



Local News

search independentmail

Search
Sponsored by [go](#)

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Local News](#)

Rally draws many to global warming cause

By Ray Chandler
Saturday, April 14, 2007

STORY TOOLS

- E-mail story
- Comments
- iPod friendly
- Printer friendly

MORE LOCAL NEWS

- High school entrepreneur wins top international award
- You've got mail: Sandy Springs Post Office celebrates 100 years
- Plan a day at Hartwell Lake

More than 200 people rallied on the Clemson University campus Saturday and joined with the like-minded at 1,421 similar gatherings across the nation to raise awareness and send a message to Washington that global warming needs to be confronted.

"We need April 14, 2007, to be remembered as the day the United States woke up and became committed to doing something about global warming," Brad Wyche, executive director of the environmentalist group Upstate Forever, told the crowd.

Mr. Wyche compared the day of rallies to the first Earth Day in 1970, which he credited with raising the environmental awareness that resulted in the passage in the 1970s of such legislation as the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act.

The 1,422 rallies that took place across the nation Saturday were organized by the Step It Up 2007 campaign, described by founder Bill McKibben, an environmental writer of Middlebury, Vt., as a grassroots environmental organization dedicated to raising awareness of the part human activities play in global climate change.

The goal is to focus attention on the issue and support legislation that by 2050 would reduce by 80 percent the emissions of carbon dioxide, one of the "greenhouse gases" credited with contributing to global warming.

The attendees of Saturday's rally assembled to spell out CO-2, the chemical formula for carbon dioxide, with a downward-pointing arrow indicating the desire to see it reduced.

A photograph of the assembly, which took place at 1 p.m. on the plaza between R.M. Cooper Library and Strom Thurmond Institute, will be sent to South Carolina Sens. Lindsay Graham and Jim DeMint and U.S. Rep. Gresham Barrett, along with copies of a petition urging a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.

"Technology must get us out of it," Mr. Wyche said, citing the need for greater research to reduce carbon emissions from industry, transportation and other human activities. "And it must be global and we must take action ourselves."

Universities such as Clemson, he said, had a role to play in research and leadership.

One step in the works is for Clemson President James Barker to sign the American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment, which already has been signed by more than 200 college presidents across the country.

The agreement would commit the university to reduce its carbon emissions to a net neutral state through offsetting countermeasures that reduce carbon in the atmosphere. It would also require the school to adopt a host of policies such as environmentally friendly building practices and pledge to acquire at least 15 percent of electrical power used from renewable energy sources.

Alan Elzerman, director of Clemson's School of the Environment, said Mr. Barker is "right on the verge" of signing the agreement, which the university's environmental committee has urged.

Laura Ceva, co-president of Students for Environmental Awareness at Clemson, called for a more direct and grassroots activism. It was up to students to push their colleges and communities toward change, Ms. Ceva said.

mostpopular

Ten most e-mailed stories from independentmail.com:

- 1-85 retail development poised for success
- X is for X-Mas
- Time to count the cost of locking people away
- V is for Voodoo
- I saw the sign, have you?
- Spiller reverses field about his future
- 'Idol' fans must unite against Sanjaya
- Wren ace Saylor baffles with changeup
- The Peoples Bank adds two new employees
- 10.

[Click for ad>>](#)

Huge Selection
Great Prices!

We Make You
Feel Right...
At Home
[- Click Here -](#)



It is "ridiculous," she said for the United States, with 5 percent of the world's population, to be responsible for 29 percent of the world's carbon emissions.

Clemson's Step It Up rally and the 1,421 like it across the nation come at a time when opinions are still divided about the significance of global warming or humans' contribution to bringing it about.

Most recently, Richard Lindzen, the Alfred P. Sloan Professor of Atmospheric Sciences at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has questioned whether the approximately 1 degree increase in average temperature over the past century is a legitimate cause for alarm. Those scientists and environmentalists urging efforts against greenhouse gases cite United Nations reports by groups of scientists calling global warming "unequivocal" and opining that there was a 90 percent chance humans were contributing to the problem.



© 2007 Anderson Independent Mail
Please read our [Privacy Policy](#) and [User Agreement](#).
Comparison Shop for [Engagement Rings](#) and [Digital Cameras](#) at [Shopzilla](#) & [BizRate](#)
[uSwitch.com](#) compares [gas & electricity](#), [home phone](#), [mobile phones](#), [broadband](#), [credit cards](#), [loans](#) and [car insurance](#)

Comments

This site does not necessarily agree with comments posted below -- responsibility lies with the relevant reader alone. [Read our privacy agreement.](#)

Post a comment
(Requires free registration.)

Username:

Password: [\(Forgotten your password?\)](#)

Comment: