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SWARTHMORE JOINS GLOBAL DAY OF CLIMATE ACTION TO SPREAD MOST IMPORTANT NUMBER IN THE WORLD

One of Over 5,000 Simultaneous Events in Over 180 Countries

[Swarthmore, PA, USA]: October 24th—Parishioners from Trinity Episcopal Church in Swarthmore, PA gathered today to conduct an inventory of the Church's garbage as part of the largest day of climate change activism ever. Participants joined more than 5,000 communities in over 180 countries as part of a global day of action coordinated by 350.org to urge world leaders to take bold and immediate steps to address climate change and reduce carbon emissions.

A group of about 30 parishioners from preschoolers to grandparents showed up at Trinity to learn about the science and politics of climate change, and to participate in the movement to reverse its effects. Pennsylvania State Representative Bryan Lentz also attended and addressed the crowd.

After the presentation, the group moved outside to the lawn and proceeded to sort through two weeks worth of the Church's garbage, looking for opportunities to reduce waste. One participant said of the event, "The vision of young and old sloshing around in the pouring rain sifting through our garbage remains burned on my brain. I am inspired."

Around the world today—from capitol cities to the melting slopes of Mount Everest, even underwater on dying coral reefs—people held rallies aimed at focusing attention on the number 350 because scientists have insisted in recent years that 350 parts per million is the most carbon dioxide we can safely have in the atmosphere. The current CO₂ concentration is 390 parts per million.

"That's why glaciers and sea ice are melting, drought is spreading, and flooding is on the increase," said Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org and author twenty years ago of the first major book on climate change. "And it's why we need a huge worldwide movement to give us the momentum to make real political change. Our leaders have heard from major corporations and big polluters for a long time—today, finally, they heard from citizens and scientists."

These global actions come six weeks before the world's nations convene in Copenhagen for the United Nations Climate Change Conference to draw up a new climate treaty. 89 countries have already endorsed the 350 target, as well as the chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Rajendra Pachauri, the world's foremost climate economist, Sir Nicholas Stern, and Nobel prize-winner Al Gore.

Images of the events from around the world were featured on giant video screens in Times Square in New York as part of a 350 countdown, and are accessible at 350.org as part of an online photostream. Visual documentation From the Day of Action will be delivered to the United Nations on Monday.



"People have said the science of global warming is too confusing for average citizens to understand," said McKibben. "Today's events prove that millions of people understand exactly what is at stake in the next few years, and that they want swift action to safeguard the future."

Trinity Episcopal Church is located at 301 N. Chester Road in Swarthmore, PA and may be found on the web at www.trinityswarthmore.org.

ABOUT 350.ORG

Founded by author and environmentalist Bill McKibben, 350.org is the first large-scale grassroots global campaign against climate change. Its supporters include leading scientists, the governments of 92 countries, and a huge variety of environmental, health, development and religious NGOs. All agree that current atmospheric levels of CO₂—390 parts per million—are causing damage to the planet and to its most vulnerable people, and that government action at the Copenhagen climate conference is required to bring the earth's carbon level swiftly down.

350.org is member of TckTckTck – a global alliance of faith groups, non-governmental organizations, trade unions and over a million individuals calling for a fair, ambitious, and binding international climate change treaty.

For more information, visit www.350.org.

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