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I'm Elise Yoder from Pittsburgh, speaking on behalf of 350 Pittsburgh in support of Pennsylvania's joining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative].

350 Pittsburgh is an affiliate of 350.org, the global climate advocacy group founded by Bill McKibben. As our name indicates, we're trying to bring the atmosphere back to 350 parts per million of carbon dioxide.

Our focus is local. We work with local universities, the Pittsburgh city council and the Allegheny County council on climate action and carbon neutrality plans. But we also encourage our members to get involved in their neighborhoods.

I live in the borough of Forest Hills, an eastern suburb of Pittsburgh. I fell in love with the place the first time I saw it, almost 30 years ago. Forest Hills is small, only 1.5 square miles, with 3,500 housing units. What we do have a lot of is trees. We've been a U.S. Tree City since 1976, and 50% of our land has a mature tree canopy.

But climate change is endangering our trees. For example, we have lots of hemlocks. Higher temperatures have enabled a pest called the hemlock woolly adelgid to thrive. Basically, they suck the sap from the tree until it is dead, often within 3-5 years.

More frequent storms are increasing our landslide hazard. 50% of our land area—including my house—is vulnerable to landslides due to the steep terrain, undermined areas from prior coal mining, and past building on filled land. In the past three years there have been four significant landslides with house destruction and road collapse.

Also, we're breathing bad air. Forest Hills lies in the airshed of the industrial emissions from Braddock and Homestead where ongoing operations caused orange or red air quality alert on 12 days in 2019.

Forest Hills is getting our climate act together. In 2018 we opened a net zero energy borough building. And we're developing a comprehensive climate action plan. It addresses local GHG emissions, tree management, pedestrian access, stormwater management, waste management, public transportation.

Here's the thing, though: Like I said, Forest Hills is small. We're going to do what we can. But frankly, our greenhouse gas emissions are a drop in the bucket.

The greenhouse gas emission caps of RGGI put the efforts of neighborhoods like Forest Hills into a larger picture. It lets us, in effect, join with the people across the northeast and mid-atlantic to protect *everyone's* neighborhoods.