



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE/ EVENT ADVISORY

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Contact: Debra Smit, Breathe Project

412-760-7677, [dsmit@breatheproject.org](mailto:dsmit@breatheproject.org)

### **Pittsburgh Earth Week 2020 Coalition Stages a Virtual Teach-In, Youth Climate Strike To Mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day**

Fifty years ago, the first Earth Week drew millions of participants across the U.S. to New York City, a moment that captured the hearts of many Americans who dedicated themselves in the fight for clean water, land and air. Traffic was suspended on Fifth Avenue. Cleanups were organized across the city. A block-long polyethylene bubble allowed people to breath pure, filtered air.

This year, concerns for the safety and health of people around the world due to Covid-19 mean that we will mark the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day connected to one another without the possibility of physical proximity – but with a heightened urgency. **Pittsburgh Earth Week 2020 will be digital!** We will Declare a Climate Emergency with a massive, creative collaboration of dozens of SWPA activists, organizations, artists, musicians and more.

On [Sunday April 19, the Pittsburgh Earth Day 2020 Coalition will stage a Virtual Teach-In](#) that will recognize the ideas and creativity of local people and organizations addressing the ongoing impacts of air pollution, the expanding petrochemical complex and our changing climate. People will learn how they can take action at the personal, community, and systems levels – from recycling and reducing our carbon (and petrochemical) footprint to lobbying elected leaders and voting for the Earth in the upcoming primary and presidential election.

Then, at noon on [April 22](#), a virtual 24-hour **Youth Climate Strike** will begin on Instagram calling for a Climate Emergency declaration hosted by our region's youth leaders and Fridays for Future.

These events hope to unite people across a wide spectrum of histories, backgrounds and communities by elevating our common connection to each other and to the world that sustains

us. Proceeds will be raised during the Teach-In to support the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

Please \*like\* [Pittsburgh Earth Week 2020](#) on Facebook. Sign up for further details and the complete schedule on [Eventbrite](#). We ask that media add this event to your listings and Earth Week coverage.

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