



SWPA Residents Demand #CleanAirNow!

*Elected Leaders Must Start Listening to the Lived Experience of SWPA Residents
Harmed by Pollution and Take Decisive Action*

- Beaver County has a serious air quality problem. The EPA and American Lung Association¹ give Beaver County a failing grade for ozone levels. Adding pollution to the air shed when the Shell Plastic Plant goes online in 2022 will only make our air quality worse.
- The DEP permit for the Shell plant allows it to emit 522 million tons of volatile organic compounds (VOC) a year and 2.25 million tons of CO₂, a greenhouse gas that will exacerbate climate change. (2015, PADEP)
- Once the Shell Petrochemical Plastic Factory is operational, residents will experience a new source of cancer-causing emissions. The Shell plant will emit formaldehyde, benzene, toluene, naphthalene, nitrogen oxide and other hazardous air pollutants. (2015, PADEP)
- Even though air quality has improved compared with the past, study findings suggest that even at lower concentrations pollution caused by fossil fuels is deadlier than previously understood.
- Pennsylvania has the greatest number of excess deaths due to exposure to PM_{2.5} from fossil fuels per 100,000 people in the United States out of any other state.²
- These findings, combined with the report released by the Ohio River Valley Institute that showed the absence of a positive business case stemming from fossil-fuel-based petrochemical development in the region, call into question any strategies that foreground fossil fuel development as a future-facing viable strategy for healthy and thriving communities.³

¹ [American Lung Association State of the Air, 2021](#)

² [Vohra, Karn. Vodanos, Alina. Schwartz, Joel. Marais, Eloise A. Sulprizio, Melissa P. Mickley, Loretta J. Environmental Research, Global mortality from outdoor fine particle pollution generated by fossil fuel combustion, Results from GEOS-Chem, Volume 195, April 2021, 110754.](#)

³ [O'Leary, Sean, ORVI, Destined to Fail: Why the Appalachian Natural Gas Boom Failed and What it Teaches Us, July 20, 2021.](#)