

BE PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CLIMATE ACTION, OCTOBER 24!

Across the world on Saturday, October 24, people will engage in local "climate actions" in a massive coordinated global campaign to draw world leaders' attention to the gravity of climate change. The burning of fossil fuels-literally, the burning of the earth-is the major cause of this problem.

October 24 is drawing close, and more and more actions are popping up at the www.350.org website. New York Interfaith Power & Light (NYIPL) strongly encourages communities of faith in New York to join in the October 24 International Day of Climate Action to draw worldwide attention to the urgent need to address the climate crisis. If you're not already involved in one, plan one!

While everyone is being encouraged to participate, there is a particular role for the faith community to make a public call for action on the climate crisis as a moral, ethical and spiritual issue.

The 350 campaign is an international effort led by environmentalist Bill McKibben (on NYIPL's advisory board) and a dedicated team of volunteers. The 350 organization is made up of people from all backgrounds who have worked tirelessly over the past year to build a movement uniting the world around solutions to the climate crisis. October 24, 2009, has been declared a day of action. On that day there will be actions at iconic places around the world-from the Great Barrier Reef to the Rockies-in a united effort to send a clear message to world leaders: the solutions to climate change must be equitable, they must be grounded in science, and they must meet the scale of the crisis.

The number 350 derives from scientific observation that 350 parts per million of atmospheric carbon is the level at which life as we know it on this planet can continue without catastrophic effects (including, e.g., flooding and changes in weather patterns, which tend to affect most drastically the poor, who have contributed the least to greenhouse gas emissions and who have the fewest resources to adapt to climate change).

For more info about the 350 campaign and ways the faith community is participating, go to www.350.org/people/faith. Here you'll find ideas, guidelines, and links to more resources.

- * Ring your church bells 350 times, or chant, drum, sing, horn, or publicly sound out 350 in whatever way best fits your congregation
- * Hold a prayer service in a place particularly threatened by climate change
- * Host a community dialogue in your congregation
- * Organize a political demonstration in a public place incorporating your spiritual perspectives on combating climate change
- * Sponsor a service action organized by your community of faith, perhaps helping to make a neighborhood more energy efficient
- * Incorporating some form of art and music can make your event more dramatic, memorable, and meaningful.
- * Engage the creativity of your group or community!

Whatever action you plan, remember to include the number 350 in some form and document the event with photos and/or video. Images are key in making sure the story of your action will become part of this unique grassroots petition to the leaders of the world.

Additional resources are available at www.350.org and our own website, www.nyiopl.org. If you're planning an action, please register it at www.350.org and also let us know at NYIPL@earthlink.net! Many of the events listed on our website are 350 October 24 events; if you send us yours, we will help you publicize them.