

Delco Town Protests Sunoco Closings

Sharon Hill council members voted unanimously to boycott Sunoco and only buy fuel from BP or Exxon.

By David Chang

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NBCPhiladelphia.com - Lu Ann Cahn

Sharon Hill is no longer using Sunoco fuel. They are boycotting the gas to support local workers who are losing their jobs due to the refinery shut down.

Replay [«»](#) advertisement A Delaware County town is protesting Sunoco in support of local refinery workers who are losing their jobs.

Sharon Hill's council members voted unanimously to boycott Sunoco and only have the town's police, fire and municipal vehicles use fuel from BP or Exxon. The town is asking all of its residents as well as Delaware County municipalities to join in on the boycott.

While Sharon Hill's monthly fuel budget is only \$4,000, councilmembers say the move is a symbolic gesture to show their displeasure with Sunoco shutting down or selling its refineries in Philadelphia, Marcus Hook and Trainer.

"It's not a lot. But the point is we're standing up for what we believe is right and its protecting the working families of Sharon Hill and Delaware County," said Scott MacNeil of the Sharon Hill Borough Council.

The local Sunoco station was still busy on Friday however. Some Sharon Hill residents told NBC 10 they weren't sure what the protest would actually accomplish and were also unsure whether or not they wanted to take part in it.

"It's good fuel and its right here next to the house," said one resident.

"It does [[make sense]]," said United Steel Workers union president David Hall. "I feel bad though if it's an independent gas station, a guy just trying to etch out a living like everybody else. But it's corporate greed."

A Sunoco spokesperson claimed Sharon Hill never informed them about the protest and that they'd like to sit down with council members to explain why they had to idle the plants and get out of the oil refinery business.

The company released the following statement:

Sunoco's refining business has lost \$800 million over the past three years. Exiting the refining business is necessary to maintain Sunoco's viability as a company and preserve the thousands of other jobs we provide in Pennsylvania.

The United Steelworkers Union will hold a press conference next Thursday to speak on the Sunoco refinery closings. The Union claims Sunoco didn't put money back into the plants to prepare for the future and they're calling for Congress to hold hearings to stop the closings.