

## **Join Wellesley's Climate Change Action Events October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>**

The Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and Green Ribbon Study Committee (GRSC) invite all residents to attend the Wellesley 2009 International Climate Change Action Day October 24, 2009 from 12-1:30 PM. We are sponsoring this Climate Change Action Day to publicize the need to create a fair global climate treaty that lowers carbon dioxide concentrations below 350 parts-per-million. The event will take place near the Town's oldest public tree, the Station Oak, adjacent to the Wellesley Square Post Office and the Wellesley Square Commuter Station. Speakers will discuss simple energy conservation actions that all residents can take as well as the value of trees in protecting the climate. Energy conservation and climate change protection educational information will be available and residents can sign letters to Congress urging them to support climate protection legislation. The NRC will be distributing free compact fluorescent light bulbs to all attendees. The Wellesley event will join over 3,000 other action events throughout the world in over 160 countries in support of climate protection on October 24th.

In addition to the NRC and GRSC event, the Wellesley Village Church, the Wellesley Hills Congregational Church, the Unitarian Universalist Society of Wellesley Hills and the St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church will continue the Wellesley Climate Change Action Event on October 25<sup>th</sup>. They will offer climate protection related activities in their worship services, ring church bells 350 times and distribute educational and letter writing materials to all who attend their worship services.

The Wellesley Climate Change Action Event is part of an international campaign sponsored by an organization called 350.org which is dedicated to creating a fair global climate treaty that lowers carbon dioxide below 350 parts-per-million. 350 is the number that leading scientists say is the safe upper limit for carbon dioxide measured in parts-per-million (ppm) in our atmosphere. 350 ppm is the number humanity needs to get back below as soon as possible to avoid run-away climate change. 350.org is coordinating an international day of action at thousands of iconic places around the world, — from the Taj Mahal to the Great Barrier Reef—in order to spark a global movement that will unite the public, the media and political leaders behind the 350 goal. 350.org was launched in March of 2008 by Environmentalist Bill McKibben and a team of young organizers from around the world. This movement's work is only possible because of its network of friends and allies from around the world, including major international NGOs and local grass-roots organizations.

At this point, the science is clear: global warming is happening faster than ever and humans are responsible. Global warming is caused by releasing what are called green house gases (GHG) into the atmosphere. The most common green house gas is carbon dioxide. Over half of the Wellesley town wide GHG emissions are generated by residents. Many of the activities that we do everyday like driving, turning on the lights, cooking food, or heating and cooling our homes rely on energy sources like coal or oil that emit carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases. This is a major problem because global warming is destabilizing the delicate balance that makes life on this planet possible. Just a few degrees in temperature can change the world as we know it and threaten the lives of millions of people around the world. But don't give up hope! You can

help stop global warming by taking action with us on October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> or by looking for more information at [www.350.org](http://www.350.org).

How can we create the political change to steer toward 350? At a minimum, we need an international agreement to reduce carbon emissions fast, and 2009 might be our best shot. The United Nations is working on a global climate treaty, which is supposed to be addressed at a conference in Copenhagen, Denmark December 7-18, 2009 with representatives from 150 countries participating. President Obama talked about this conference during his recent address to the United Nations.

The current plans for the above treaty are much too weak to get us back to a safe number. It needs to put a high enough price on carbon that we will stop using so much. It also needs to assure poorer countries a fair chance to develop. This year we can create a grass roots network connected by the web and active all over the world. We can hold our decisions makers accountable to producing a treaty that is strong, equitable and grounded in the latest science. This is where the Wellesley Climate Change Action Event can help to put just this type of pressure on our leaders. If this global movement succeeds, we can get the world on track to get back to 350 and back to climate safety. It won't be easy, that's why we need all of the help we can get.

Make no mistake – getting back to 350 means making major transformative changes in all of our lives. It means building solar arrays instead of coal plants, it means planting trees instead of clear cutting rain forests, it means increasing efficiency and decreasing our wastes. Getting to 350 means developing and implementing a comprehensive solution which can only be realized with a global treaty grounded in the latest science and built around the principles of equity and justice. To get this kind of treaty, we need a movement of people who care enough about our shared global future to get involved and make their voices heard.

So, please join the NRC, the Green Ribbon Study Committee and the participating local churches for climate change actions on October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> that will move us towards a safer world. Please join us and be part of the solution.

For more information about this event contact NRC Director Janet Hartke Bowser at 781-431-1019, ext. 2290. Visit [www.350.org](http://www.350.org) to learn more about the global actions related to climate change. Visit [www.power-of-one.us](http://www.power-of-one.us) to learn about the growing collaborative energy and environmental efforts in Wellesley.

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