



June Blotnick, photo
courtesy Clean Air Carolina

June Blotnick, Executive Director, Clean Air Carolina

June was always so committed to improving the air you breathe that she was able to take a small volunteer-driven initiative that was determined to improve the quality of Mecklenburg County's air and turn it into a highly successful statewide organization with a major impact.

As the Executive Director of Clean Air Carolina since 2005, June has created innovative programs and partnerships designed to raise awareness about air pollution and to advocate for the stronger air protections needed to improve public health.

For example, June instigated the statewide Medical Advocates for Healthy Air, by convening a team of doctors and medical associates to address the correlation between air and health.

As compelling as the mission is, it is June's unflappability in dealing with enormous challenges that has allowed the group to grow in size and impact. When money got tight during the economic downturn, she stayed with CAC without drawing a salary, all the while making sure the organization would survive. June has repeatedly demonstrated her ability to secure funds to keep staff and consultants in areas needed.

Now that environmental issues fall under the Transportation and Planning Committee I chair, I have learned how invaluable her work has been leading the Charlotte Climate Leaders. That stakeholder group advises the City on the implementation of our Strategic Energy Action Plan so we can reduce carbon emissions from city operations and ultimately across the city.

Environmental activists have remarked on the enormous personal and professional growth June has demonstrated in her 14 years as CAC's leader. They add that her humility and positive nature have established the group as a needed and trustworthy presence in the public eye.