



“Sooty Six” Campaign

Six Years later

A Birthday Present for the Public:

an **86%** Reduction in Pollution

“We are Republicans, greens, Democrats and independents.
We are sons, grandparents, cousins, sisters, brothers, neighbors, and moms and dads.”

Campaign Timeline:

- **1977**- Congress amended the Clean Air Act to set standards for power plant emissions but exempted existing plants from modern pollution regulations
- **1998**- Clean Water Action and Toxics Action Center to form CT Coalition for Clean Air, launching the “Filthy Five” campaign
- **1999**- Canvassers going from house to house educated 36,000 Connecticut citizens about the issue and thousands of individuals wrote letters to Governor Rowland and other Connecticut decision makers
- **2000**- Sooty Six legislation failed in the House of Representatives Governor Rowland attempted to co-opt the issue by issuing an executive order directing the CT Department of Environmental Protection to create regulations to reduce overall nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide emissions but did not guarantee actual reductions from each power plant.
- **2001**- Milford (Devon) power plant reopens, making the “Filthy Five” the “Sooty Six.” Seeing the citizen momentum, the CT Business and Industry Association launched media campaign linking the Sooty Six clean-up to blackouts and rate hikes. Sooty Six bill passed House and Senate. Governor announced plans to sign bill but ultimately vetoed it.
- **2002**- Victory! With additions like Republicans for Clean Air grassroots Six bill again passed legislature and this time is signed into law.
- **2003**- Clean Water Action and PSEG negotiate agreement to reduce mercury pollution 90% by 2008
- **2009**- Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative to reduce power plant global warming pollution 10% by 2019 in effect

History of the Campaign

The “Sooty Six” campaign began 10 years ago, coordinated by Clean Water Action and the Toxics Action Center with technical support provided by the Clean Air Task Force. The goal of the campaign was to remove loopholes in our laws that had exempted power plants built before 1977 from modern pollution standards, resulting in 2-10 times more pollution from these aging power plants. It was a true movement which united almost 150 citizen-based organizations around the goal of reducing health-harming pollution from Connecticut’s dirty power plants.



Representative O'Rourke (D-Cromwell) at capitol press conference

Years of grassroots activity beginning in 1997 in communities and at the state capitol resulted in an Executive Order in 2000 issued by then Governor Rowland which called for reductions in soot and smog pollution but included emissions trading loopholes which did not ensure reductions from each plant. The citizens continued to press for restrictions on each plant and

overcame business opposition to pass a clean up bill through the Connecticut state legislature only to be thwarted by the governor’s veto in 2001. The Sooty Six leaders were nothing if not persistent, however, and kept pressing for modern pollution standards.

Finally in 2002, the governor agreed to sign the first law in the nation to sharply reduce healthy-harming soot (sulfur dioxide or SO₂) pollution from each power plant starting in 2005.

The numbers are in and the pollution reductions are staggering.

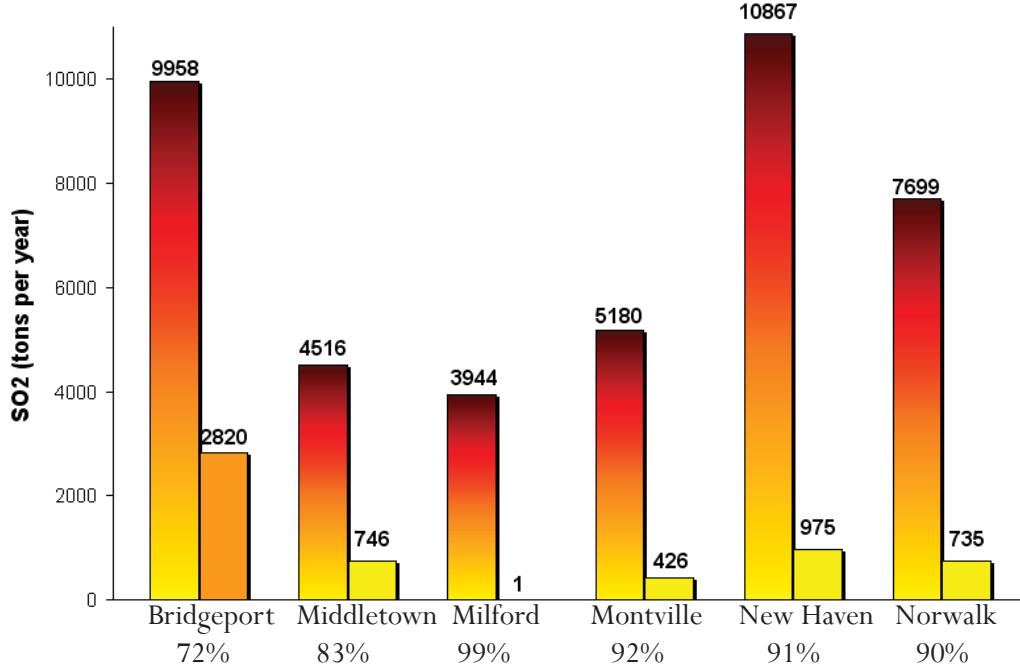
There has been a **reduction of 86%** tons of soot pollution from the Sooty Six power plants since the clean-up began. Soot pollution is linked with acid rain, respiratory disease and premature death.



