

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

MON VALLEY

AIR

CORPORATE
ACCOUNTABILITY

PRIVITIZATION

COMMUNITY POWER

GREEN JOBS





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#CleanAirforMonValley

DEAR COMMUNITY,

We at 412 Justice present this report to the people in the Mon Valley so that everyone can have a read-able summary of the environmental harms affecting Mon Valley residents, many of them having negative impacts on their health and wellbeing (especially for youth and seniors). This document provides an overview of the history, problems, and solutions associated with air pollution in the Mon Valley. Our skies are thankfully not as smoky as they used to be, but they are still blowing many harmful toxins into the air.

Many of the environmental hazards that affect our communities are the result of decade long industrial activity along the Monongahela River. This river has been known as the “workhorse” river in our region due to its role in transporting millions of tons of coal, coke, iron, steel, and asphalt by barge. The Port of Pittsburgh is one of the busiest inland ports in the US, ranking 4th busiest port in the nation. This long-term industrial activity has been great for the economy of our city, but has at the same time injured the health of residents in and outside of the Mon Valley. Many nearby communities experience higher rates of childhood asthma, more emergency room visits during bad air days (which are happening more frequently) and residents have higher risk of cancer.



The **Allegheny County Health Department’s (ACHD) mission is “to protect, promote, and preserve the health and well-being of ALL Allegheny County residents, particularly the most vulnerable”**. Yet the most vulnerable communities within the Mon Valley are still suffering from generations of poor air quality amongst other environmental harms. This is partly because the largest polluters have met demands for less soot (black particles) emitted into the air, which they consider to be equivalent to clean air. But air quality data collected in the region tells another story.

412 Justice wants to make sure that underserved communities have their rights to clean air met! Not to just have clean looking air, but to actually be healthy and safe to breathe EVERYDAY. This is a right we want to ensure that residents and workers have so that neither of them are harmed by the outdated, unsustainable, and leaking equipment that the U.S. Steel hasn’t replaced.

As we see Pennsylvania invests more into green energy and infrastructure, we want to make sure that workers in the surrounding fossil fuel industries can still find good quality, high paying jobs in spaces that are clean for them and their families. We hope this report will help you learn about the history of Allegheny County’s air and what community organizations like ours have been doing to monitor the issues, raise awareness with residents, and support community-focused solutions.

Even though we have groups like Get the Lead Out or the Our Water campaign, we can’t fix 80% of our water system alone. With money coming in for infrastructure it’s important that we prioritize cleaning our water as it is a necessity for our wellbeing. So please support everyone who took part in putting this information together for your easy reading (in the acknowledgement section). If you have any comments or questions, please feel free to reach out to us at info@412justice.org. We hope you enjoy the report and join us the fight for **#CleanAirforAllegheny**

Allegheny's Smoky History

Let's start this history off in the 1940s when Pittsburgh was known as the "City of Smoke" or "Hell with the Lid Off" because of its soot-filled skies. With more than 900 factories in the county, we had smoke so thick that it was often dark all day long. The soot from the air had residents constantly cleaning their windows and washing their clothes.

These were dark times for the city, but after the election of Mayor David Lawrence in 1946, what was known as Renaissance I & II was introduced—this was a period that had a series of urban renewal projects aimed to beautify the city and clean the air. These projects were partly a response to the 1948 Deadly Donora smog event that killed 19 people in 24 hours and caused respiratory problems for 500 others.

Even though these renewal projects were good for the environment they were not as helpful for other issues like housing.

Photo Credit: Bloomberg



Recently in August of 2022 they amended the Clean Air Act to allow the EPA to administer \$27 billion in grants to green banks nationwide, through a funding mechanism to be called the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. Over \$12 billion will go to states and localities for various direct investments in decarbonization startups, more than \$7 billion will go to investments in low-income and historically disadvantaged communities, and \$7 billion will go to similar communities with no financing alternatives

INTRO

Air pollution is not a new subject in our county and has long been an issue even through the decades. Many people believe that after the disappearance of our dark skies we were clear of bad air, but that is much further from the truth.

To this day we are one of the most polluted cities in the nation and our state is becoming the biggest polluter on the east coast. Below you will see our unfortunately long history with air pollution in Allegheny county.

1940



The Carnegie Library soot cleaning in 1990

1960

Following the Donora smog event, the public began to discuss air pollution as a serious problem in the community. Laws were soon passed to reduce air pollution and even Congress took up the issue at the federal level. The Air Pollution Control Act was then introduced in 1955 and dedicated \$15 million to the U.S. Public Health Service to conduct research and training over the course of five years to try to better understand and control harmful air pollution. The research program was extended in 1959, 1960, and again in 1961.

1960 CONT.

This program did nothing to directly to regulate pollution sources, but in 1963 Congress passed the Clean Air Act that gave the federal government authority to set air pollution standards and to regulate industrial emissions.

Allegheny's Smoky History cont.

In 2006, the EPA established the health-focused National Ambient Air Quality Standards to monitor ozone, particulate matter (PM2.5), lead, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide. Since the standards were set in 2006 (for particles) and 2010 (for SO₂), there have been over 400 exceedances for the air quality standards for both sulfur dioxide and fine particles at Mon Valley monitors. **The Mon Valley monitors made up 91% of the exceedances in Allegheny County.**

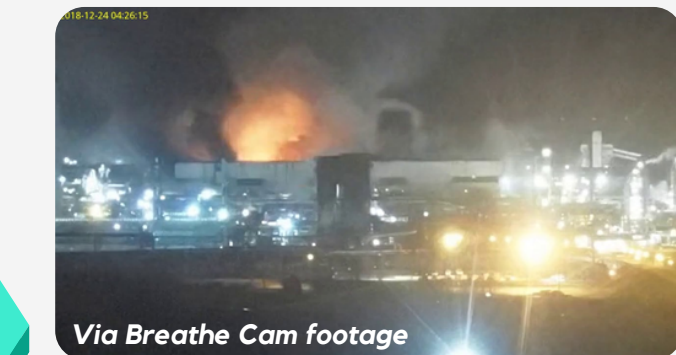
In December 2018, an early morning fire occurred at Clairton Coke Works, causing sulfur dioxide to leak into the air creating bad air quality standards. The company failed to alert the community of the fire for more than two weeks, which led to a lawsuit and settlement of \$8.5 million (\$2 million to residents and \$6.5 million towards facility upgrades). During the fire there was an increase in emergency room and doctor visits from people experiencing respiratory problems, almost all of whom were not aware of the pollution caused by the fire. Six months later, the Coke Works factory had yet another fire, which resulted in resident action. More than 2,300 air-quality complaints were submitted to the ACHD after this incident, resulting in the county proposing new coke oven rules and regulations.

1980

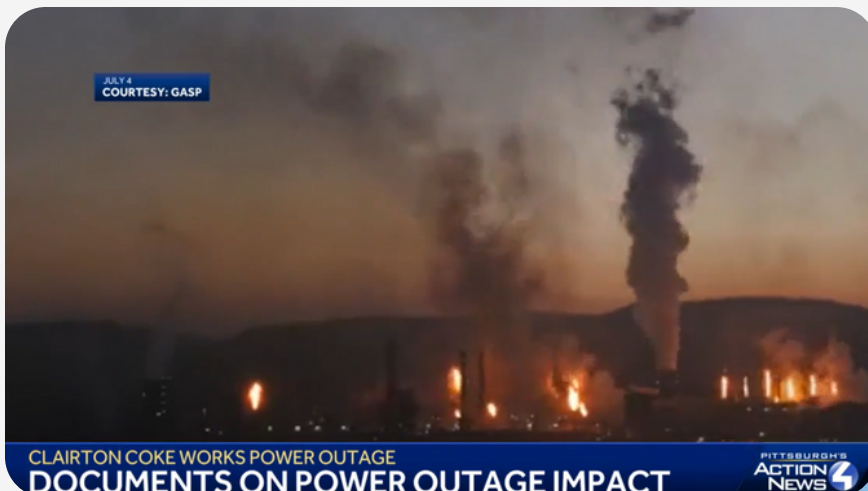
By 1984, jobs in the steel industry had declined to 236,000 from a peak of 650,000 in 1953 (currently, the steel industry employs about 143,000 people). The year 1984 also marked the decline of coke battery crew numbers, with some facilities completely shutting down. During this time unemployment rose to 13.9% and millions in revenue and communities like Clairton experienced serious financial hardship. During the 1980s, the local environmental organization Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP) cooperated with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to enforce air quality standards at the U.S. Steel coke production facility Clairton Coke Works, which helped significantly reduce their emissions. GASP continues to advocate for clean air to this day until the goal of zero pollution is met. (see in resource page)

2010

2021



By 2021, U.S. Steel had paid more than \$400,000 in fines for exceeding the healthy EPA standards for air pollution. U.S. Steel announced earlier in 2021 that it would idle three batteries at the Clairton Coke Works site and invest in batteries that would lower emissions standards established by the ACHD as a part of a push from residents for the county to adopt zero emissions standards. However, **U.S. Steel canceled its previously planned \$1.5 billion upgrade, and continued operating the leaking batteries** that will be permanently shutdown by 2023. After making these statements, the company invested \$3 billion for a new facility in Arkansas.



Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)

In September 2021 the PA Environmental Quality board adopted the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). This initiative is a "cap and invest" program that sets a regional cap on CO2 emissions for fossil fuel-fired power plants. The RGGI states would hold centralized quarterly, and regional auctions of carbon allowances, with each state investing its share into many diverse state programs. Industry groups and Republican lawmakers are asking the Commonwealth Court to stop Pennsylvania from joining RGGI. Issuing many lawsuits that delayed our participation.

In April of 2022 PA became a RGGI-participating state but because of these lawsuits they have not been able to collect any allowances. So our state has missed out on hundreds of millions of dollars in auction proceeds to invest in things like bill-lowering energy efficiency and clean energy job creation – and on the substantial public health benefits those investments create. We hope that our new Governor Shapiro will keep his promise that "in his administration he'd convene a working group on RGGI."

2022 Review

So what's been going on with our air lately?

