environmentally challenged Rabun Gap and the bigger picture of Rabun County in the northeast Georgia mountains. I must self report that my health has held me back from being "boots on the ground" like we were in 2019 when Mark Barker and Renee Cail worked with us to raise awareness of the county sale of a still toxic old textile mill and Burlington Carpet factory site, Rabun Apparel, in Rabun Gap.

But by no means have Tom and I stopped watching for residual damage from decades old contamination from PFAS and PFOAS in our area. In fact we are now following a decades old thyroid cancer epidemic that is affecting Rabun and five surrounding counties. Atlanta's 11 Alive News broke this story in late 2024, revealing that the state did not want to invest any budget to find the cause. It's public health emergencies like this that will always keep us involved.

Here's a recent post that I made on a local watershed north of us, who at one time, had plans to work the headwaters of our local stretch of the Little Tennessee River into their conservation plans. This post is a summary of what we still seek answers on, every day.

"I spoke to an organizer from your office in Sylva a couple of years back who said there was consideration to expand the watershed association to perhaps include the headwaters of the Little Tennessee River all the way up into Rabun County?? As a co-founder of the Rabun Gap Chapter of the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League on behalf of this precious-but-ignored resource, we would still like to talk with your organization for at least assistance on cleaning up and conserving the HEADWATERS of the river that extend from Rabun Gap through Dillard and on into NC...eventually turning into the Tennessee River. Seems that Mainspring only has interest in the Little Tennessee River once it hits NC???"



FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE: Cheri Faircloth with environmental activist Erin Brokovich.

NOBODY has eyes on these headwaters that start in Georgia, even though we have tried for years to raise awareness of the issues that come with these headwaters. Micro plastics have been tested for in locations in Dillard and are a confirmed problem. Burlington Carpet Factory and Fruit of the Loom operated around the banks of the Little Tennessee River for decades, raising concerns for the presence of Forever Chemicals PFAS and PFOAS in the river. Sludge was tested for and confirmed a few years ago in a stretch of the headwaters near the Dillard wastewater treatment plant.

But no one will assist with kicking off monitoring, training, or even talking about ways to clean up the Little Tennessee River here and to hold our elected officials accountable for the Little Tennessee River conditions. We all know that what starts HERE in the headwaters determines the health of the river downstream in NC and beyond.

There's a thyroid cancer epidemic in Rabun County and five surrounding counties, confirmed by our state representative and 11 Alive News out of Atlanta. Could it be THE WATER? Please contact me in Messenger to discuss any options, advice on how to help the Little Tennessee River watershed."

MORE ON RABUN GAP

BY: ANN ROGERS



In recognition and appreciation of the recent update received by BREDL from Cheri Faircloth, Co-Founder of the Rabun Gap Chapter in Rabun Gap, GA, we would like to offer some background on involvement in the work of the Rabun Gap Chapter on the part of BREDL staff during 2019.

In February, 2019, BREDL's former Executive Director, Lou Zeller, prepared a report summarizing the environmental issues associated with the former Rabun Apparel site in Rabun Gap. Lou's report provides contextual history of the problematic site:

"The contamination of soil and groundwater at this location dates back to 1955 and the operation of a factory by Burlington Mills, a carpet manufacturing plant at 398 Kelly's Creek Road in Rabun Gap ("Site"). In 1992 Rabun Apparel, Inc. bought the plant, later operated as Union Underwear Company. It is now part of the Rabun County Business Park. According to information and belief, from the years 1951 to 1992 toxic trichloroethene (TCE) was dumped on the ground near the maintenance building by plant workers. Also during that period, chlorine leakage from distribution pipes occurred, further contaminating the site.

The Site is located a few hundred feet from the banks of the Little Tennessee River, which arises in Rabun County. Flowing north to meet the Cullasaja River near Franklin, North Carolina, the Little Tennessee empties into the Tennessee River at Lenoir City, southwest of Knoxville, Tennessee.

Investigations of the Site done by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division in 2000–2006 revealed that the groundwater was contaminated with TCE and chloroforms. A corrective action plan (CAP) was developed by a consultant, and remediation methods consisted of monitored natural attenuation and in-situ chemical oxidation. The chemical agent selected for this remediation was sodium persulfate, over 29,000 pounds of which was injected into the ground at the Site via 30 wells in December 2009.

Sodium persulfate is an inorganic chemical compound $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$; it is a white solid which readily dissolves in water, where it becomes peroxydisulfuric acid, $\text{H}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_8$, an oxidizing agent. Sodium persulfate is considered hazardous under the 2012 OSHA Hazard Communication Standard."

Lou's report further states that the Former Rabun Apparel Site is listed in the most severe category of the Georgia EPD Hazardous Site Inventory: Class 1. His report provides technical evidence contradicting the conclusions of engineering firm, Dunclee and Dunham who, in March, 2018 reported that "historical trends have shown decreasing contaminant concentrations since the injection event in December 2009." Lou's report concludes: "The Former Rabun Apparel Site remains a Class I Hazardous Site based on the toxicity, quantity and physical state of the contamination, its proximity to residents and drinking water supply, the lack of containment, and the accessibility of the site. It continues to expose residents to toxic compounds and their metabolites."