Governor Rowland 2002 Bill Signing Ceremony

Sooty Six- Before and After

86% Reduction in SO2 Pollution from all six plants from
pre clean-up period 1998-2000 to post-Sooty Six law 2005-2007



Reduction percentages based on EPA Clean Air Markets Data for SO2 emissions in tons comparing the pre-clean up annual emission average from 1998-2000 with the post-clean up average from 2005-2007.



Charting a Clean Energy Future from the Grassroots

The clean energy movement did not end in 2002 with the passage of the Sooty Six law. The very next year, citizens active on the Sooty Six campaign worked to support resolutions committing their towns to purchase renewable energy to help power municipal buildings and schools. This campaign spread from New Haven, Portland, Milford, and Fairfield to 85 out of 169 Connecticut towns by September 2008.

- In 2003, Clean Water Action and Public Service Enterprise Group, which had recently acquired the Bridgeport Harbor power plant, negotiated the terms of the first and strongest mercury law in the country, cutting emissions of the potent neurotoxin 90% by 2008.



- In 2007 with strong public support, the state legislature passed a landmark energy law requiring investments in consumer energy efficiency programs before spending ratepayer money on energy, power plants or transmission lines.
- Beginning January 1st, 2009 all major power plants in Connecticut face limits on their global warming pollution as part of a 10 state Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a program approved by both the legislature and governor.

“This important environmental and public health victory is a testament to the hard work of citizens across the state who have been fighting this David and Goliath battle for clean air for five years”

—Brooke Suter, then Clean Water Action Program Director, 2002

From State to National

While Connecticut's 2002 SO2 and 2003 mercury laws were the first in the country to legislate pollution reductions from grandfathered power plants, advocates across the region were working together to achieve pollution reductions throughout New England. Ultimately, every state in the region that hosted aging power plants moved forward with stricter emission standards. Maine set an important precedent in June 2001, approving regulations on smog-forming NOx that did not include emissions trading. In April 2001, Massachusetts issued the nation's first multi-pollutant regulations requiring reductions of NOx, SO2, mercury and carbon dioxide. No other state had previously regulated power plant mercury or carbon dioxide. New Hampshire passed legislation in 2002 that included all four pollutants of concern, but disappointed local leaders by allowing emissions trading. This string of state level pollution victories continued in New Jersey, which moved to regulate mercury emissions from power plants and industrial sources and provided additional incentives for power plants that also reduced SO2, mercury and carbon dioxide.

At the same time, federal champions including Representatives Allen (D-ME), Boehlert (R-NY), and Waxman (D-CA), and Senator Jeffords (I-VT), filed federal bills multiple times that mirrored the pollution reduction goals of the state policies. State Attorneys General, including Connecticut's Richard Blumenthal filed lawsuits against upwind power plants. This flurry of activity at the state level, combined with national power plant campaigning that united state advocates across the country around federal reforms, and led the Bush administration to adopt modest standards to reduce SO2, NOx and mercury emissions nationally. However, the standards known as the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR), which would have reduced sooty and smog-forming pollution from states upwind of Connecticut were struck down by the courts in 2008 and action to improve or reinstate it depends on the next Congress.



