

MEDIA ADVISORY

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Met Coke World Summit - Press Conference

Presenting a Study on the Health and Environmental Impacts of Coke, Coal-Based Steel Production

What: Industrious Labs, a national green steel organization, will join with local environmental leaders outside the Met Coke World Summit in Pittsburgh to address the health and environmental impacts of coke production for steelmaking. Frontline residents will share firsthand experiences of living near coal-based steel and coke facilities, underscoring the urgent need for cleaner, safer production steel practices and stricter rules for the coke industry.

When: Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 9:30 AM EST

Where: **Frank Pace Park, corner of Chatham Street and Bigelow Blvd.**, behind the DoubleTree Pittsburgh Downtown (One Bigelow Square, Pittsburgh, PA 15219). Following statements, the group will symbolically walk to the U.S. Steel Tower/ UPMC Corporate Center, 600 Grant Street.

Who:

- **Patrick Campbell**, Executive Director of Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP) in Pennsylvania, working for a healthy, sustainable environment in Southwestern PA
- **Monica Dumas**, High school teacher originally from Gary, IN, now based in Portage, IN, advocating for cleaner water and air in Northwest Indiana (emcee)
- **NaTisha Washington**, Manager of Communications at the Breathe Project in Pennsylvania, working to improve air quality, eliminate climate pollution, and make the region a healthy and prosperous place to live
- **Rachelle Morgan Ceaser**, Public servant and advocate born and raised near U.S. Steel's Gary Works plant in Gary, IN, dedicated to environmental and community health
- **Lee Helfend**, Senior Field Strategist at Industrious Labs (emcee)

Why: America's coal-based steel and coke plants burden community health and the climate, with consequences that ripple across the nation. According to a [recent report](#) from Industrious Labs, coal-based steel and coke plants in the U.S. contribute to an estimated 460-892 premature deaths annually. In communities like Pittsburgh, steel and coke facilities are part of a larger industrial landscape where cumulative pollution from multiple sources causes severe and extensive harm. [Research](#) indicates that residents of Allegheny County experience significantly higher mortality rates from fine particulate matter (PM2.5) pollution than other parts of the U.S., with PM2.5 exposure linked to an estimated 640-1,373 deaths annually, even after air quality improvements in recent years. ###