In March of 2022, the ACHD issued \$859,300 in stipulated penalties against U.S. Steel for violations that occurred at the Clairton Coke Works during the last three quarters of 2021. **During the first quarter of 2022 they issued \$458,225 in stipulated penalties for even more air violations.**



Photo by: Reid R. Frazier (StateImpact Pennsylvania)

By May, the ACHD joined the Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to file a court-approved consent decree on Edgar Thompson Mills for their high emissions of H2S. This consent decree requires U.S. Steel to submit semi-annual reports to the EPA and ACHD. They would detail everything from the progress made on required upgrades and training, to problems encountered and changes made to the facility's operations or maintenance plans. In addition they demanded that the company also pay a \$1.5 million penalty and implement measures to mitigate its odor and dust emissions. This decree could greatly improve the transparency of the facility, and make it easier for agencies like ACHD to better understand and resolve these pollution problems.



Photo by: Next Pittsburgh

Organizers found that PM2.5, and the recently added VOCs (gasses emitted from oil & gas productions) were the main pollutants covered under the rule that required reporting. Other pollutants like H2S and Benzene are not covered, meaning that if a high amount of H2S is in the air, but the PM2.5 is low, then no warning would be made or sent out to residents. West Mifflin residents were so unhappy with this lack of accountability that they filed a class action lawsuit against U.S. Steel for their 'Noxious Odors' and 'Fugitive Dust' in October. Their complaints of headaches, sleepless nights, rotten egg smells, difficulty breathing and property damage were all sent to ACHD, but residents decided to take legal action against U.S. Steel's harmful impact on the health of the community. This case is still pending.

During the start of the winter months weather inversions, which often happen during the change of season, caused many bad air days during the holiday season. **In November, there were six straight days where Particular Matter (PM2.5) was high, and for 20 days hydrogen sulfide (H2S) levels were also above state standards.** Data from ACHD showed high levels of PM2.5 over a 24-hour average on Dec. 21, Dec. 22, Dec. 23, Dec. 24 and Dec. 25th making the holidays not so happy for Mon Valley residents.

During this same time on November 21st the ACHD issued a Title V Operating Permit (which we will explain later) to U.S. Steel in order to address this pollution cycle. U.S Steel would then file an appeal 30 days later claiming ACHD "imposed numerous unlawful enforceable conditions, and that regulators exceeded their authority when creating myriad emissions limits at the plant." This pushback that U.S Steel is doing will surely delay the required improvements we need to see lower pollution levels. Be sure to follow organizations like GASP and the Breathe Collaborative below to keep updated on these cases.



Beaver County Marcellus Shale plant

Our neighbors in Beaver county have been voicing their concerns around the Marcellus Shale Ethylene Cracker Plant since before its construction in 2017. The plant officially began operation on November 15, 2022 and experienced 5 malfunctions in its first week. Outside of a Facebook post, no other communication was sent to residents about this hazard. Just a week later the plant would experience a flaring event that caused a bright orange glow in the sky.

Thankfully a citizen-led non-profit named Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community (BCMAC) started an Eyes on Shell community hotline where concerned residents can monitor the impacts of the cracker plant on their health and environment to keep our families safe. During this flare up event many residents living up to 17 miles away submitted reports of the glow along with overnight noise pollution that is keeping their families up at night. In the following weeks the plant would receive many more complaints but nothing was more surprising than their Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) violation on December 14th.

After only being a few weeks into operation, Marcellus Shale plant received a violation for exceeding its 12 month limit for VOCS. Breathing in VOC can irritate the eyes, nose and throat, can cause difficulty breathing and nausea, and can damage the central nervous system and other organs. After another malfunction the plant began another flare up for multiple hours!

During this time Marcellus Shale plant did not notify, explain, or apologize to residents for these multiple harmful offenses. This is just the beginning of Beaver's air pollution journey and already it is just as bad, if not worse than our experiences here. With this area being so close to us this pollution will surely affect our county too. Pollution can travel hundreds of miles with high concentration within a 30 mile radius of the plants, and we live only up to 40 miles away.

If you want to keep updated on this issue be sure to look for BCMAC's information in the resource page.



What's are you breathing in?

Now that we've briefed you on the history, let's talk about what's currently in our air. It's important, especially for youth and seniors, to know these harmful micro-sized pollutants that we're breathing into our lungs. Many of these pollutants can lead to long-term health effects. So below is a summary of some of the primary pollutants we're finding in our air.

We score an F in air quality

In 2021 the American Lung Association (ALA) released their "State of the Air" report cards where four of Pennsylvania's 67 counties received an "F" grade for the state's ozone pollution. Allegheny County was one of these counties, and additionally failed in particle pollution (PM2.5) for its 24-hour limit. Short-term exposure to PM2.5 of this kind is a threat to public health and is linked to increased risk of heart and lung disease, asthma, diabetes, cancer, and premature death. Fine particulate matter may also alter metabolism functioning, leading to higher body mass index and obesity. This in addition to other disparities like limited food access and unaffordable health care



has caused many residents to live in an environment that is unhealthy for them in multiple ways.

In this report ALA also found that more than four in ten Americans live in places with unhealthy levels of air pollution. Many of these communities are referred to as environmental justice communities which are communities where 20% or more residents are low-income, 30% or non-white minority, and being negatively impacted by their environment.

In June, another report was released by PennEnvironment titled the "Toxic Ten".

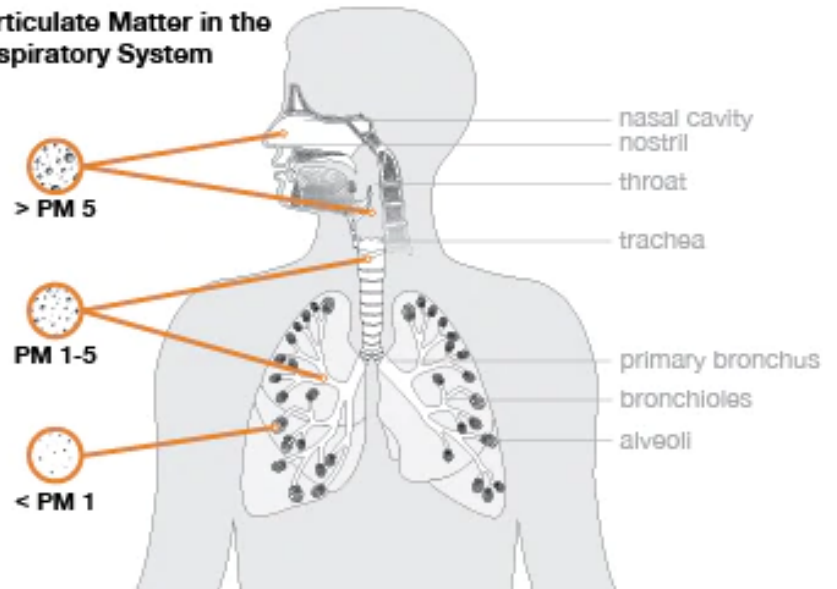
This report ranked the top 10 worst polluters in Allegheny County who's emission are linked to health issues like cancer, birth complication, reproductive issues, heart disease, and other ailments. Three Mon Valley plants were ranked in the top 10 with the Coke Works ranking third, Cheswick ranking seventh, and Edgar Thomson ranking eighth.

Recently on March 3, 2022, the Health Department announced a penalty of \$859,300 against U.S. Steel for Air Pollution Control violations and permit violations at the Clairton Coke Plant in just the last half of 2021. Allegheny County has ranked in the top 1 percent in the US for cancer risk from air pollution and has also been linked to pregnancy and birth complications among women living in the county. Even if someone used the limited resources we have to live healthy, their outside environment could still leave them with long-term health issues just because they live here. These may not always be the main source of these diseases, but for those living in this amount of pollution resident's odds of having major health issues is greatly. Those with existing conditions or weak systems like youth and seniors or even more inclined to lasting and sometimes non-reversible illnesses.



Photo by: WHY

Particulate Matter in the Respiratory System



Asthma is 3 times more likely for black youth

After the 2018 fire, sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions rose 25 times above regular levels and led to an increase in self-reported asthma attacks and medication use within 10 miles of the Clairton Coke Works facility. In 2019 the Asthma Task Force reported that they found **black children under 5 were more than four times than white children in our county to be breathing the most polluted air.** Children in the City of Pittsburgh and the Mon Valley were found more likely to seek emergency room care and be hospitalized for an asthma attack compared to children residing in other communities.

What's are you breathing in? cont.

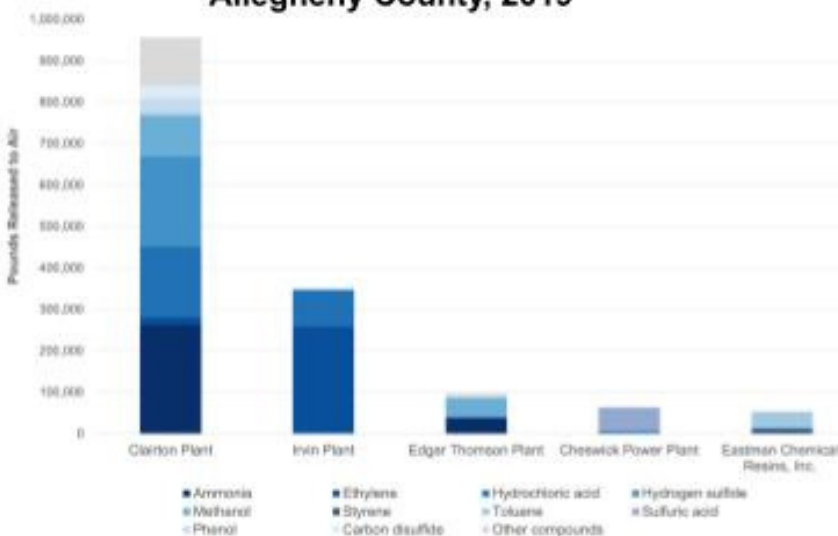
In 2020 Asthma expert and clinical researcher Dr. Deborah Gentile worked with fellow experts at Duquesne University to research child health issues as it relates to air pollution. This report revealed a lot of common issues and disparities amongst children who live in these EJ communities. The top issue they found was that asthma attacks were the primary cause of missed school days. With limited access to proper healthcare many kids were found to not have their asthma under control leading to more childhood attacks in low-income communities. These attacks not only keep them from attending school but it also leads to decreased physical activity for many children.

With additional factors like having less access to healthy food and limited outdoor space for play, children in these communities also run the risk of obesity or other problems. Thankfully Dr. Gentile and her team at the Clairton asthma center are actively working to address this issue.

In the asthma report 1200 school-aged children were surveyed

- 213 elementary kids from Clairton participated who lived only a 1 mile distance from high pollutants which is above the average of the EPA limit.
- 82% were in EJ communities
- 60% lived in communities that averaged high pollutants
- Black youth had the higher rates of up to 26.8% and 5 youth had decreased lung function

Top 5 Polluting Facilities (Air Releases) in Allegheny County, 2019



A single facility, the U.S. Steel Clairton Plant in Clairton, contributed half of reported countywide toxic air pollutant emissions from stationary sources in 2019. More specifically, this plant contributed:

100% of countywide hydrogen sulfide and carbon disulfide stationary source emissions;

96% of countywide benzene stationary source emissions; and,

67% countywide ammonia stationary source emissions.

Source: US EPA Toxics Release Inventory, 2019. <https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program>

After the 2020 fire multiple exceedances of sulfur dioxide, many residents with respiratory attacks were triggered, almost doubling the number of ER and outpatient visits. Even though the fire was an abnormal event, triggering pollution like this is not and it's costing our residents more than their health. Many people are losing jobs, sacrificing their education, and some are even forced to move away from their family homes just to protect their families' health. During our Mon Valley community survey we heard lots of testimony around parents who had to uproot their lives because doctors would tell them it's the only way to protect their or their children's health.

What's are you breathing in? cont.

22.5% of children have asthma (double national 8% and state average 11%), Even while in the womb children are still impacted by the poor air their mothers are breathing.

What's that rotten egg smell?

In 2020, Allegheny County had a total of 26 air quality exceedances for hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) at the Liberty monitor near Clairton, and they found two exceedances at the North Braddock monitor. **Hydrogen sulfide as mentioned in the previous section, is a colorless gas that causes the air to smell like rotten eggs.** Out of all of the resident complaints submitted, smelling a rotten egg smell is one of the most common. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says that exposure to H₂S can cause irritation of the eyes and respiratory system, among other issues.

During weather inversions in early November the Liberty monitor exceeded the state's standard for seven days straight. Weather inversions mainly occur during rapid changes in temperature that often happen during season changes. These inversions do tend to hold more pollutants in the air but they are not the main reason for bad air days. Allegheny County has continued to fail to meet national air quality standards for SO₂ with two of their monitors (Liberty and one other) being worse than half of all recordings in the US.

H₂S emissions have also resulted in long-term quality of life complaints from residents experiencing these exceedances. With an average of over 900 complaints per month submitted for free by community members, we see that this is very much an issue communities all over the county to address. From January 1, 2020, through March 1, 2022 the Health Department announced they were giving a penalty of \$1.8 million against U.S. Steel for 153 Hydrogen Sulfide exceedances recorded just at the Liberty Monitor near Clairton. Data analyzed by the Allegheny Air Quality Team identified that 46 of those violations were in 2020, 94 in 2021, and 13 from January 1 to March 1, 2022. For those sensitive to these pollutants, increases in these exceedance can lead them to a very isolated life because of the danger that awaits them outside. Many aren't isolated due to them being unaware of these exceedances but the resulting physical effects still occur.



Photo by: Pennsylvania Capital Star

What's are you breathing in? cont.

Recently, the Health Department completed their own study of H₂S concentrations at the Liberty Monitor and stated that most of these high numbers were caused by weather-inversion events. You can find this and other current reports listed in our resource section under the Allegheny Health Department.

Don't forget the Benzen

In a letter to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on December 14, 2022, the Environmental Integrity Project (EIP) urged EPA to order US Steel to monitor benzene concentrations at the perimeter of each of its three Monongahela Valley Plants. Benzene is a colorless or light-yellow highly flammable liquid with a sweet smell, and is partially responsible for the aroma of gasoline. Since monitoring began in December of 2021, the average benzene concentrations went above their standard level, which could weaken the immune system and increase residents' vulnerability to those exposed for a long period of time. Commonly Benzene is known to cause cells in your body to not work correctly.

The EPA has full authority under the Clean Air Act to reduce benzene and other toxic emissions in Mon Valley communities. Including, at a minimum, immediately inspecting, investigating, and enforcing all necessary relief to end potential violations from sources emitting benzene and other toxic emissions; installing and operating a fence line monitoring system for toxic air emissions; and implementing exercises for oversight and authority over U.S. Steel Clean Air Act permit. So we hope letters like EIP's and many complaints from residents will put pressure on these facilities and our federal departments to reduce these many toxins. In this letter EIP also urged EPA to take corrective action whenever their benzene levels exceed certain thresholds that are already in place at other refineries and some petrochemical plants.

Conclusion

As you can see our county is still one of the most polluted cities in the nation, especially on the east coast. Even though the city loves our steel history and we owe much of our economic growth to these industries, it is now doing us more harm than good. With all of this new technology, many facilities (including US Steel) have been able to build cleaner and more sustainable facilities that are better for the community and the workers within these facilities. By holding all of our decision-makers accountable, advocating for policy change, and acquiring resources to fund these projects we can make the change necessary to clean our air.

Even though cleaning our air would be a large investment, it would drastically improve the health and economy of our EJ communities. With the million of dollars in fines being paid every year, this money could be more helpful in preventing further bad air days instead of creating more.

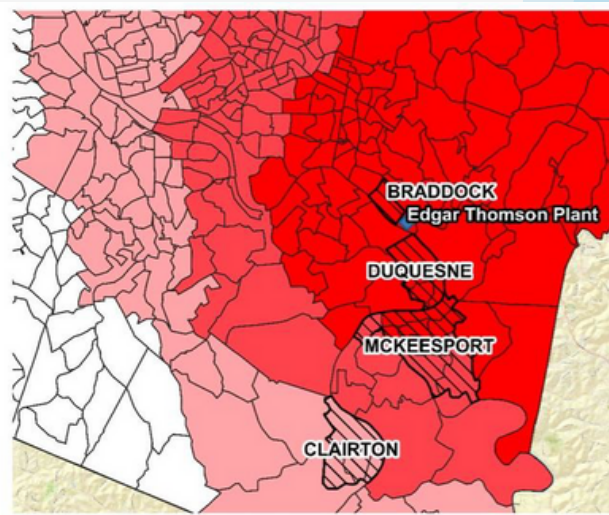
Why is the air still bad?

As seen in the last section there is definitely more work to be done to clean our air. But how did we get this bad? And why are we not improving? We've been through generations of unclean air, and not enough has been done to improve it. Below we will be explaining three main reasons why our air has not improved till this day.

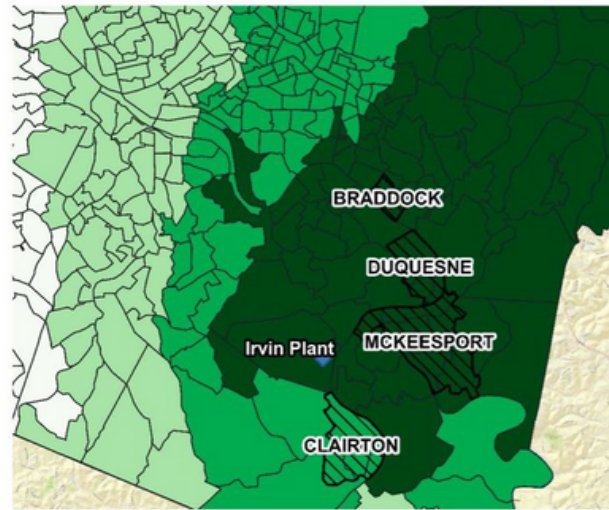
1. Pollution/emission levels are consistently unhealthy

Recent audits done by the EPA and County Controller revealed that the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) has continuously failed to ensure that its largest industrial polluters comply with federal pollution regulations. This meant that they failed to make sure those polluting our air stayed below the "healthy" standard. Currently the healthy standard for EPA is higher than the preferred standard by the World Health Organization who claimed in 2019, 99% of the world's population was living where the WHO air quality guidelines levels were not met. As the EPA works to lower those standards we've found that many facilities run the risk of having a major increase in their numbers. Before the end of the year in December the EPA did announce that they would be announcing stricter regulations in the new year.

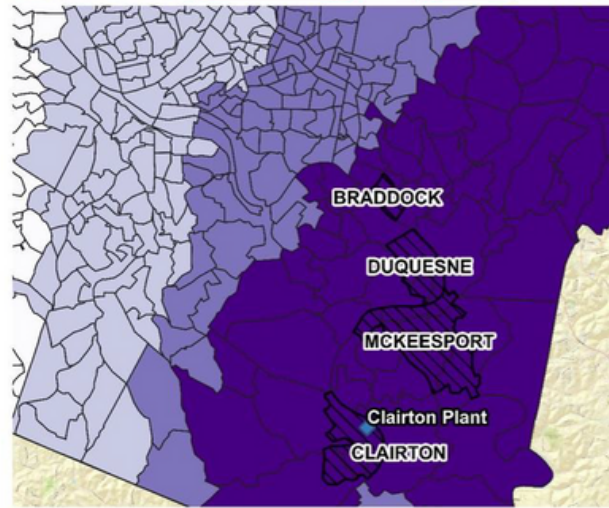
As mentioned in the previous sections, **Clairton Coke Works recorded 831 violations between January 1, 2020, and March 15, 2022**, for not filtering emissions from unloading hot coke during production. With Clairton being the largest coke manufacturing facility in the U.S. this is a process that can last all day due to their large production needs.



Emissions from the **Edgar Thomson Plant** result in an estimated **22** PM_{2.5}-related excess deaths per year.²



Emissions from the **Irvin Plant** result in an estimated **41** PM_{2.5}-related excess deaths per year.



Emissions from the **Clairton Plant** result in an estimated **61** PM_{2.5}-related excess deaths per year.

¹ The annual PM_{2.5} contribution for each plant represents the annual average for 2019 in µg/m³
² These impacts (deaths) attributable to each facility may be within and beyond the geographic area displayed in each figure

To have so many noxious gasses in the air could severely trigger people with sensitive respiratory systems, causing them to miss work or school. For parents who suffer it is hard to keep financial stability within the home because of these exceeding sick days that are mainly due to them living in a polluted community. Even with tobacco smoke, obesity, and other factors it still showed air pollution was still the top reason for missed days.

Despite all this, supervising staff at these facilities and some local politicians, including Clairton's mayor, seem to believe that there is no problem with our community's air quality. Even when current facts and statistics are given to them, they still seem to think that air pollution is not the main reason for these health disparities. Their main concern is the possibility of losing their jobs, which is not the intent nor ability of environmentalists. If this issue is not realized and addressed soon at least 100 lives could be lost due to their consistent exposure to this air pollution.

Follow the Money

During the first quarter of 2022 the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) issued \$458,225 in stipulated penalties for more air violations. In March of 2022, the ACHD issued another fine to U.S. Steel for more than \$1.8 million for their hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) emissions. This came just weeks after the health department fined U.S. Steel nearly \$2 million dollars for a gas leak at the Clairton Coke Works plant. Many residents are frustrated with the fact that US Steel would rather pay millions in fines than invest into upgrades that would lower them.

The biggest shock came in **April 2020 when US Steel announced that they would be canceling their previously agreed on \$1.5 billion investment in the Mon Valley.** This investment was planned to upgrade the Mon Valley works' equipment, including its three leaking batteries that are still operating till this day. Fixing these batteries could have made a great impact in the health of the community but the company decided to instead invest in \$3 billion dollars on a new facility in Arkansas.

Community Benefit Trust

Majority of the fines collected by U.S Steel have been put into the U.S. Steel Community Benefit Trust Fund which is a resident-governed board composed of one resident from each of the five communities affected. The board meets in private at least once every six months and calls for meetings to be listed on the official websites of each community at least 30 days in advance. , These board members are the only ones that can approve project funding for proposals that are sent to them, even if they're not air related. Much of the money in the Community trust is being spent on proposals for security cameras, building renovations, and other community upgrades that, even though helpful to the community, will not improve the air quality.



Why is the air still bad? cont.

Follow the Money cont.

In their last report they showed how \$2.33 million collected from Jan. 31, 2020, through Dec. 31, 2021 was distributed amongst the five communities. These communities include Clairton, Glassport, Liberty, Lincoln, and Port Vue. Below is a list of investments that were made in Clairton, totaling \$665,302 in 2021:

- \$250,000 for a combination solar-powered, Wi-Fi-capable cameras and street lights
- \$200,000 for a recreational facility to be located at 571 Miller Avenue
- \$149,816 for a 2020 Peterbilt Dump Truck equipped with snowplow and salt spreader
- \$48,000 for the demolition of an unspecified abandoned, unsafe structure
- \$35,000 for the demolition of an unsafe structure at 438 St. Clair Avenue

The remaining money went to Lincoln Borough (\$613,332), Port Vue Borough (\$534,500), Glassport Borough (\$431,649), and Liberty Borough (\$87,187) for their various community needs.



Funding for the Air Quality Program comes from a number of sources. The largest source is fees charged to businesses and others that generate pollutants. Grants from the EPA provide a significant amount of funds as well.

Clean Air Fund

The Clean Air fund receives 10% of these funds to support activities related, but not limited to:

- Improve air quality within Allegheny County
- Doing public education, health effect studies, and surveys concerning air pollution
- Special purpose air monitoring, as defined by the EPA
- Acquire consulting or other services from persons with special experience and/or expertise
- Purchase equipment, materials, services and facilities to support the air quality program
- Any other project consistent with the provisions of Article XXI and mission of the Board of Health

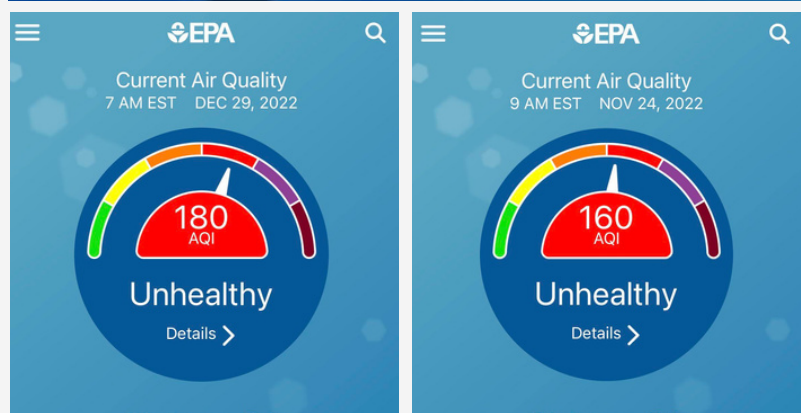
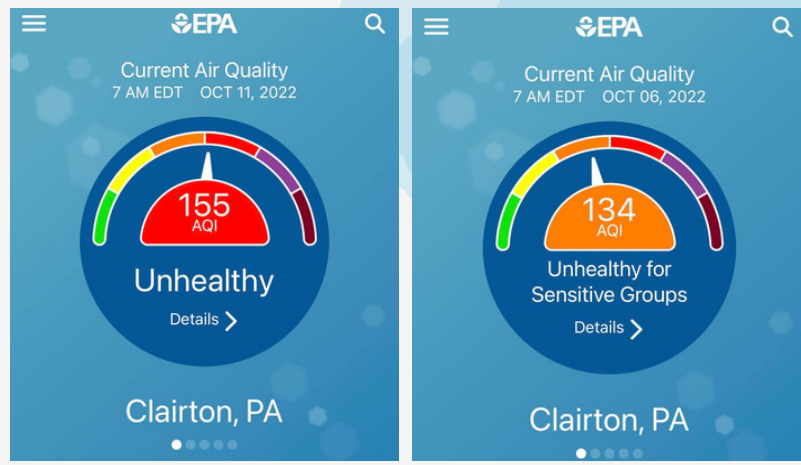
Those looking to submit proposals can do so on their site where it will be reviewed by the Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee before being approved by the Board of Health. These funds as well as the Trust funds CANNOT be used by polluters to meet air quality standards.

Why is the air still bad? cont.

2. Many residents and workers are unaware of bad air days

After the December 2018 fire and its aftermath, many residents came to public meetings to voice their concerns. Many expressed their frustration of not knowing about the fire until the health department issued a warning saying "residents should limit outdoor activity" on January 9, 2019—more than 2 weeks after the fire had happened. The very preventable exposure to the harmful pollutants released by the fire caused many issues within the surrounding community, including more emergency room visits and an inability to sleep comfortably at night among sensitive groups.

In 2019 and 2020, air quality was considered unhealthy for more than half of the days in each year. In 2020, air quality in the Pittsburgh region was considered **POOR** for a total of 170 days; which decreased from the 2019 total of 230 days. Many residents are fully unaware of these bad air days when they are happening, especially during the overnight spikes when most are asleep. Many of these bad air days are sending children home from school and causing employees to take sick days without them knowing their trigger.



Mon Valley Air Pollution Episode Rule

In September of 2021 the Allegheny County council passed the Mon Valley Air Pollution Episode Rule. The rule requires companies to reduce emissions during periods of unhealthy air in the Mon Valley and to warn residents about these bad air quality days, so that residents can take steps to protect themselves. Under the rule, the county would issue inversion "watches" and "warnings", and would be expected to implement pollution-lowering practices.

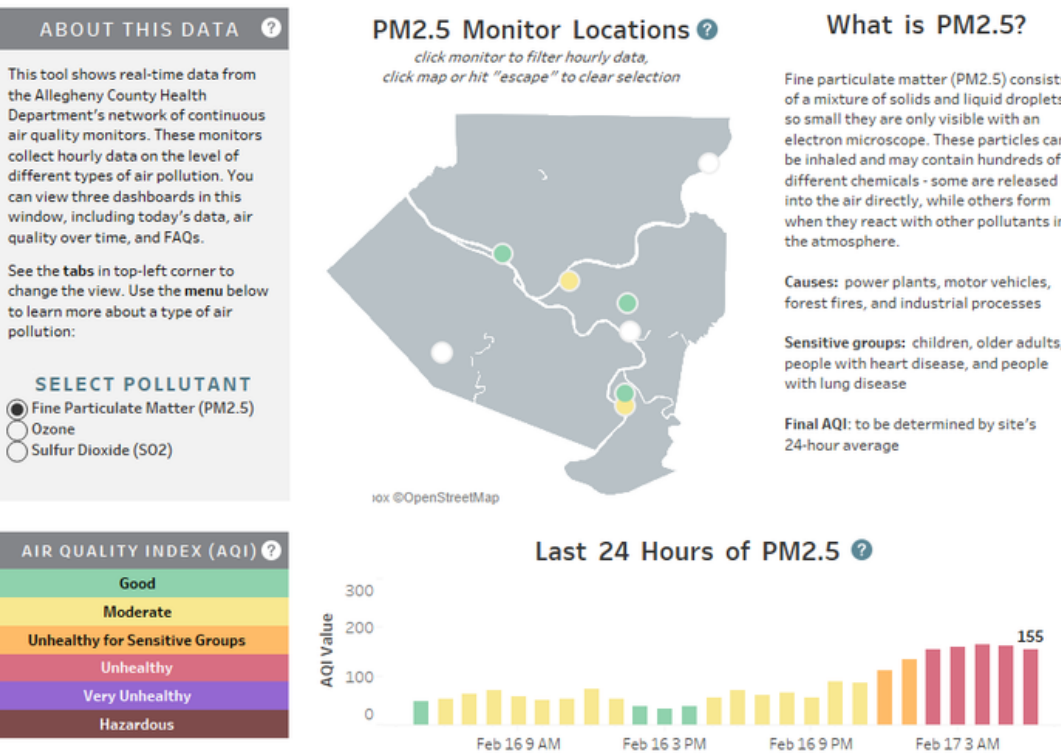
Why is the air still bad? cont.

On October 5, 2021, the Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD) issued an enforcement order against Neville Chemical Company for violating emissions limits in their Title V permit. Title V is a permit of the Clean Air Act that requires major sources of air pollutants to obtain and operate in compliance with their standard. This was due to a leak that caused many residents to complain about smelling a strong odor in the air. Following the closing of the Shenango Coke plant in 2015, residents found that their pollution issues were still far from over.

Like mentioned in the history section we, along with our health department are still fighting with facilities to properly engage and protect the health of nearby residents. With recent events resulting in hundreds of complaints, a consent decree, and multiple lawsuits, it's safe to say that we still have more work to do. Luckily we have many advocacy organizations and Watchdog groups that are ensuring residents are aware of these hazardous days.

Currently the only alerts residents can receive for major air events is the Allegheny County alert system mentioned in the resource section. You can receive these alerts via text, email, phone call, or even mail.

Allegheny County Air Quality TODAY



.Perhaps most disappointing, is the utter silence of the ACHD leadership and board in response to this statement by the county. You may not have considered how offensive it is to be regarded as "extremists" by your own government when you just want to breathe clean air, but now you know." As an environmental advocate myself i cant tell you it is both exhausting and disheartning to come to meeting after meeting to beg for clean air only to be ruled out by your own decision-makers just because they don't believe. This is doubly hard for us because we are the ones that see the pain it's causing the community who are even more unheard than us.

3. Inadequate monitoring with lack of transparency

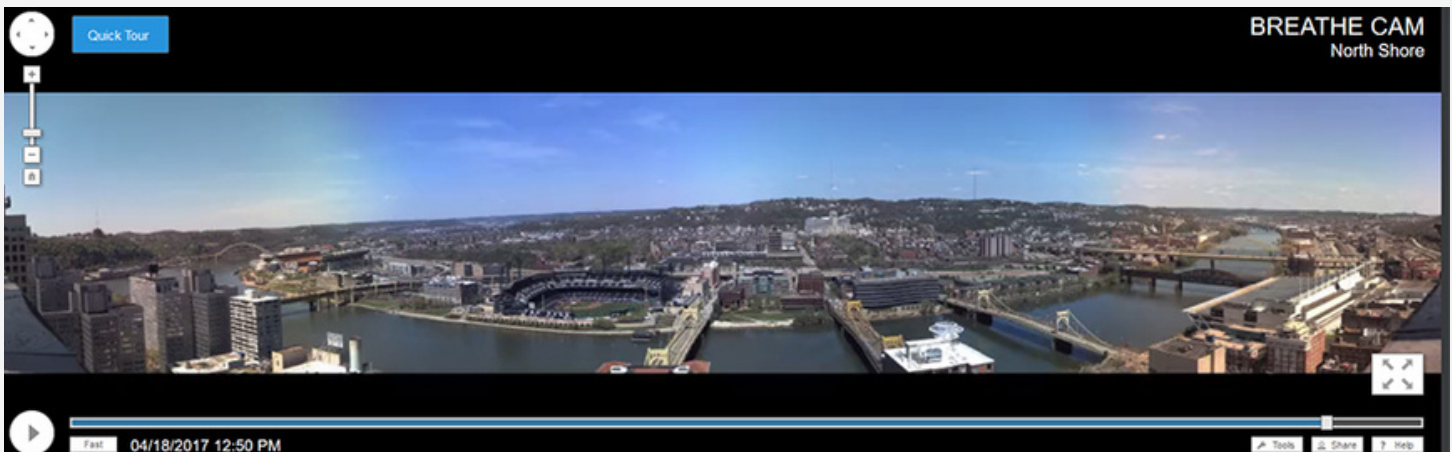
In order for residents to know that there is bad air we need to accurately monitor it 24/7 everyday of the year. These monitors are what the ACHD uses to determine the quality of air to report on their sites, and what standards are enforced on polluters. Thanks to their readings we were able to find out where the pollutants were traveling and when during the day it's at its highest.

3. Inadequate monitoring with lack of transparency cont.

Breathe Cameras

This led to many good changes in heavily polluted areas like the closing of the Shenango plant on Neville island in the city. In 2011 the Breathe Project received funds from the Heinz Foundation to install Breathe Cams around the county. These **high-resolution cameras are zoomable, with a 24-hour live camera feed of Pittsburgh's skyline, the Mon Valley, and the Ohio River Valley.** This along with the CMU Plume app shows the community in real time what's going on with their air, but these numbers can also serve an even greater purpose.

When our communities are fighting for lower regulations around air pollution, we unfortunately need to show statistical proof that these bad air days are not getting better, and are negatively impacting the health of residents. Many health reports including ACHD's have helped provide many of the information you are reading in this report. This information helps us show fellow residents, and decision-makers this issue.



Many organizations involved in the Breathe Collaborative have worked diligently to provide residents with information, and resources like air monitors and the much needed air filters. These efforts have helped many residents take some control over their exposure, and have kept them aware of when bad air days are occurring. Regardless of this effort they still have to deal with the barrier of protecting themselves from the bad air that awaits them outside. Thankfully these tools have helped encourage many residents to advocate for clean air due to the shocking results of their own personal experiences.

Edgar Thompson Mill - Rotten Egg Smell

Recently, a consent decree was proposed to U.S. Steel as a result of a 2017 joint enforcement by the EPA and ACHD. This decree was done to address the many violations from Edgar Thompson Mills continuous rotten egg smell. In the decree they call for U.S. Steel to pay \$1.5 million in civil penalty, and to make numerous improvements at the North Braddock facility.

The Edgar Thomson facility produces molten iron (or "pig iron") in their blast furnaces to turn iron (from Minnesota) into steel using the coke (from Clairton) by way of the basic oxygen process (BOP) From 2017 to recent times much wasn't known about efforts being done to improve these violations at Edgar Thompson. The proposed decree mandated that U.S. Steel hire contractors to conduct studies on key emissions-control equipment in order to be "in compliance" with ACHD rules and regulations." Previously mentioned pollutants H₂S and SO₂ was added to this decree to ensure their plans to stay in compliances are actually working.

Additionally they included the need for a camera set up at common sources of visible emissions including their blast furnace stove stacks. Lastly and more importantly they also required US Steel to hire a third-party contractor to do a Maintenance Practices Audit at the facility. This audit will determine the conditions of all emitting equipment while also developing a plan to train their workers on how to implement improvement plans. Post-contract US Steel will be required to continue this self-audits on an annual basis.



The final Consent Decree was approved in December 2022 and was identical to the Decree that was made public in May 2022 before public comment. In this matter, the public had no voice. These collective efforts could help us better pinpoint pollutant violations as they happen, so that immediate action can be taken. But knowing that little to no public input was added instills even more lack of accountability and distrust within the community.

During public comment in May of this year, many community members along with local advocacy groups showed up to share their testimonies at the Allegheny County Board of Health meeting. **Over 300 residents submitted and vocalized their comments in support of stronger rules and regulations for the Mon Valley plants.** Even though many are for this change, there was much push back from workers and executives from US Steel who claimed these enforcement were too strict and are costing the company money which resulted in job loss. This statement of "job loss" is often used during these meetings to divide people but making these changes for a better facility can actually increase jobs.



Many of the participant labeled our people as extremist but air advocate Mark Dixon had a great response to that during public comment, stating

"Are we extremists if we don't want to breathe foul-smelling SO2 or H2S emissions many times each month? Are we extremists if we don't want to live with some of the worst air in the nation?...Perhaps most disappointing, is the utter silence of the ACHD leadership and board in response to this statement by the county. You may not have considered how offensive it is to be regarded as "extremists" by your own government when you just want to breathe clean air, but now you know."

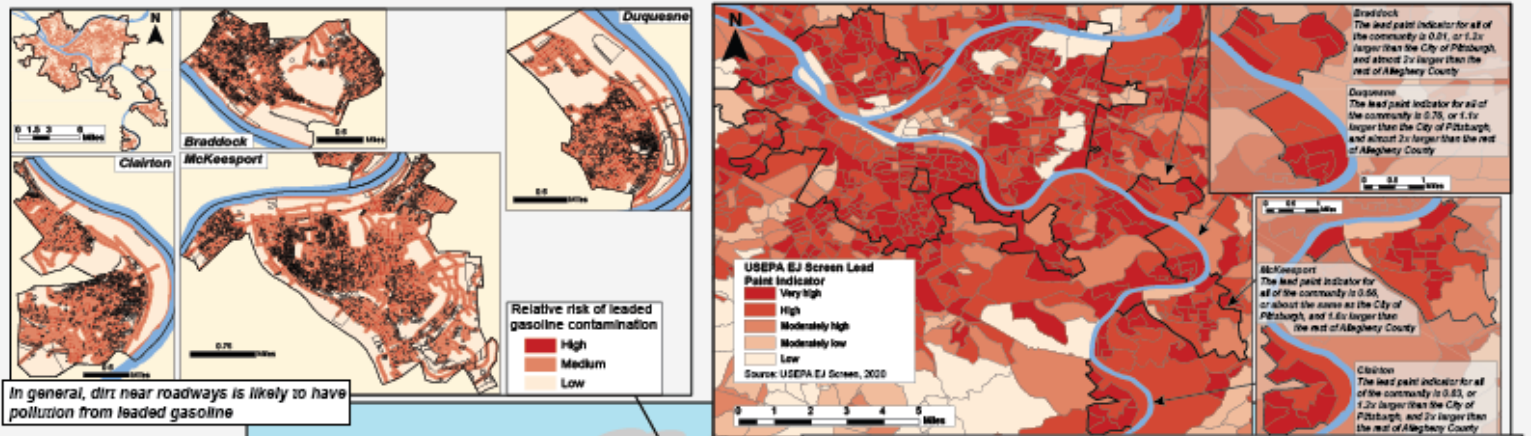
Conclusion



Despite efforts at the local, state, and federal levels to regulate air pollution in Allegheny County, industrial facilities in the region continue to violate pollution standards causing serious harm to the health and wellbeing of our communities. Without an effective way of alerting residents when air quality reaches dangerous levels, people will continue to breathe in unhealthy air that is slowly killing them. From steelworkers to little league athletes to even retired residents, we are all being harmed by these toxins that fill our air.