Representative Roy (D-Milford) addresses crowd at 2001 Milford plant mock birthday celebration

The Future of the Sooty Six Plants

With the exception of Bridgeport Harbor coal-fired power plant, Connecticut no longer relies on these old and inefficient plants for everyday generation and mainly uses them to provide power at times of peak energy demand. Unfortunately, on hot summer days when air conditioner use strains the grid, these plants are called into service and the resulting nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions are a major contributor to our ozone smog problem.

These power plants ultimately need to be replaced by cleaner sources including renewable energy. Consumer energy efficiency programs are crucial in hastening the retirement of the aging power plants by reducing peak energy demand and undercutting the reason these plants continue to operate.

Bridgeport Harbor Generating Station

The Bridgeport Harbor Generating Station is a 533MW coal and oil-fired plant located on Long Island Sound. A 2003 law also mandated 90% reductions in mercury pollution by 2008.

Larry Kaley

Larry Kaley, an elected official on the Representative Town Meeting (RTM) in neighboring Fairfield was a prominent figure in the Bridgeport area clean-up campaign.

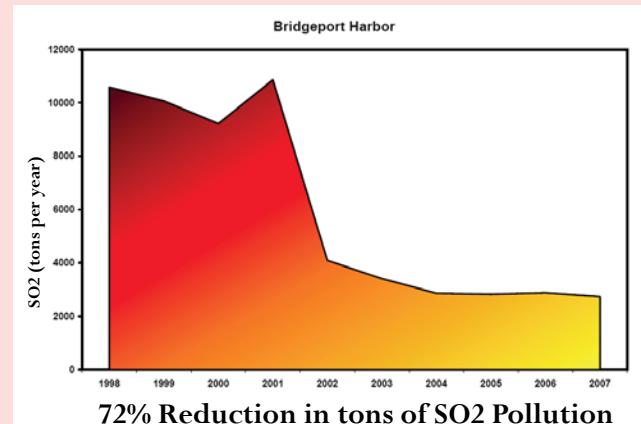
"It was interesting to see the perception from Fairfield residents that we needed statistics to demonstrate harm from the Bridgeport power plant. After going to the Department of Public Health, we learned how poor our local air quality was and the extent to which children were increasingly taking asthma medications. This helped showed the public that there was real cause for concern for the areas outside Bridgeport."

Post Sooty Six

Kaley has chaired the Fairfield CT Clean Energy Task Force since its inception in 2005 working to promote the CT Clean Energy Options. Kaley is currently working to establish a municipal LEED-certified green building code for new buildings in Fairfield.



Larry Kaley, Ken Flatto and Representative Caruso at birthday party for Bridgeport plant



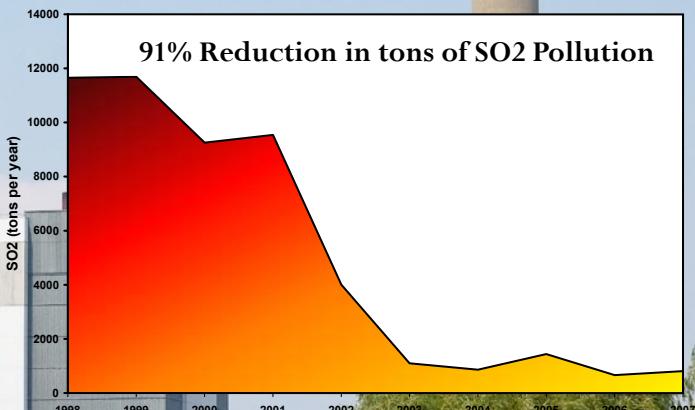
New Haven Harbor Generating Station

455 MW oil and natural gas fueled unit.



New Haven Harbor

91% Reduction in tons of SO2 Pollution



Cindy Kang

As an undergraduate at Yale University, Cindy Kang served as coordinator of the Yale Green Corps chapter, where she helped mobilize student and community support for cleaning up the "Sooty Six" power plants.

