

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 10, 2022

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Pennsylvania Climate Convergence 2022 Highlights Youth Climate Leaders' Concerns at the State Capitol June 11-13, 2022

Harrisburg, Pa. – What may be the largest environmental rally and march in Harrisburg since the event for Three Mile Island more than 40 years ago kicks off Saturday with a panel of youth climate activists who will set the tone for the weekend festival, march and rally.

The Youth Climate Panel, to be held Saturday at 6:30 p.m., will be moderated by Philadelphia Inquirer Columnist Will Bunch and feature: Aruaba Genna, Elders Climate Action; Aidan Graber, ProtectPT, Ben Hunkler, Ohio River Valley Institute (ORVI); Ilyas Khan, Sunrise Pittsburgh; Robert Malone, Sunrise Pittsburgh; Ella Israeli, Sunrise Philadelphia; Luna Plaza, Sunrise Pittsburgh.

"Our demand is simple, inspired by the singular clear demand for action made by young Pennsylvania climate leaders like Greta Thunberg," said Karen Feridun, a lead organizer with Better Path Coalition. "This weekend will allow us to bring together people representing a wide array of climate issues who, individually, have many demands but will speak this message with one voice."

"Fossil fuel and corporate interests are playing a cruel game, dumping money into politicians' pockets to keep them from standing up for what's right, while misinforming the public of what's happening, and purposefully obstructing us from making the change needed to protect our shared future," says **Ilyas Khan of Sunrise PA**. "The youth of Pa. will not take this lying down, so to our elected officials in Harrisburg: look out, we'll be voting!"

"We are the children of the fracking boom. For more than a decade, we've endured polluted air and contaminated water, we've watched our downtowns wither and our communities disperse. We've been forced to leave our homes and families in search of economic opportunity," said **Ben Hunkler, communications lead with ORVI**. "We're not the first generation to suffer at the hands of the fossil fuel industry, but we're here today because we aim to be the last."

"The Climate Convergence is important because we have to protest and rally for them (politicians and decision makers) to make sure they see what it is like for us, said **Aidan Graber of ProtectPT**. "We have to change our lifestyles to meet the needs of the challenges that climate change brings and they need to know that. It's important for our voices (the children) to be heard."

Hundreds of advocates, activists and community residents are expected to come together at the state Capitol in Harrisburg to demand that Gov. Tom Wolf, lawmakers, regulators and other state officials step up and take action to lead our state on slowing climate change.

The 3-day event will call out Pennsylvania leaders who have continued to deny climate change while subsidizing continued fossil fuel production and supporting the expansion of the petrochemical industry, fracking and pipelines across the state.

The event kicks off at noon with a Panel Discussion on the **Climate Crisis and False Solutions** followed by a discussion on **Petrochemicals and Plastics, How We Win**, and what **Science is Telling Us**. Author and New York fracking activist Sandra Steingraber and Rolling Stone freelance journalist Justin Noble are among the illustrious speakers. The full lineup of events can be found [here](#).



FEATURED PANEL

Panel Discussions

Youth Leader Climate Panel

SATURDAY, JUNE 11TH | 6:30 - 8 PM

Ariana Genna, Elders Climate Action

Aidan Graber, ProtectPT

Ben Hunkler, Ohio River Valley Institute

Ilyas Khan, Sunrise Pittsburgh

Robert Malone, Sunrise Philadelphia

Ella Israeli, Sunrise Philadelphia

Luna Plaza, Sunrise Pittsburgh

Moderator: Will Bunch, Philadelphia Inquirer

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