In July, 2019, BREDL's Executive Assistant, Mark Barker prepared and submitted a report to Georgia's Environmental Protection Division and U.S. EPA Region 4. Mark's report provides a detailed summary of the history of Rabun Gap, which begins:

"Burlington Industries commenced operation on Kellys Creek Road in Rabun Gap, GA circa 1955. During its operation, Burlington Industries released trichloroethene (TCE) and chlorine to land surface along with sporadic leaks of chlorine gas from distribution lines beneath the on-site wastewater treatment plant. During the summer of 1992, Burlington phased out its operations in Rabun Gap.

In September 1992, Fruit of the Loom (Rabun Apparel) announced the purchase of the Rabun Gap Burlington facility. On May 5, 1994, Fruit of the Loom submitted a release notification to GA EPD reporting chloroform, trichloroethene, carbon tetrachloride, 1,1 dichloroethene, 1,1,1 trichloroethane and 1,1 dichloroethane in groundwater above background concentrations."

Mark's history of the ownership of the property continues with the Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing by Fruit of the Loom in 1999, and the firm's continuation as a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway from 2002 until 2006, when Fruit of the Loom closed the facility. The report documents the continuing inability on the part of the businesses involved – Burlington, Fruit of the Loom, and Berkshire Hathaway – to come to an agreement as to which firm was responsible for paying for cleanup of the pollution. \$107,050.33 in funds from a bankruptcy settlement were finally made available to pay for corrective actions at the Rabun Apparels site in 2007. The property was deeded to the Development Authority of Rabun County, then back to Rabun Apparel, then sold to Gibbs International, then sold to Haberworks, LLC. In 2007, Rabun County purchased the water and sewer treatment facilities of the former Rabun Apparels facility. And in 2017, Rabun County sold the Little Tennessee Water Treatment plant located on the former Rabun Apparels site to the Rabun County Water and Sewer Authority.

Mark's report concludes with detailed documentation providing evidence that trichloroethene (TCE) pollution may be flowing outside the area being treated and tested. The report cites EPA guidance stating that "residual saturation will serve as source areas for contamination and migration of TCE within an aquifer system. . . . Areas containing insoluble TCE . . . can serve as source areas for spreading of contamination. . . . Small source areas can serve to contaminate large portions of an aquifer to levels exceeding drinking water standards." Mark's report further expresses concerns regarding vapor intrusion hazards, PFAs contamination in groundwater, and risks to public health resulting from the operation of the Rabun County Water Treatment Facility in the area containing TCE.

The Rabun Apparel site had been listed as a Class I priority on the annual GA EPD Hazardous Site Inventory until July 1, 2020, when it was changed to Class V. As of the most recent GA EPD Hazardous Site Inventory dated July 1, 2025, the Rabun Apparel site remains designated as Class V. Class V sites are those that have a known release that requires corrective action and are not in compliance with any of the risk reduction standards, but corrective action is being performed in compliance with a corrective action plan approved by the GA EPD Director, which will bring the site into compliance with the risk reduction standards. Class I sites are sites that have resulted in known exposure to regulated substances, that have sources of continuing releases, or that are causing serious environmental problems. Class I sites are EPD's highest priority sites, and responsible parties are required to perform corrective action and put a notice in the deed to their property. If the Director determines that a Class V site is not conducting corrective action according to the approved plan, the Director may reclassify the site as Class I.

We at BREDL are extraordinarily appreciative of the devotion on the part of the Rabun Gap Chapter in their unceasing efforts to seek remediation of the longstanding pollution problems in their beloved community of Rabun Gap.

BREDL SIGNS ON TO LETTERS URGING ACTION

BY: JASON TORIAN

BREDL, along with a number of other notable environmental organizations, recently signed on to two letters directed to congressional leaders.

The letters each went to Senators Lisa Murkowski and Mike Simpson, who serve as chair and ranking member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies and Representatives, as well as Representatives Mike Simpson, and Chellie Pingree who hold the same positions in the House.

The organizations urged Congress to support funding for the Environmental Protection Agency's work to measure and reduce air pollution and to ensure cleaner air. The groups also urged Congress to expand and improve ambient and fence-line air monitoring and to "prioritize deploying monitoring systems and providing better access to air quality information in communities most impacted by air pollution."

Air pollution is known to contribute to a number of different health risks and challenges. Despite this knowledge, federal funding for state and local air monitoring programs dropped by approximately 20% from 2004 to 2020. BREDL received an EPA grant in 2023 to purchase mobile air monitoring equipment and to operate a program to monitor air quality in our service area in the southeastern U.S.

A second letter urged Congress to increase funding for the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies appropriations bill. CSB is an independent investigative agency which investigates and reports to the public about industrial incidents involving the release of hazardous chemicals. The federally created agency has been credited with saving numerous lives since its inception in 1998.



WORLD WATER DAY 2026!