Post Sooty Six

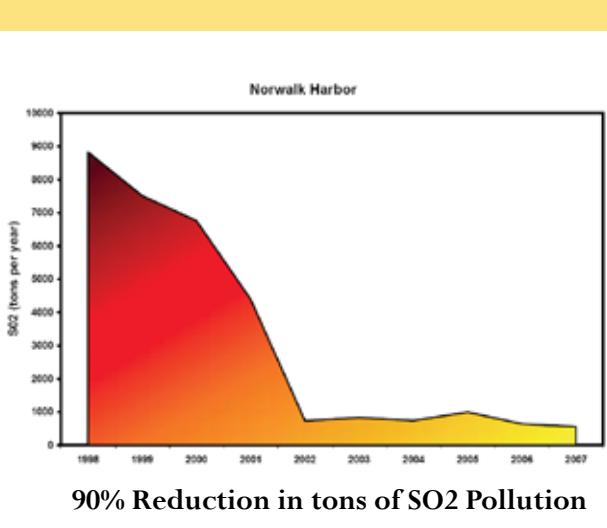
Through this campaign she discovered her passion for environmental activism and decided to pursue a career in the field. Upon graduation, she joined Green Corps, the Field School for Environmental Organizing, and received formal training and experience. She went on to become the organization's Recruitment Director and now serves as the Executive Director of Green Corps in San Francisco.

Representative Bob Megna (D-New Haven)

Representative Megna first decided to run for state office because his state representative had opposed cleaning up the Sooty Six. Megna waged a grassroots door-to-door campaign with relatively little funding and defeated an entrenched incumbent. Megna currently serves as a state representative on the Environment and Insurance committees.

Norwalk Harbor Station

Norwalk Harbor is a 353MW oil-fired power plant on Manresa Island, South Norwalk



Dennis Cabrera, Norwalk

"I remember taking part in a meeting of Norwalk residents with then Senator Bob Genuario. At one point, the senator confused me for a paid lobbyist. When I explained that I was just a citizen concerned about public health, the whole tone of the meeting changed and Senator Genuario ended up being supportive."

Post Sooty Six

Cabrera is currently a full time student at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government pursuing a masters degree in public policy and volunteering with the Obama Presidential campaign to further clean energy and green collar jobs.

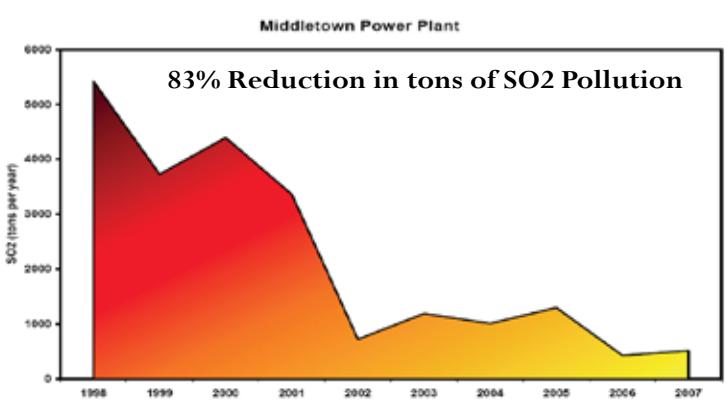
Joanne Luppi, Portland

Joanne Luppi became involved when the then-called "Fifty Five" campaign was in its infancy. Then a school teacher, she helped form the Middlesex Clean Air Association to fight the dirty power plants. "This issue was very important to me as I have asthma, and we live less than 5 miles from the Middletown Power Plant. In fact, when we first moved here over 50 years ago, my husband called and reported a fire when we saw a huge black plume of smoke due south of our home. We were embarrassed to be told it was the power plant!"

Luppi further recalled, "We did presentations to every group that would listen, did a lot of lobbying at the Capitol, held large area meetings, and wrote lots of letters to an ever-widening list of contacts." We found as we fought the battle that, in fact, ordinary folks can work together and actually make a difference!"

Post Sooty Six

Luppi has continued to be active with the Portland Garden Club, which is working global warming issues. She became an appointed member of Portland's Clean Energy Task Force and helped earn a photovoltaic array for a local elementary school.



Middletown Station

Middletown Station is a 770MWgas and oil-fired plant, the largest fossil fuel plant in CT.

Rebecca MacLachlan, Middletown

MacLachlan became involved in the campaign because "I was angry at what these power plants were doing and the fact that they were so close to where we live. I also had a five-year-old daughter at the time and she is one of the big reasons I didn't give up working on the issue. She testified at the very first hearing at the legislature as a first grader."

MacLachlan recalled, "The campaign was long and sometimes very frustrating, but we had small successes in between the disappointments. The ups and downs were all worthwhile knowing that the grassroots efforts of many dedicated citizens were finally able to pass legislation to clean up these old dirty power plants."

