

Georgia Climate Change Coalition

Through education, advocacy and action, the Georgia Climate Change Coalition aims to increase awareness about climate change and its projected impacts; work in partnership with all Georgians and stakeholders to promote solutions and adaptations to the climate crisis; actively support local, state, national and international energy/climate change initiatives and legislation; serve as a clearing house for climate information.

August 11, 2011

Dear _____:

A new environmental group - the Georgia Climate Change Coalition - has formed in Athens, Georgia and is seeking coalition partners. Are you interested in joining with our statewide network to increase awareness about climate change, pool our resources, support the work of climate scientists, and promote reduced carbon emissions and solutions to the climate crisis?

We have three requests: 1) join our coalition 2) march and rally with us on Sept. 24 in Athens, as part of 350.Org's Moving Planet, world wide call for reduced carbon emissions OR create your own Moving Planet event 3) help spread the word about our Coalition, Day of Action and related September events.

1) Join Our Coalition: this effort began last February 22, 2011, at the University of Georgia's School of Ecology, when the Oconee River Chapter Trout Unlimited and University of Georgia colleagues co-hosted national speakers and a panel discussion, "Building an Effective Climate Change Coalition for Athens." A full house of UGA faculty and staff, ordinary citizens and Athens-area environmental activists responded to the call.

Four months of organizing have borne fruit. Calling ourselves the Georgia Climate Change Coalition, now statewide in scope, we have written a mission statement and goals, scheduled three events in September, and want to grow the coalition. "By respecting all voices and proceeding carefully on this controversial issue," the group hopes to "broaden a climate action constituency beyond the traditional environmental movement."

"Through education, advocacy and action," our mission statement reads, "the Georgia Climate Change Coalition aims to increase awareness about climate change and its projected impacts; work in partnership with all Georgians and stakeholders to promote solutions and adaptations to the climate crisis; actively support local, state, national and international energy/climate change initiatives and legislation; serve as a clearing house for climate information."

If interested, please review our goals and action plan for 2011-2012 (see attachment). Our climate change network will meet quarterly – in January, April, July, October - with steering committee and subcommittees meeting as needed. Initially, most meetings will be in Athens. Seeking the input of new coalition partners, we will review our work and plans for the future at annual January meetings. For more information, see www.georgiacoalition.org.

2) Sept. 24 March & Rally in Athens: we are hosting our Main Event on Saturday the 24th. We are also hosting "pre-march" informational events. We invite you to participate in all.

Moving Planet Day of Action

Saturday, September 24, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Meet at: D.W. Brooks Mall at Agriculture Drive and Carlton St., UGA South Campus

As part of the worldwide Moving Planet Day of Action, sponsored by 350.org, we will gather for a march and rally to promote reducing our local carbon footprints. We'll start by learning about UGA's coal-burning steam plant and proceed to City Hall by foot, bike, or bus, where we'll rally and present individual pledges, our recommendations for government leaders, and a call for action- local, state and national - on reducing carbon emissions.

Founded by author-activist Bill McKibben, 350.Org has built a global, grass roots movement to raise awareness of man-made climate change, confront climate change denial, and cut carbon dioxide emissions to slow the rate of global warming. McKibben has tasted some success: on Oct. 24, 2009, 350.Org hosted the world's "most widespread day of political action," with 5,245 actions in 181 countries. See attachment, also www.350.Org, "Moving Planet."

Let's Reduce Our Carbon Footprints

late August – Sept. 24

Beginning in late August, we will fill out cards pledging to reduce energy, gas and water usage at home – our own carbon footprints. Online pledge forms will calculate how much carbon we'll keep out of the atmosphere for every step we take to reduce energy use.

Climate Change in the Southeast

Friday, Sept. 23, 5-8:30 p.m. (check website to confirm time)

Ecology Auditorium, UGA Campus (park at SO7 lot on East Green St).

How will climate change affect us here at home? Climate researchers will present information about the impacts of climate change here in the Southeast. Drought and water scarcity, severe weather, and sea level rise on the Georgia coast are just a few.

Climate Reality Project: 24 Hours of Reality

Wednesday, September 14, 7 p.m.

Site: to be announced.

Meet up for a viewing and discussion of "24 Hours of Reality," a worldwide streaming broadcast of Al Gore's new multimedia presentation, featuring Mr. Gore and commenters from each time zone across the globe talking about their experiences with extreme climate events - floods, fires, storms, heat waves and drought. We'll also fill out "Reduce Our Carbon Footprints" pledge cards. For more information, see www.climaterealityproject.org.

3) Spread the Word: please forward our coalition invitation and these September events to family, friends, colleagues, media, environmental organizations and list servs. See our press release (attached). Our costs are substantial: to donate, please send a check to Rich Rusk (see below).

For more information OR to march on Sept. 24, fill out pledge cards, attend pre-march events or join the coalition, please call or email Barbara or Rich, or visit www.georgiacclimate.org. We are available for a personal visit or talk with your board.

Better yet, become an active Coalition member!

Best wishes,

Rich Rusk, secretary
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