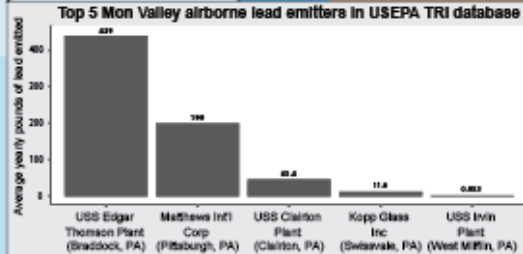
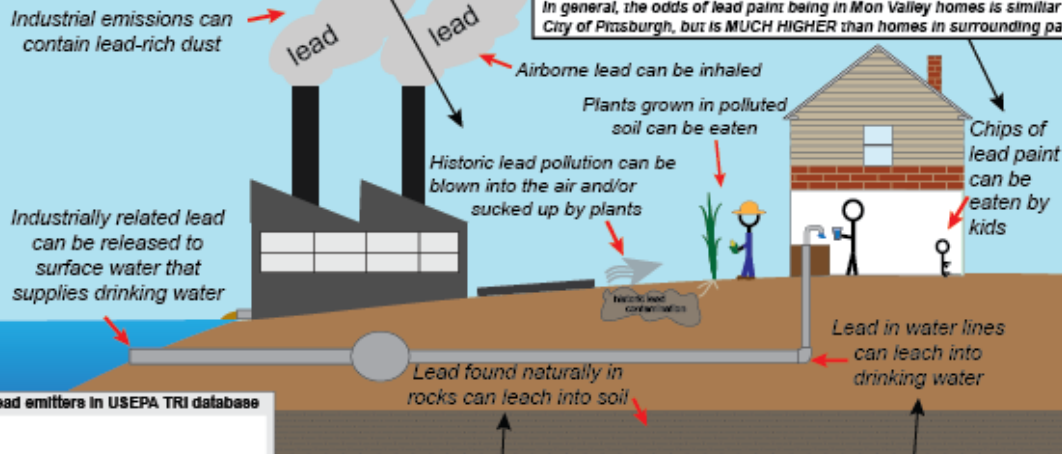
In the next section we will discuss strategies in place or being planned to combat all the issues we've covered.

Lead exposure can occur from many processes, to fully account for the risk of lead ingestion, all sources should be considered



In general, dirt near roadways is likely to have pollution from leaded gasoline

In general, the odds of lead paint being in Mon Valley homes is similar to those of homes in the City of Pittsburgh, but is MUCH HIGHER than homes in surrounding parts of Allegheny County



The typical amount of lead found in Pittsburgh area rocks is 0.005% of the total rock weight.

In other words...

1,000,000 lbs rock (about 40 schoolbuses) → 50 lbs lead

Source: Roast, unpublished data

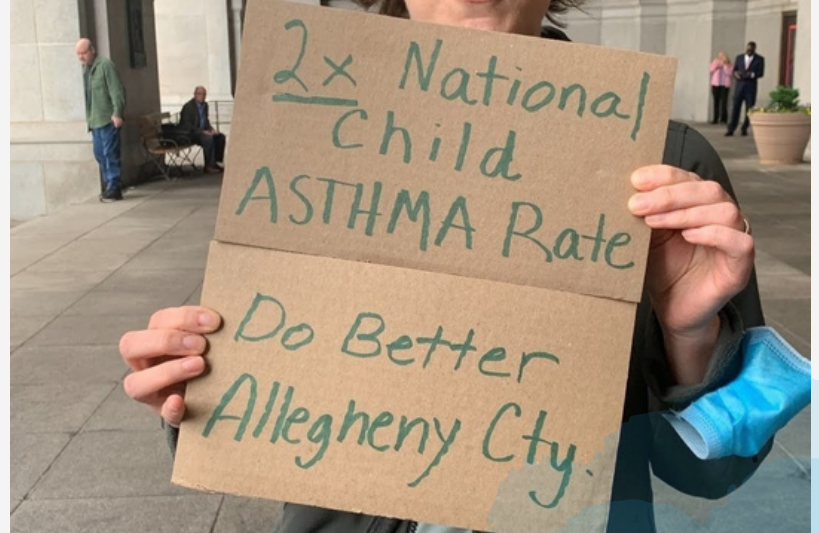
Community	Public Water Supplier	% of samples with high lead
Braddock	Braddock Boro	6
	Wilksburg Penn	5
Clairton	PA American Water	3
Duquesne	Duquesne Muni	1
McKeesport	MAWC McKeesport	2



How can we clean the air?

There are several solutions that we can urge elected officials and industry leaders to adopt to ensure that the air in our community is clean and healthy for us all to breathe. But a common question we get is "what can we do NOW to change it?"

Below are some of the actions being done by resident-groups and organizers to improve our bad air. These solutions are ongoing and will grow and change as more information or finances are gained. We hope once you finish reading this section you will have hope for change and can find a way to take your own actions.



1. Reducing pollutants by updating equipment to meet clean air standards

Emissions that contribute to air pollution were found to be a primary driver of nearby residents' poor health. Reducing these emissions by as little as 15 percent can have a significant impact on the overall health of the community. The easiest way to reduce a large amount of pollutants in the air is by updating industrial facilities' equipment to meet all good air quality standards, and implementing more sustainable practices. Solving maintenance issues like the leaking, soon-to-be idled batteries could have drastic improvements in our pollution numbers. If facilities had plans like the consent decree mentioned above, issues like this could be resolved prior to or quickly after an exceedance while also notifying the public. Environmental advocates often find themselves at public meetings with residents, pushing for stronger action to be made so decision-makers are aware this is an urgent community need.



Workers Health

These actions not only help residents but they will also improve the health and safety of workers. **The National Cancer Institute stated that "long-term exposure to coke oven emissions in humans results in pink eye, severe skin irritation, as well as lesions of the respiratory system and digestive system"** They also found that exposure can lead to a higher risk of cancer too. So this is not just a solution that benefits residents, but it actually benefits workers the most.

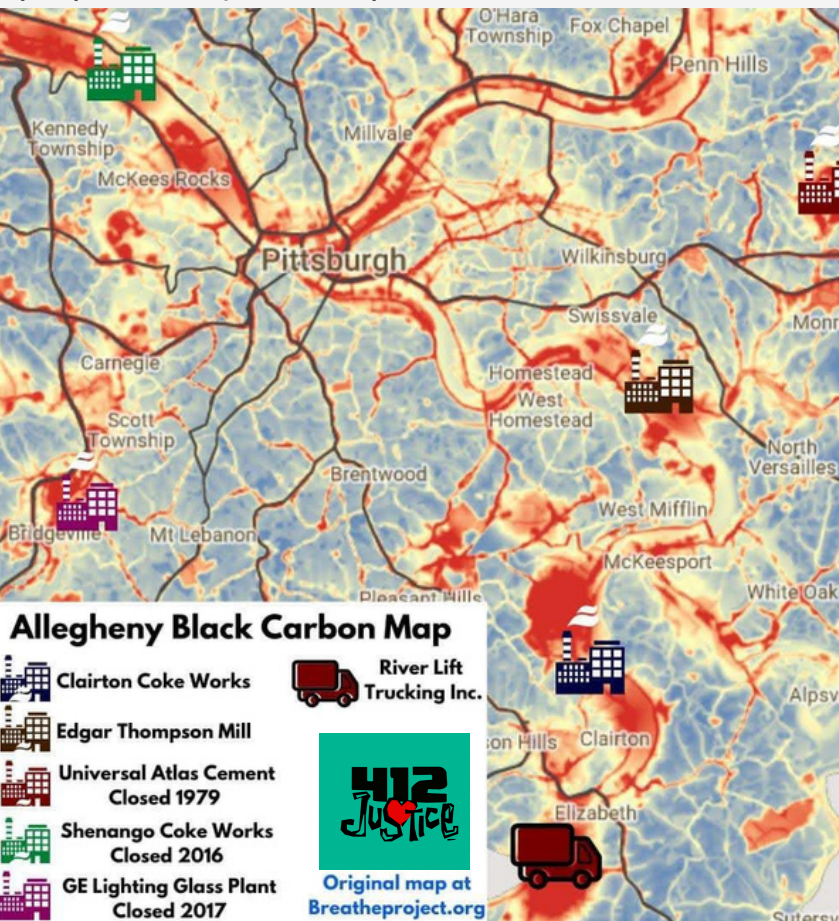


1. Reducing pollutants by updating equipment to meet clean air standards cont.

Valley Clean Air Now

Resident-led organization Valley Clean Air Now (VCAN) is currently working with local partners to work on solving the gap of the health information we need to further prove that this is a health crisis. Using a survey they want to understand the current health of residents around the Clairton facility. They've even been working to also raise their own funds with partner Clean Water Action to provide residents with indoor filters. The survey they are planning (like the monitor) not only helps groups like VCAN better advocate for action, but it helps us better serve residents with needed resources.

Even after many improvements, we must always **remind people that the healthiest levels of these pollutants are as close to ZERO as possible.** Advocates with the support of local residents are able to push for many of the improvements we've mentioned in this report but our fight won't stop until our air is 100% clean. The ideal option is to transition these facilities into clean energy or renewable source facilities that have little to no pollution to deal with. There are many industries in the nation moving toward these greener options to better help us meet our climate goals, but there are still many that aren't on board. Even if we can't change the minds of the industries, we can make sure that those responsible are held accountable by the people whose job it is to protect us from these harms.



2. Educating residents about bad air days with proper notification

In order for residents to give good public comments, they need to know what's going on. Even though this report was created to educate residents, there's always new information coming out around the various Environmental issues. We can personally tell you after several updates made to this report that there's always something happening in the environmental world.

When the **Mon Valley Episode Rule** was signed into law, facilities were ordered to reduce emissions by 11 percent or more. Even though having this rule is a step in the right direction, more needs to be done as we are seeing the drastic effects of climate change quicker. Notifying residents about dangerous levels of pollutants within 24 hours could drastically reduce emergency room visits, respiratory attacks and could overall improve the mental wellbeing and safety of residents.