Post Sooty Six

MacLachlan has continued her involvement in environmental work. She currently is involved in Project Green Lawn partnering with other mothers in Middletown to encourage people to reduce or eliminate the use of chemicals on their lawns.

Andy Bauer, Portland

Bauer, a Middletown middle school teacher, had no activism experience but recalled, "I finally decided to do something I had never done—talk to an elected state Representative about it. I was certain they were all smarter than I was and already knew everything about the issue. I thought someone else did this sort of thing. Then it hit me—I could be that someone else. And for too long I had been letting others do the work for me. It was time to add my voice to the chorus."

Post Sooty Six

After the Sooty Six campaign Andy has advocated for diesel and global warming pollution reductions. He chairs the Portland Clean Energy Task Force.

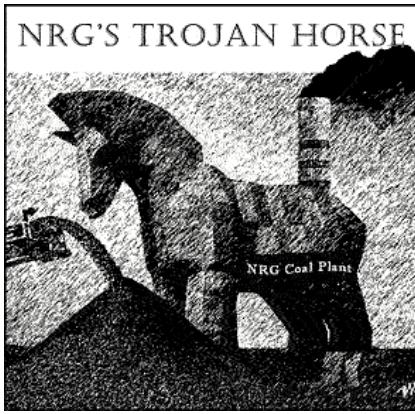
NRG's Trojan Horse

Campaign against converting the Montville Plant to coal in 2006

In 2006, Montville power plant owner, NRG Inc. proposed to convert the existing oil and gas-fired Montville plant into a new and much larger gasified coal plant. Clean Water Action, the Sierra Club Southeast group, Toxics Action Center and the newly-formed grassroots Norwich Area Global Warming Action Group teamed up to oppose this proposal primarily on the grounds that it would increase statewide greenhouse gas pollution from power plants a staggering fifty percent.

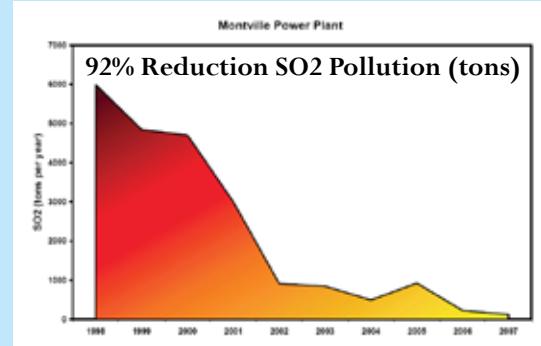
Citing potential health and environmental impacts from air pollution from the proposed coal-fueled power plant, the Toxics Action Center and Clean Water Action awarded this project with an ironic 2006 "Dirty Dozen" Award.

"From communities along the Thames River to Long Island Sound, we are a coastal region threatened by global warming and its rising sea levels and increasing storm damage. We need our state to set an example for Washington by reducing our own global warming pollution, and rejecting this coal plant is a start," said David Anderson, chairman of the Greater Norwich Area Global Warming Action Group. "A new coal plant is irresponsible for local health and global climate," said Sylvia Broude, community organizer for Toxics Action Center. "There is nothing clean about coal." NRG altered its proposal to repower Montville as a modern natural gas plant instead of a coal plant, but this proposal was rejected by the state Department of Public Utility Control. The plant remains oil and gas fired.

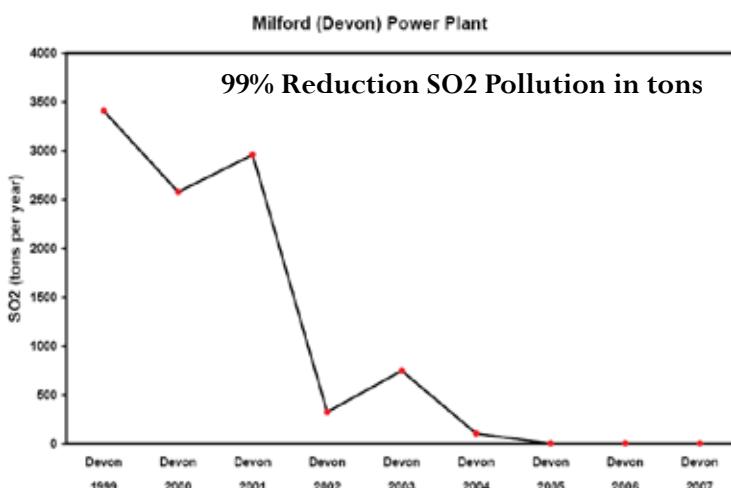


Montville

4 oil and gas units with a capacity of 497MW



Milford (Devon) Power Plant



Milford Power Plant Birthday Party



Ann Berman's solar powered house



Ann Berman, Milford

Berman had been active in environmental causes for many years, but found the Sooty Six campaign especially gratifying because she was able to forge bonds with a growing body of environmental organizations across the state working together for the common good.