On April 11, BREDL Organizer Jason Torian served as a panelist for the Triangle Area (NC) World Water Day Celebration. The theme of this international event was "Where Water Flows, Equality Grows". During his comments, Torian described how communities can fight back against data centers, which require vast amounts of water.



THE DATA CENTER CAPITAL: GROWTH, LAND, AND LOCAL CONSEQUENCES



Image by iStock

Season 2, Episode 32: In this week's podcast episode, Jenn talks with Julie Bolthouse, Director of Land Use at the Piedmont Environmental Council. With Julie, we talk about the rapid expansion of data centers on the ground and how communities are responding.

Virginia is often called the "data center capital of the world". Data centers are reshaping landscapes, straining resources, and raising tough questions about growth and sustainability.

In the episode we talk about the environmental concerns for energy, water, and air. As well as how to balance economic development with long term environmental and human health protection.



Host Jenn Galler always interviews great guests! Search for "In Our Backyard Podcast" on your podcast app or go to <https://anchor.fm/bredl>

BREDL: WHO AND WHAT WE ARE

In March 1984, fifty citizens of Ashe and Watauga Counties met in the Mission House of Holy Trinity Church in Glendale Springs, North Carolina. Teachers and farmers, home-makers and merchants listened to the report of the Episcopal Church Women on the US Department of Energy's siting search for a high-level nuclear waste dump in the rain-rich east. Recognizing that the North Carolina mountains were a region at risk, the assembled group organized the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL) to protect their own backyard and those of other threatened communities.

Since then, the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League has grown to be a regional community-based, nonprofit environmental organization. Our founding principles - earth stewardship, environmental democracy, social justice and community empowerment - still guide our work for social change. Our staff and volunteers put into practice the ideals of love of community and love of neighbor, which help us to serve the movement for environmental protection and progressive social change in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee.

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**Does your chapter have a story to share in the League Line?
Submit your article to bredl@bredl.org!**

View archived newsletters at www.theleagueline.org

BREDL Credo

We believe in the practice of earth stewardship, not only by our league members, but by our government and the public as well. To foster stewardship, BREDL encourages government and citizen responsibility in conserving and protecting our natural resources. BREDL advocates grassroots involvement in order to empower whole communities in environmental issues. BREDL functions as a "watchdog" of the environment, monitoring issues and holding government officials accountable for their actions. BREDL networks with citizen groups and agencies, collecting and disseminating accurate, timely information. BREDL sets standards for environmental quality, and awards individuals and agencies who uphold these standards in practice

Grassroots Campaigns

Nothing creates hopefulness out of helplessness like a successful grassroots campaign -and our chapters have a history of winning. For over three decades Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League chapters have protected their communities by stopping dangerous facilities and promoting safe alternatives. In the 1980's and 1990's, BREDL prevented a multi-state ThermalKEM hazardous waste incinerator, a southeastern nuclear waste dump and a national nuclear waste dump. In the 2000's, our coordinated grassroots citizens' campaigns have had further victories. We won a legislative victory with the passage of the NC Solid Waste Act, effectively blocking at least four multi-state mega-dumps. Our Person County chapter convinced their Board of Commissioners to reject expansion of the Republic Services landfill. Our Cascade, Virginia, chapter shut down a huge hazardous waste incinerator. Our chapter in Roanoke and Franklin Counties, Virginia stopped an Interstate Highway. We eliminated mercury waste from the Stericycle incinerator, shut down a tire incinerator in Martinsville, won the landmark environmental justice court decision in Greene County, North Carolina. Further, with our chapters we have protected air quality by blocking scores of asphalt plants, four medical waste incinerators, a PVC plant and a lead smelter, and passage by local governments of eight polluting industries ordinances. Our work on nuclear power and coal plants laid the groundwork for our new Safe Energy Campaign. Victories over twenty-four mega-dumps have resulted in our affirmative Zero Waste Campaign. Guided by the principles of earth stewardship and environmental justice, we have learned that empowering whole communities with effective grassroots campaigns is the most effective strategy for lasting change.

BREDL
c/o Virginia Staton, CPA
PO Box 2168
Boone, NC 28607

Annual Membership is only \$20

Thank you for supporting Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
It's easier than ever to **join, renew** and **donate** online.

Check out our secure online donation form and use your credit card at
www.BREDL.org

Or send your check to: BREDL, c/o Virginia Staton, CPA, PO Box 2168,
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All donations are tax deductible.

Name _____

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Chapter _____

Membership Amount: \$ _____

JMZ Fund Donation: \$ _____

**Janet Marsh Zeller
Honorary Fund**

The BREDL Board
of Directors
established this
fund to honor the
work of Janet



Marsh Zeller, who founded the Blue Ridge
Environmental Defense League and
served as its executive director for over
two decades.

**The honorary fund supports BREDL's
endowment and our long-term ability to
serve communities.** Individual gifts are
accepted throughout the year. All
donations to BREDL are tax deductible.
Contributions to the fund will benefit the
organization and honor the woman who
gave so much to make our world better,
one community at a time.