



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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COALITION CALLS FOR REDUCED GLOBAL WARMING POLLUTION

NEW ORLEANS – A coalition of Louisiana environmental groups will issue a call for a reduction in global warming pollution at 10 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 11, at Audubon Park on the Magazine Street side and in front of a 20-foot inflated model of the earth.

The groups – Alliance for Affordable Energy, Project REACH of the United Methodist Church, Gulf Restoration Network, and Sierra Club – will call for action to reduce global warming pollution from current levels within 10 years. The event is part of a nationwide tour.

“Global warming is a big threat to New Orleans, but we can protect our children and future generations by using common sense solutions to substantially reduce global warming pollution,” said Micah Walker Parkin, program director for the Alliance for Affordable Energy. “To prevent the worst impacts on global warming in New Orleans, the best science says that reductions must start within 10 years and we must reduce global warming pollution by 60-80 percent by 2050.”

The year 2005 was the warmest on record and the early effects of global warming are evident across the U.S. and worldwide. Left unchecked, global warming threatens to raise sea levels, inundating coasts and increasing the intensity of hurricanes.

“Preventing the increase of global warming has been identified as the number one priority of the Sierra Club's nationwide 750,000 members,” says Leslie March, chair of the Delta (Louisiana) chapter of the Sierra Club. “We who live in the hurricane impacted areas know about the dire consequences of global warming. We hope that our public officials will have the vision to take steps to push industry to reduce greenhouse gasses.”

In the absence of mandatory federal limits on global warming pollution, U.S. emissions are on the rise, increasing by 16 percent from 1990 to 2004, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. EIA projects that U.S. global warming pollution will increase another 46 percent over the next 20 years. Power plants, cars and sports utility vehicles are the largest sources of global warming pollution nationwide.

To reduce global warming pollution, the U.S. can use existing technology to make power plants and factories more efficient, make cars go farther on a gallon of gasoline, and shift to cleaner technologies such as hybrids, biofuels, and wind and solar power. These are “win-win solutions,” according to Parkin, because they will cut dependence on oil, reduce air pollution and create a stronger economy.

Unfortunately, oil companies – led by ExxonMobil – automakers, and most electric utilities continue to fight common sense solutions to global warming, Parkin points out. For instance, she says, ExxonMobil has given at least \$15 million since 1998 to groups working to confuse the public about the broad scientific consensus on the causes of and solutions to global warming.

The coalition calls on Senators Mary Landrieu and David Vitter to heed the science and support reducing global warming pollution 60-80 percent by 2050 to avoid the worst consequences of global warming. The Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Act of 2006,

introduced in the Senate on July 20 by Senator James Jeffords (I-VT), would create a mechanism for the U.S. to meet that goal if enacted.

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The Alliance for Affordable Energy is a New Orleans-based nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting fair, affordable, environmentally responsible energy policies for Louisiana and the nation. For more information, contact the organization's website: <http://www.all4energy.org/>.

The Sierra Club's 750,000 members work together to protect communities and the planet. The Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. The Delta (Louisiana) chapter of the Sierra Club has more than 3,500 members and has been active in local conservation projects for more than 30 years. For more information, contact the organization's website: www.louisiana.sierraclub.org.