Post Sooty Six

Berman remains president of the Environmental Concerns Coalition in Milford and has actively promoted recent legislation including diesel school bus retrofits, banning the use of lawn-care pesticides at schools, banning toxins in children's products and supporting statewide global warming reductions in addition to many other Milford-specific causes.

Barbara Currier Bell, Milford, CT

Bell became involved in the Sooty Six campaign at the request of Ann Berman. "My most memorable moment was being with a group of activists and legislators and singing a satiric 'Happy Birthday' dirge for the Sooty Six under the Moses Wheeler I-95 bridge one midday in November, 2001. All of us were dressed in black costumes, some with masks. I had composed the dirge and printed copies for others to read the lyrics while I led them in the tune... I think this occasion may have helped a small bit in the eventual passage of the legislation, since key legislators were there."

Post Sooty Six

In 2003, Bell became a Board Member of the Woodlands Coalition, a grassroots group opposing two large transmission upgrades in the state, one section traversing Milford. Bell met extensively with neighborhood groups over southwestern Connecticut to develop strategies to bury the lines underground. Later in 2005, she was appointed to the Council by Jim Amann, then Speaker of the House.

Where they are now

Reverend Tom Carr was active in engaging the faith community in the “Sooty Six” campaign and worked to turn the Interreligious Eco-Justice Network (IREJN) into a formal organization in 2001. According to IREJN director Carr, the Sooty Six campaign helped faith communities “reclaim traditions of caring for creation” as “it is children, the elderly, and the poor that are often the most profoundly affected by environmental degradation.” In 2004, Carr supported efforts to make West Hartford a 20% by 2010 clean energy community and has worked to make churches more energy efficient through IREJN’s “This Old House of Worship” grassroots energy efficiency program.

Bernadette Del Chiaro served as Organizing Director for the Toxics Action Center where she was a leading coordinator of the successful campaign to clean up Connecticut's "Sooty Six" power plants. In 2002, Del Chiaro became the lead advocate and architect of the successful California Million Solar Roofs Initiative, to build a million solar roofs in ten years and invest \$3.2 billion in consumer rebates for solar power. She now lives in Sacramento with her husband and five month old son, Oliver.

Frank Gorka worked with the Toxics Action Center on the Sooty Six campaign, and subsequently became director of Environment Massachusetts in Boston. Gorka worked to promote clean and renewable power, advance progressive transportation policy and served as coordinator of the New England Climate Coalition. Gorka currently serves as director for MASS Efficiency in the state of Massachusetts Division of Energy Resources.

Betty McLaughlin helped lead the lobbying effort at the state capitol for the Sooty Six bill with the CT Sierra Club. After almost two decades lobbying for environmental concerns at the state legislature, in 2007 she became Executive Director of the non-profit Container Recycling Institute working nationally to increase beverage container recycling.

Alyssa Schuren helped lead the Sooty Six campaign with the Toxics Action Center (TAC). She has since become Executive Director, and now oversees TAC's six New England offices. She is a graduate of Green Corps, the field school for environmental organizing.

Brooke Suter served as Connecticut Program Director for Clean Water Action and was a leading coordinator of the Sooty Six campaign for its duration. Suter successfully advocated for the nation's second law banning mercury in products in 2002 and first law to reduce mercury from power plants in 2003. In 2004 she coordinated the grassroots effort which helped pass the second global warming law in the nation in 2004. In 2005 Suter joined the Clean Air Task Force and now coordinates the National Partnership to Reduce Diesel Pollution, sharing her expertise running state-level grassroots campaigns with advocates in 14 states, while integrating local, state, federal and international advocacy efforts.

“It's immensely gratifying to know that what we did has made Connecticut a better place. We worked hard for a long time, but it was worth it because the air we breathe is cleaner.”

—Dennis Cabrera, Norwalk