



Communities of faith responding to climate change

Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light Visionary Award

This award is presented annually to a Pennsylvania visionary who has engaged in significant actions "to tend and sustain" the earth and all its creatures. The recipient of this award has called us all to be more mindful of the moral and ethical consequences of our actions, helping to protect the natural environment from the threat of climate change and preserve it for generations to come.

October 27, 2018

In recognition of her insight, research, leadership, and activism in defense of the environment in which we live, Pennsylvania Power & Light presents its 2018 Visionary Award to Dr. Patricia DeMarco.

Dr. DeMarco's work has truly been her vocation — in her hometown of Pittsburgh, and in other places she has lived and worked. Her curiosity has led her to build knowledge; her drive and compassion have led her to share it, and to seek ways of applying it to contribute to a better world. Though her guiding values have been constant, her path has not always been predictable. In Dr. DeMarco's early career, she was turned down for a vacuuming job listed at \$3,000 per hour. It turned out to be a job cleaning up radioactive spills, and that discovery led her to successful work calling the Connecticut legislature to investigate, and then enact legislation to protect the health of nuclear power plant workers.

Dr. DeMarco's long career in energy and environmental policy in both private and public sector positions might be remarkable by itself, but it is her work crossing sectors, working as an engaged citizen as well as a scholar — fully inhabiting her place on the map — that makes her example shine.

In Pittsburgh, Dr. DeMarco first led the Rachel Carson Homestead Association, and then the Rachel Carson Institute at Chatham University, where she continues her work a senior scholar while simultaneously serving the wider community as Councilwoman of the Borough of Forest Hills.

She is a communicator as well as a do-er. Together with filmmaker Mark Dixon, Dr. DeMarco produced *The Power of One Voice: A 50 Year Perspective on the Life of Rachel Carson*. She often appears on the radio program *The Union Edge*, where she draws connections between environment and labor issues. She is a translator between lawyers, engineers and economists; a citizen's voice for policies to protect workers and communities; and a policy analyst, bringing science to weigh in on energy, environment, and social justice concerns. Her recent book *Pathways to Our Sustainable Future: A Global Perspective from Pittsburgh*, reveals and highlights the connectedness of all living things, while describing projects in Pittsburgh through which regenerative agriculture and renewable energy are improving both the environment and people's everyday lives. It is undoubtedly because of this most recent work that she has been selected as a presenter at the 2018 Parliament of the World's Religions this November.

With this award, PA IPL recognizes the ways in which Dr. DeMarco seeks to weave a complete fabric of response to environmental harms — across disciplines, sectors, communities; with knowledge, skills, and faith; and with an abiding love for the planet and its people. She does not stop with obvious allies, but has found common ground in places others might not have thought to look.

We thank Dr. Patricia DeMarco for her rigorous work, her inclusive spirit, her hopeful vision, and we honor her for the work she continues to do.
Pittsburgh, October 27, 2018

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