



EMBARGOED UNTIL JULY 12, 9 AM

July 12, 2025

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

SWPA Environmental Groups Unite in Solidarity for Rally and March in Pittsburgh

Coalition Demands Action on Urgent Environmental Crises that threaten people and the planet, especially environmental justice communities

PITTSBURGH, PA — A broad coalition of Pittsburgh-area environmental organizations, public health advocates, community groups and labor leaders will join for a **rally and march** to demand urgent action in the face of environmental health harms that continue to threaten the health of residents, the future of workers and the stability of our planet.

**Saturday, July 12, 2025
Pittsburgh City-County Steps
9 a.m.**

Followed by a March to the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Music and Food
[Details](#)

The day will focus on holding **local, federal and state leaders accountable** for the decisions being made that will take terrible toll on human health and the environment, especially for residents in environmental justice communities. Too many decisions have been made to rollback federal air and water pollution protections and elevate fossil fuels as a strategy for economic development when lower carbon-emitting alternatives are available that will protect the health of people and the planet.

We will also ask our local leaders – Sara Innamorato and Allegheny County leaders – to protect the people of Allegheny County after EPA protection rollbacks, as well as U.S. Steel's evil lobbying to remove these protections despite getting access to billions of dollars in capital and price stability from tariffs.

Frontline communities and residents especially deserve a voice in these decisions. This action will give many advocates and residents opportunities to engage with the larger environmental activist community in support of environmental and public health issues.

“The Pennsylvania Constitution enshrines a right to clean air and water, but our governments at the state and federal level often behave as if corporate polluters have a right to profit,” said Lois Bower-Bjornson of Clean Air Council. “This event is a reminder that people deserve, and demand, better.”

“At Upstream Pittsburgh, we believe clean water starts with community,” said [Chavaysha Chaney, Water Equity Director at Upstream Pittsburgh](#). By integrating green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) into urban planning and prioritizing collaboration with residents, we reduce combined sewer overflows, mitigate flooding and restore ecological function while empowering communities to be co-stewards of their local watersheds. GSI isn’t just smart design; it’s essential for long-term environmental health, resilience and justice as well as creating local, green jobs across Pittsburgh and Allegheny County.”

Speakers City-County Steps, 9 a.m.

Kicked off by Emcee NaTisha Washington, Breathe Project

- Qiyam Ansari (VCAN)
- Dr. Ned Ketyer (PSR PA)
- Sierra Weir (Three Rivers Waterkeeper)
- Curtis Davon (Clean Water Action)
- Jason Hallmark (Climate Reality SWPA)
- Chavaysha Chaney (Upstream Pittsburgh)
- Vanessa Lynch (Moms Clean Air Force)
- **Raging Grannies will kick off the march at 9:45am**

Speakers at the Plaza 10:30 a.m.

- Carla Beard Owens (Clairton resident)
- Karen Lyons (412 Justice)
- Lois Bower-Bjornson (Clean Air Council)
- Gabby Gray (Pittsburgh United)
- Fawn Walker-Montgomery (Take Action Advocacy Group, TAAG)
- Mackenzie MacFarland (Sunrise Movement)
- Miracle Jones (1Hood Power)

Music at the Riverfront Plaza will include: [1Hood Media \(DJ\)](#), [Pittsburgh Labor Choir](#), [Nash.V.III](#), [LivefromtheCity](#) and [Mike Stout](#) (labor leader).

