



EMBARGOED UNTIL SEPT 22 AT NOON

Sept. 22, 2022

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Clean Energy Justice Convergence Calls for Real Solutions to the Climate Emergency

3-Day Event Coincides with the Global Clean Energy Ministerial in Pittsburgh
PRESS CONFERENCE LOCATION: Schenley Plaza, Oakland, NOON Sept. 22, 2022

While the world's energy ministers convene with industry leaders at the Pittsburgh David L. Lawrence Convention Center this week, an Indigenous delegation will lead the [Clean Energy Justice Convergence](#) alongside grassroots leaders from the Gulf South and communities on the front lines of fossil-fuel industries in SWPA.

In solidarity with the people of Appalachia and frontline communities around the world, the House of Tears Carvers traveled from the Salish Sea in the Pacific Northwest to the three rivers of Pittsburgh with a 14-foot totem pole and delegation of Indigenous Nations. Along the way, they paused in communities across the country to offer blessings and prayers including a visit with the family of George Floyd in Minnesota.

The 3-day Convergence will include art and ceremony, peaceful rallies, a roundtable at Phipps and tours of gas, steel and petrochemical infrastructure to shine a spotlight on the costs, health impacts and environmental devastation associated with extractive and fossil-fuel based energy initiatives. More than 45 local, national and global organizations will stand in solidarity this week with the Indigenous delegation and people around the world working to advance truly clean energy justice and hasten a permanent break from false solutions and fossil fuels.

Indigenous leaders and organizers hope to convey to decision makers and the public the urgent concerns around the dangers of false solutions like carbon capture and sequestration and the need to safeguard public health and our collective future.

"We are the first generation to recognize global climate change – and we are the last generation that can do something about it. This totem pole journey is dedicated to the growing movement of Earth, Sky and Water Protectors around the world who are saying enough is enough," said

Se Sealth (Jewell Praying Wolf James), Lummi elder and head carver for the House of Tears Carvers.

During the visit to Pittsburgh, the richly adorned totem pole, a sacred entity of healing and protection, will be driven through environmental justice communities in the Mon Valley, Beaver and Washington counties and will circle the David L. Lawrence Convention where the Clean Energy Ministerial is taking place.

Press Conference Speakers

Edith Abeyta – North Braddock Residents for Our Future, PA. Edith Abeyta lives in Braddock, Pa. and has been active for many years in the fight against unlawful pollution from the nearby U.S. Steel Edgar Thomson Plant. She is a member of a residents advocacy group that successfully fought against a plan to put gas wellpads in close proximity to more than 1,000 residents.

Sr. Kari Pohl — Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden, Beaver County, PA. Sr. Kari Pohl serves as the Congregational Coordinator of Justice and Peace for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden, PA. As a Catholic Sister and a community health nurse, she is familiar with the health, social, and spiritual impacts of environmental destruction and acknowledges the structural racism that so often undergirds it.

Ilyas Khan – Youth organizer of the Climate Strike with Sunrise Pittsburgh

Yvette Arellano is Mexican American gulf coast organizer based in Houston, Texas. They are the founder & executive director of Fenceline Watch, an environmental justice organization dedicated to the eradication of toxic multigenerational harm on communities living along the fenceline of industry. In 2015, Yvette led a campaign against H.R. 702, which opened the floodgates to U.S. crude oil exports.

Erin Taylor – Senior Vice President of Programs for The Climate Reality Project (Washington, D.C.)

Rueben George (Tsleil-Waututh) – Sun Dance Chief and co-coordinator of the fight against the TransMountain Pipeline proposed to run through Tsleil-Waututh Nation in British Columbia.

Doug James – Lummi, WA. Doug James is a member of the House of Tears Carvers of the Lummi Nation and a spiritual leader.

Freddie Lane – Lummi, WA. Freddie Lane is a Lummi tribal member and the lead organizer of the Totem Pole Journey.

The entire list of events including registration and voices of justice for media interviews may be found at cleanenergyjustice.com Events during the week include:

Sept. 20, 21 and 23: Steel, Gas and Petrochemical Tours (Full)

Sept. 21 at 2 p.m.: Student Led Youth Strike for Climate at CMU

Sept. 22 at 10 a.m.: Indigenous Delegation Blessing/ Schenley Plaza
Sept. 22 at NOON: Press Conference and Rally/ Schenley Plaza
Sept. 22 at 6:00 p.m.: Clean Energy Justice Roundtable at Phipps
Sept. 22 at 8 p.m.: Public Art Installation by Aaron Henderson downtown
Sept. 23: Steel Gas and Petrochemical Tours (Full)

EARLIER PRESS RELEASES

[Totem Pole Journey to the Clean Energy Justice Convergence \(Press Packet\)](#)

[Lummi Delegation Embarks on Cross-Country Journey With Totem Pole to Pittsburgh for Global Clean Energy Ministerial](#)

[Clean Energy Justice Convergence Calls on Global Clean Energy Ministerial to Support True, Clean Energy, Not False Solutions](#)

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