

Fresh Air For The Eastside – Legal Saga Is Ongoing

In Monroe and Wayne Counties, members of a group called Fresh Air for the Eastside, Inc. (“FAFE”)— a not-for-profit organization – have been fighting to defend their environment for residents living near the High Acres Landfill. For years they had sought government action to help protect them from pollution emanating from the site, threatening their health and safety, and contributing greenhouse gas emissions harmful to our climate.



High Acres Landfill (“Landfill”), owned and operated by Waste Management New York, is the repository of garbage from New York City. The Landfill causes fugitive greenhouse gas emissions, including emissions laced with hazardous substances, and the release of persistent and noxious odors of garbage and landfill gas that are harmful to neighboring residents, the environment and the climate. For years the community has sought government action to address the dangerous emissions from the site, and for years they have been ignored.

Once the NY Green Amendment was passed, FAFE had a new tool to seek meaningful government action and protection – a constitutional right to clean water and air, and a healthful environment. FAFE has used this new tool to legally challenge the government actions and decisions with regards to the landfill that are having severe consequences for their health, safety and environment. So far the legal decisions have sided with the community and their right to a clean and healthful environment.

You can read all about the case and the most [recent legal victory here](#).

The state has appealed and so the litigation is ongoing.