



Jan. 24, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Howard Rieger, SWPA Grassroots Town Halls
hmrieger@gmail.com, (412) 303-4942

Debra Smit, Breathe Project
dsmit@breatheproject.org, 412-760-7677

5th Resident-Led Town Hall This Wednesday, Noon, Jan. 26, 2022 ***ACHD Fails to Leverage Community-Based Science to Fight Deadly Air Pollution***

Features CMU CREATE Lab Air Quality Experts and Grassroots' Response

(Pittsburgh, Pa.) – SWPA residents will continue to advocate for cleaner air quality in our region with a fifth Virtual Grassroots Resident-Led Town Hall, highlighting the tools available to monitor the air pollution that makes our region one of the unhealthiest places to live in America.

Residents believe that if these tools were fully utilized by the Allegheny County Health Dept. (ACHD), it would help to maximize enforcement and lead to cleaner air to breathe.

An open-mike opportunity will follow to allow for an unscripted dialogue of air quality concerns – an excellent opportunity for reporters to hear from new voices!

Wednesday, Jan. 26, 2022, NOON

Join the Zoom Town Hall – [LINK](#)

Register – bit.ly/swpaths5

Or Facebook: [East End Residents Fight Air Pollution](#)

PROGRAM

Moderator [Howard Rieger](#) of East End Residents Fight Air Pollution

City on Fire Video Opening (Blue Lens)

Existing Tools to Better Control Air Pollution (CMU CREATE Lab Team)

Video Faceoff: SmellPGH Vs. ACHD GovGa User Experience (BlueLens)

The View from Hazelwood (Andrea Coleman Betts, resident)

Previous Town Hall Highlights Video and Open Discussion

"In the context of air quality, CREATE Lab tries to publicly document pollution that damages all of our health," says Ana Tshlares Hoffman, director of air quality engagement for CMU's CREATE Lab. "We try to do right by residents who come to us with concerns about exposure to some of our large industrial emitters, and who often tell us they don't believe they're being heard by the industrial point source emitters or the regulators who are tasked with ensuring industry's compliance with the Clean Air Act as well as our commonwealth's constitution-given rights to clean air and pure water for the benefit of all people."

This marks the fifth time that local residents have stepped up to voice their concerns through a regional resident-led coalition to highlight SWPA's unhealthy air quality. The leadership team includes residents from Clairton, Braddock, Uptown, Hazelwood, Homewood, Squirrel Hill, Shadyside, Bellevue, Northside, Franklin Park and Sewickley.

Our region is in the worst 1% of places to live in America for cancers caused by air pollution. Our youth asthma rate for those living closest to the worst sources of pollution is nearly triple the national average.

MEDIA ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND