

From: Bill McKibben, 350.org
<organizers@350.org>
Subject: A request from Bill McKibben, Vandana Shiva, David Suzuki and more...
To: jm.boyle@yahoo.com
Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2009, 2:01 PM

Project 350 Updates Dear friends,

Here's the invitation I'm sending around about the October 24th Day of Action <http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/dia/track.jsp?key=957180780&url_num=1&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.350.org%2Foct24> --it comes to you from a coalition of leaders around the world.

It's going out to people on every continent and in every nation, from Antarctica (hi to our friends at McMurdo Station) to Zimbabwe (greetings to the folks at ZERO working on windpower in rural Africa!). We need everyone working together, in a way that's rarely happened before.

The invitation is a bit long, which worries me since I'm a writer, and value conciseness. But we need to get across both the problem and the plan--and after all this is the greatest challenge we face.

This is going to be fun--and important. Please spread it around.

Many thanks,

Bill

This is an invitation to help build a movement--to take one day day and use it to stop the climate crisis.

On October 24, we will stand together as one planet and call for a fair global climate treaty. United by a common call to action, we'll make it clear: the world needs an international plan that meets the latest science and gets us back to safety.

This movement has just begun, and it needs your help.

Here's the plan: we're asking you, and people in every country on earth, to organize an action in your community on October 24. <http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/dia/track.jsp?key=957180780&url_num=2&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.350.org%2Foct24> <http://www.350.org/oct24> <http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/dia/track.jsp?key=957180780&url_num=3&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.350.org%2Foct24> There are no limits here--imagine bike rides, rallies, concerts, hikes, festivals, tree-plantings, protests, and more. Imagine your action linking up with thousands of others around the globe. Imagine the world waking up.

If we can pull it off, we'll send a powerful message on October 24: the world needs the climate solutions that science and justice demand.

It's often said that the only thing preventing us from tackling the climate crisis quickly and equitably is a lack of political will. Well, the only thing that can create that political will is a unified global movement--and no one is going to build that movement for us. It's up to regular people all over the world. That's you.

So register an event in your community for October 24

http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/dia/track.jsp?key=957180780&url_num=4&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.350.org%2Foct24, and then enlist the help of your friends. Get together with your co-workers or your local environmental group or human rights campaign, your church or synagogue or mosque or temple; enlist bike riders and local farmers and young people. All over the planet we'll start to organize ourselves.

With your help, there will be an event at every iconic place on the planet on October 24--from America's Great Lakes to Australia's Great Barrier Reef--and also in all the places that matter to you in your daily lives: a beach or park or village green or town hall.

If there was ever a time for you to get involved, it's right now. **There are two reasons this year is so crucial.**

The first reason is that the science of climate change is getting darker by the day. The Arctic is melting away with astonishing speed, decades ahead of schedule. Everything on the planet seems to be melting or burning, rising or parched.

And we now now have a number to express our peril: 350.

NASA's James Hansen and a team of other scientists recently published a series of papers showing that we need to cut the amount of carbon in the atmosphere from its current 387 parts per million to below 350 if we wish to "maintain a planet similar to that on which civilization developed."

No one knew that number a year ago--but now it's clear that 350 might well be the most important number for the future of the planet, a north star to guide our efforts as we remake the world. If we can swiftly get the planet on track to get back below 350, we can still avert the worst effects of climate change.

The second reason 2009 is so important is that the political opportunity to influence our governments has never been greater. The world's leaders will meet in Copenhagen this December to craft a new global treaty on cutting carbon emissions.

If that meeting were held now, it would produce a treaty would be woefully inadequate. In fact, it would lock us into a future where we'd never get back to 350 parts per million--where the rise of the sea would accelerate, where rainfall patterns would start to shift and deserts to grow. A future where first the poorest people, and then all of us, and then all the people that come after us, would find the only planet we have damaged and degraded.

October 24 comes six weeks before those crucial UN meetings in Copenhagen. If we all do our job, every nation will know the question they'll be asked when they put forth a plan: will this get the planet back on the path below 350?

This will only work with the help of a global movement-and it's starting to bubble up everywhere. Farmers in Cameroon, students in China, even World Cup skiers have already helped spread the word about 350. Churches have rung their bells 350 times; Buddhist monks have formed a huge 350 with their bodies against the backdrop of Himalayas. 350 translates across every boundary of language and culture. It's clear and direct, cutting through the static and it lays down a firm scientific line.

On October 24, we'll all stand behind 350--a universal symbol of climate safety and of the world we need to create. And at the end of the day, we'll all upload photos from our events to the [350.org](http://www.350.org) website and send these pictures around the world. This cascade of images will drive climate change into the public debate--and hold our leaders accountable to a unified global citizenry.

We need your help-the world is a big place and our team is small. Our crew at [350.org](http://www.350.org) will do everything we can to support you, providing templates for banners and press releases, resources to spread the word, and tools to help you build a strong local climate action group. And our core team is always just a phone call or e-mail away if you need some support.

This is like a final exam for human beings. Can we muster the courage, the commitment, and the creativity to set this earth on a steady course before it's too late? October 24 will be the joyful, powerful day when we prove it's possible.

Please join us and register your local event today.

http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/dia/track.jsp?key=957180780&url_num=5&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.350.org%2Foct24

Onwards,

Bill McKibben - Author and Activist- USA

Vandana Shiva - Physicist, Activist, Author - India

David Suzuki - Scientist, Author, Activist - Canada

Bianca Jagger - Chair of the World Future Council - UK

Tim Flannery - Scientist, Author, Explorer -Australia

Bittu Sahgal - Co-convener, Climate Challenge India - India

Andrew Simmons - Environmental Advocate, St. Vincent & The Grenadines

Christine Loh - Environmental Advocate and Legislator - Hong Kong

P.S.-We need you to do something else, right away, that's pretty easy. **Please forward this message to anyone you know who is even remotely appropriate.**

[350.org](http://www.350.org) is an international grassroots campaign that aims to mobilize a global climate movement united by a common call to action. By spreading an understanding of the science and a shared vision for a fair policy, we will ensure that the world creates bold and equitable solutions to the climate crisis. [350.org](http://www.350.org) is an independent and not-for-profit project.