2. Educating residents about bad air days with proper notification

We need a communication system that notifies residents as soon as the monitors show hazardous air conditions—not days, or weeks, later. Community organizations believe that if this rule is violated, an alert should go out immediately to residents to warn them of particularly dangerous levels of air pollution near the facility. Efforts like the Allegheny alerts have been helpful, but without engaging the community to let them know it's available, it's not as helpful as it could be.

Community organizations who are working with limited grant funds have often taken on the burden of engaging residents. From posting watchdog alerts, to canvassing the community, or providing resources, they have been working together to find ways to ensure residents are receiving the information they need to protect themselves from harm. Even though this is a valid effort, it is actually the responsibility of the ACHD and EPA to ensure residents are aware and safe from these harms. With ACHD having the "mission to to protect, promote, and preserve the health and well-being of all Allegheny County residents, particularly the most vulnerable" it is no confusion that this is their responsibility.

The non-profit Breathe Collaborative often brings up the issues of transparency with US Steel and ACHD in many meetings. Even with consistent appearances to board meetings this collaborative still experiences lack of transparency amongst many decision makers whose rulings could change the current standard/quality. ACHD has done some proper engagement with the community but has much more transparency and consistency is needed to make collaborative impact.



3. Provide resources to communities who are particularly vulnerable to bad air quality

Until a better system is implemented, residents can engage with organizations like the ones listed in the resource section. We're aware that cleaning the air will take time but resident's needed help generations ago so we need to take direct action today! Below we've mentioned some preventive measures people are taking, but with limited resources amongst organizations we are only making a small dent in what the residents need. If you're a resident that could benefit from some of these resources be sure to check out the resource section.





3. Provide resources to communities who are particularly vulnerable to bad air quality cont.

Air Monitor

Organizations are working to provide at-home air quality monitors for residents in addition to the filters mentioned above. This costly task may not solve all of the issues but it does give residents the awareness they need to understand the air quality around them. For seniors, youth, and residents who have pre-existing health conditions you're especially vulnerable to bad air days, so having an air monitor at home could be extremely helpful.

At-home monitors for indoors and outdoors can allow residents to track air pollution in real-time, so that they know when it is unsafe to be outside or engage in physical activities. Clean Water Action ran a residential air filter program that currently has a long waiting list showing the large need for this resource.

Air Filters

Community leaders are also looking to consider installing larger filters in commercial buildings like rec centers and daycares to make sure all spaces are safe to breathe in. Buildings like this can also be known as clean air refuges for residents during bad air days. Residents, especially youth who still want to enjoy physical and social activities can use these spaces as safe places during any climate emergency. The canvassing and surveying that our organizer will do can help further spread these resources to community members who need them.

Just Transitioning

Infrastructure repairs like home weatherizations can also make a positive impact on the health of residents. Even our city, who's very prideful about our steel reputation, are saying that we have shifted to a more high tech and health based economy. The shift to clean renewable energy is inevitable at this point and with climate change also being a priority federally, we see and expect more investments into these solutions. Even with the feuds we see in politics today, more elected officials representing our county are starting to see the need for a cleaner future for us all.

This change doesn't have to result in mass layoffs like before. The Just Transition was made so that those in the fossil fuel industry (who we also advocate for) would be able to shift their jobs to the upcoming green industrial change. **Training and continued financial support is a priority in this process for us because this transition shouldn't come at a cost to worker #UnionStrong.** Not only do we need to help transfer people to these jobs, but we want to ensure those unemployed within the community also have priority access to them. These jobs are not trying to take away from fossil fuel jobs, they are trying to "Transition" them to safer and healthier standards even within the current industries.

Photo by: Breathe Project





How can we clean the air? cont.

Just Transitioning cont.

Many don't mention the fact that some of the people who come to speak against US Steel are former and sometimes current US steelworkers. Many of them speak about the lasting effects of their employment, but even more speak on the fear of losing their job regardless of the stance they take. We as organizers actually empathize with this issue because many of the workers are residents as well who equally suffer from these disinvestments in their community. This conversation is a key reason for the Just Transition movement that was started by mining advocates across the state.

Just Transition is a vision-led, unifying and place-based set of principles, processes, and practices that build economic and political power to shift from an extractive economy to a regenerative economy. This August **the president signed a climate, health care and tax package called the Inflation Act**. This act has popularly been named the biggest investment in climate, investing nearly \$369 billion in clean energy while also holding oil and gas companies accountable for polluting our communities. A historic amount of \$60 billion is going specifically to Environmental Justice communities. These investments cover many solutions like lowering clean energy, creating workforce development for good paying jobs, investing in electric vehicles, and much more.

As more details come out for our state's investment we hope to utilize the high visibility of this great investment to push many of these efforts forward faster. As always we will be keeping a close eye on the movements of this investment to ensure funds are going to the right place. If you also want to join us in making sure this money reaches communities that actually need the investment, be sure of two things: Keep updated on what's going on, and participate in related Call-to-Actions from ACHD.



Conclusion

With the proper investment and education the EJ communities in Allegheny County could at the very least start the path to clean energy. Small and big investments could and will make such a difference in these communities. It can support equipment upgrade, increase staff cost for more engagement, and could even start a training program from the green jobs coming to our state. I know this is a lot to take in but it's truly important to the livelihood of ALL who live near these facilities. If you want to further educate yourself on these topics be sure to check out the links in our reference page.

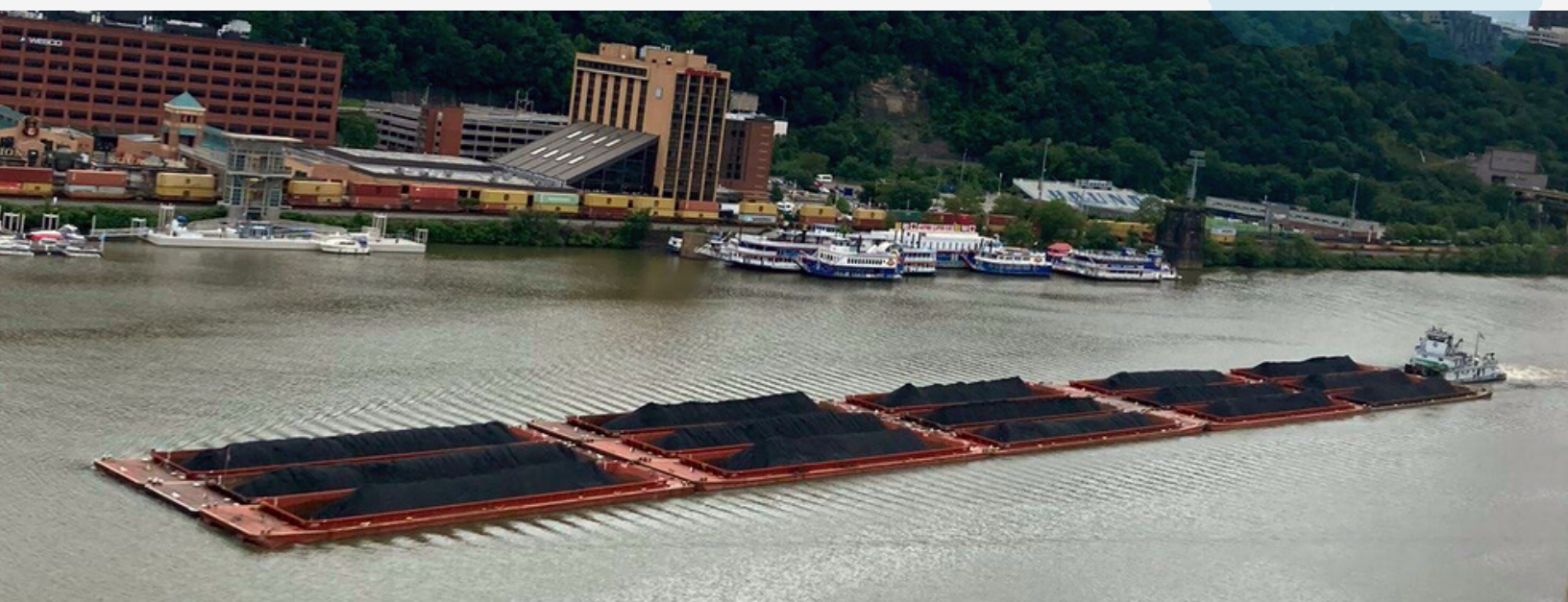


Conclusion cont.

To keep this ending as simple as the report I want to conclude all of this by giving you all 3 key actions you can do to stay active in these efforts to clean our community's environment.

- Sign up for a newsletter with one of the many organizations mentioned, and the Allegheny alerts.
- Share your personal concerns in as many public comment meetings as possible, and sign related petitions
- Hold your decision-makers accountable for all the decisions they make that negatively impact your community. Their job is to make sure we are provided a clean environment, so make sure they do so with a call, email, or even a personal chat.

If you're a resident who feels passionate about these the best way to help advocate is to show up to public comment with your personal experiences. This can be in person or written, but this action helps tell our decision-makers that these experiences are real amongst the majority of the community, not just the few "trouble-makers" that show up. We've seen in many meetings the difference a packed room or inbox filled with comments can do to an important council ruling. You never know who you might touch with your words, so next time you see a call for public comment we'd greatly appreciate you taking a few moments to make a comment. With the world becoming more digital, this has become an easier task, but there are some meetings that aren't as accessible. But don't be discouraged because organizations like ours are always working to eliminate such barriers.



Air pollution doesn't stop at dark skies, Check the iceberg



Greenhouse Gases - gases in the earth's atmosphere that trap heat

Traffic Pollution - pollution that is caused by cars, trucks, motorcycles ect.

Eye Irritation- sensations that bother the eyes, like dryness, itchiness, burning and grittiness

Fossil fuel - non-renewable energy sources such as coal, coal products, natural gas, derived gas, crude oil, petroleum products and non-renewable wastes.

Emissions - the production and discharge of something, especially gas or radiation.

Climate Change - long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns.

Smog - fog or haze combined with smoke and other atmospheric pollutants

Soot - a black powdery or flaky substance consisting largely of amorphous carbon, produced by the incomplete burning of organic matter.

Asthma - A chronic disease in which the bronchial airways in the lungs become narrowed and swollen, making it difficult to breathe.

Pollution - the introduction of harmful materials into the environment.

Particular matter (PM) - made up of particles (tiny pieces) of solids or liquids that are in the air.

Air pollution doesn't stop at dark skies, Check the iceberg

Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S) /Rotten egg smell- is a colorless gas known for its pungent "rotten egg" odor at low concentrations. It is extremely flammable and highly toxic.

Clean Air Act - a comprehensive Federal law that regulates all sources of air emissions.

Ozone - a colorless unstable toxic gas with a pungent odor and powerful oxidizing properties, formed from oxygen by electrical discharges or ultraviolet light.

Carcinogens - a substance, organism or agent capable of causing cancer.

Cardiovascular & Respiratory disease - definition

Environmental Justice Communities - definition

"Twenty-five years ago people could be excused for not knowing much, or doing much, about climate change. Today we have no excuse."

- Desmond TuTu (noble peace prize winner)

Other Environmental Glossaries'

- www.iejusa.org/glossary-and-appendix
- www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/ej-2020-glossary
- www.epa.gov/report-environment/roe-glossary
- www.hhs.gov/climate-change-health-equity-environmental-justice/glossary/
- www.niehs.nih.gov/health/topics/glossary/index.cfm
- www.nj.gov/health/ceohs/public-health-tracking/glossary.shtml
- www.health.ny.gov/environmental/glossary/

Community Resources

Breathe Project - breatheproject.org - Energy Innovation Center, Suite 140, 1435 Bedford Avenue 15219 - email

Breath Cam - <https://breatheproject.org/breathe-cam/>

Breathe meter - <https://breatheproject.org/breathe-meter/>

Pollution Map - <https://breatheproject.org/pollution-map/>

Action Housing - actionhousing.org - 611 William Penn Place, Suite 800, 15219 - (412) 281-2102

Weatherization Assistance Program - actionhousing.org/our-services/weatherization/

Homeowner Assistance Program (HAP) - actionhousing.org/our-services/affordable-home-repairs/

Allegheny County Rehabilitation Program - actionhousing.org/our-services/allegheny-county-rehabilitation-program/

Air & Waste Management Association - www.awma.org - 436 Seventh Avenue, Suite 2100, 15219 - (412)-232-3444 - info@awma.org

Allegheny County Clean Air Now (ACCAN) - <http://accan.org> - 7501 Church Avenue, Ben Avon, PA 15202

Air Quality - www.alleghenycounty.us/Health-Department/Programs/Air-Quality

Allegheny County Conservation District - www.accdpa.org - 317 East Carson Street, Suite 119, 15219 - (412) 241-7645

Watershed Assistance - www.accdpa.org/watershed-assistance

Allegheny County Health Department - alleghenycounty.us/healthdepartment/ - 542 Fourth Ave, 15219 - 412-687-2243

Community Resources

Allegheny County Health Department -

alleghenycounty.us/healthdepartment/ - 542 Fourth Ave, 15219 - 412-687-2243

American Lung Assoc. (PA) - lung.org - 625 N Governor Printz Blvd, Suite 2, 19029

Blue Lens - <http://lens.blue/video> - mark@lens.blue

Beaver Marcellus Awareness Community -

<https://www.marcellusawareness.org> - info@marcellusawareness.org

Carnegie Mellon University Center for Atmospheric Particle Studies (CAPS) - <https://particulate-matter.cmu.edu/> - Carnegie Mellon University, Baker Hall 129H, 15213 - petera@andrew.cmu.edu

Carnegie Mellon University CREATE Lab - cmucreatelab.org

Plume Pittsburgh - <https://plumepgh.org/>

Smell Pittsburgh - <http://smellpgh.org/>

Center for Healthy Environments & Communities (CHEC), University of Pittsburgh - <http://www.chec.pitt.edu> - Pitt Public Health Building, 130 DeSoto Street, A419, 15261 - fabs@pitt.edu - 412-624-7335

Clean Air Council - <https://cleanair.org/> - 200 1st Avenue, Suite 200, 15222 - 412-954-8494

Clean Water Action -

www.cleanwateraction.org/states/pennsylvania - 100 5th Avenue
Suite 1108, 15222 - pittsburgh@cleanwater.org - 412.765.3053

Climate Reality Pittsburgh & SWPA - climaterealitypghswpa.org

Community Partners in Asthma Care - 282 St Clair Ave - 412-636-2505

Conservation Voters of PA - www.conservationpa.org - P.O. Box 2125, 19103 - (215) 564-3350 - info@conservationpa.org

DEP Southwest Regional Office - www.dep.pa.gov - 400 Waterfront Drive, 15222 - 412-442-4000

Duquesne University Center for Integrative Health Asthma program - www.duq.edu/academics/schools/pharmacy/centers-and-programs/integrative-health/asthma-program

Environmental Health Project, Southwest Pennsylvania - www.environmentalhealthproject.org - 2001 Waterdam Plaza, Suite 201, 15317 - info@environmentalhealthproject.org - (724) 260-5504

Community Resources

Environmental Integrity Project - environmentalintegrity.org - 1000 Vermont Avenue, NW, Suite 1100, 20005 - (202) 296-8800

EPA PA - www.epa.gov/pa -1650 Arch Street, 19103-2029 - (215) 814-5122

Air Now - <https://www.airnow.gov/>

Air Sensor Toolbox - <https://www.epa.gov/air-sensor-toolbox>

Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP) - www.gasp-pgh.org -1133 South Braddock Avenue, Suite 1A, 15218 - info@gasp-pgh.org - 412-924-0604

Mom's Clean Air Force - www.momscleanairforce.org - info@momscleanairforce.org

North Braddock Residents For Our Future - nbrfof.org - residentsforourfuture@gmail.com

PennEnvironment Research and Policy Center - environmentamerica.org/pennsylvania - 1713 S. Broad St. #54807, 19148 - environmentamerica.org/pennsylvania - (215) 732-5897

PennFuture - www.pennfuture.org - 200 First Avenue, STE 200, 15222 - email - 412-456-2780

Pennsylvania Environmental Council - pecpa.org - 810 River Avenue, Suite 201, 15212 - (412)-481-9400

Rail Pollution Protection Pittsburgh -
<https://railpollutionprotectionpittsburgh.org/> -
info@railpollutionprotectionpittsburgh.org

ROCIS (Reducing Outdoor Contaminants in Indoor Spaces) -
rocis.org

Tree Pittsburgh - www.treepittsburgh.org - 32 62nd Street, 15201
- (412) 781-TREE (8733) - info@treepittsburgh.org

UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Pediatric Asthma Center -
i4kids.org/asthma - Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, 4401 Penn
Avenue, Rangos Building Floor 9 - i4Kids@pitt.edu - 412-692-5871

UrbanKind Institute - urbankind.org - email - phone

Valley Clean Air Now (VCAN) - valleycleanair.com - Clairton, PA -
info@valleycleanair.com

Women for Healthy for Environment -
womenforahealthyenvironment.org/ - 401 N Highland Avenue, 15206 -
(412) 404-2872

Acknowledgements

Thank you to our FrontLine community organizations

Your contributions to this work is much appreciated



*These reports and the **PSE-generated graphics** within can be used by 412 Justice, as the data used for these graphics were publicly available and not proprietary to OnePA or NDA-obtained. It would be helpful to include language in each report that these graphics were PSE-generated using publicly-available data. PSE is happy to help edit and provide feedback on these reports.*

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



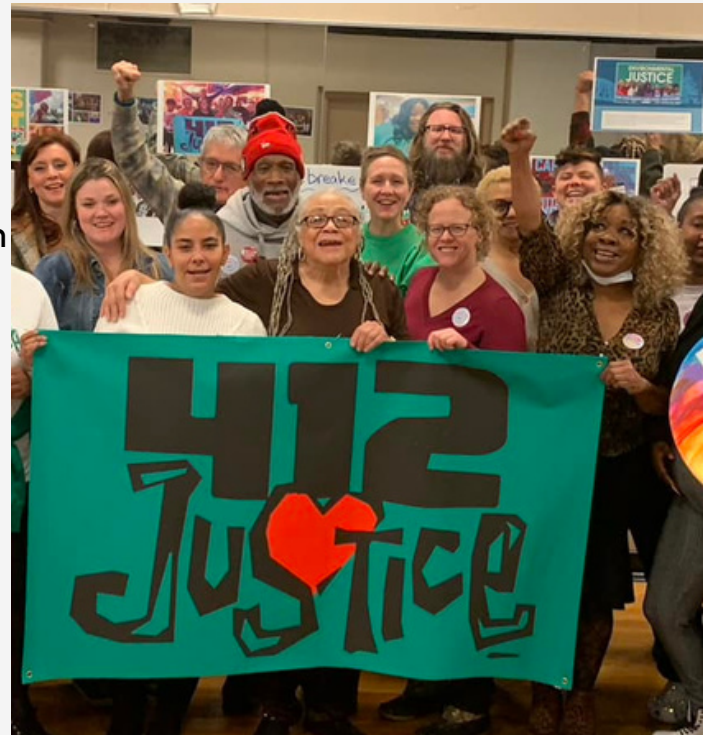
FOR OUR HEALTH, OUR LAND, OUR FUTURE

412 JUSTICE is a multiracial, intergenerational, and multi-issue organization that focuses our efforts around economic, environmental, and education justice. We build deep trust and collaboration with impacted people by creating an inclusive, safe space to learn, ask questions, and use our voice to promote strong, healthy communities and corporate accountability through the redistribution of wealth, power, and resources.

We rise. We build. We win.

Our environmental justice campaigns are focused on ensuring that disinvested communities have access to a clean and healthy environment with resources within their community. This includes but is not limited to reducing air pollution, eliminating lead out of water, transitioning from industrial to green jobs, and increasing access to healthy resources like fresh food and local health facilities.

We fight for Clean Air, Better water quality, Improving our infrastructure, providing quality green jobs, and ensuring that all improvements to our environment are equitable & accesible to all



**AN INSPIRATIONAL
QUOTE FROM MS.
PAM**

*Pamela Lee
(Member since ####)*