



GARD's Green Steel Committee Activities

Gary Advocates for Responsible Development (GARD) is a not-for-profit organization that promotes economic development in the City of Gary, and that prioritizes environmental justice, community health, and the protection of Gary's neighborhoods and natural resources.

GARD has established a Green Steel Committee to better understand and better address the impacts of the local steel mills on Gary's residents. These include the health effects of steel mill pollution on Gary's residents; the global climate effects of local steel production; the effects of the local steel mills on Gary's natural areas; and the new iron and steelmaking technologies that will soon transform the entire steel U.S. industry, and which make the long term survival of Gary Works – and the other two Northwest Indiana steel mills – an open question.

The future viability of US Steel's Gary Works – whatever happens – will have a major impact on local public health; on the sustainability of the City of Gary; and on plans for its revitalization. GARD has asked its Green Steel Committee to help it address the following, closely interlinked, issues:

- 1. Local Public Health.** The Committee will work to help local residents and others better understand how and why air emissions from the local steel mills seriously harm the community's health. It will seek opportunities to help eliminate or minimize these emissions through technological, regulatory, and/or other means. The committee will help GARD:
 - a.** Continue its ongoing legal and regulatory efforts to encourage or compel IDEM and EPA to better control the toxic and hazardous emissions and releases from Gary Works and other primary steel mills. Special emphasis will be given, as appropriate, to the emissions from their most polluting facilities: their blast furnaces and the sintering plants and coke ovens that supply them.
 - b.** Continue its ongoing opposition to U S Steel's potential plan to burn plastic waste in Gary Works' blast furnaces.
 - c.** Initiate a meeting of public health professionals to help GARD and community residents better understand, explain, and address the serious health injuries being caused by air pollution from local steel mills, and especially from their blast furnaces, sinter plants, and coke ovens.
- 2. The Steel Industry Transition.** The Committee will seek ways for GARD to encourage or pressure the owner of Gary Works – whoever it might be – to commit to a time-bound plan for replacing Gary's old and dirty blast furnaces with hydrogen ready direct reduction furnaces. The Committee's work will initially include:
 - a.** Continue ongoing work to help GARD better understand that the steel industry in the U.S. is beginning to phase out its blast furnaces in favor of cleaner and more efficient iron making technologies; and help GARD better understand what this will mean for

the future of Gary Works; for local public health; for the local and regional economy; and for the global climate.

- b. Develop informational materials about the steel industry's coming transition and how this will affect the future of Gary Works. These materials can be used by GARD to help engage local and regional constituencies – including residents, businesses, unions, political leaders, and others – in discussions about the future of Gary Works and about how this will affect the City of Gary, its residents, and its future.
 - c. Continue to network, build relationships, and develop partnerships with national, statewide, and regional organizations which have an interest in promoting a green steel industry transition that is consistent with GARD's objectives and interests.
 - d. Strengthen GARD's ability to intervene in local and national discussions and decision-making processes that may influence the coming steel industry transition; the future of the country's primary steel mills'; and most importantly, the future of Gary Works.
 - e. Explore the feasibility and the desirability of GARD hosting a conference in Gary on the future of primary steel mills. This would include exploring possible funding opportunities, partnerships, and collaborations. GARD's goal for the conference would be to help provide grounding for a more robust local and regional dialogue about the future of Gary Works and about what this will mean for the City of Gary and its surrounding communities.
- 3. Climate.** The Committee will develop a plan on how GARD can help Gary residents better understand the contributions that the blast furnaces at Gary Works (and at the other NW Indiana Steel mills) make to the global climate crisis; and help them understand how climate change is affecting human health and well-being, both locally and globally. The Committee's will:
- a. Develop informational materials about the global climate crisis; and about how Gary Works and the other regional primary steel mills are among the country's largest industrial emitters of the greenhouse gases that are causing it. The materials will identify blast furnaces – and the coke ovens and sinter plants that feed them – as the major source of these greenhouse gas emissions.
 - b. Help GARD integrate information about the climate implications of local blast furnaces in the outreach and communications materials it disseminates about *Local Public Health* and about *The Steel Industry Transition*.
 - c. Reach out to existing local and regional organizations and constituencies that are already concerned and active on issues related to the climate crisis, and explore possibilities for collaboration, partnerships, and/or participation in GARD's work relating to the coming steel industry transition and the future of Gary Works.
- 4. Natural Areas.** The Committee will explore ways that GARD can help protect Gary's natural areas from steel mill pollution and encroachment.