#CLIMATE EMERGENCY

This Is #NotADrill:
Declare Climate Emergency

It's never been clearer that climate change is an emergency, and it's long past time for Congress to tell the truth by passing a Climate Emergency Declaration.

People like you have already pushed 86 members of the House of Representatives and seven Senators to sponsor or cosponsor the Climate Emergency Declaration (H.Con.Res.52 / S.Con.Res. 22).

Now is our chance to get dozens more Representatives and Senators to co-sponsor the Climate Emergency Declaration, so that it can move forward to a committee vote.

We need masses of people to flood their district offices and tell Congress that this is not a drill -- it's time to declare a climate emergency.

We'll livestream, videotape, and take pictures to show the world the power and numbers we are building to demand a response to the Climate Emergency.

We hope you'll read the information below. But if you're ready to go, here's a link to a form where you can let us know about the event you're planning.

Make sure to put ClimateEmergency.US prominently on your signs, banners and shirts. That way, people who look at photos and videos will know where to sign up!

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STEP ONE: Find out your U.S. Representative's stance on the Climate Emergency Declaration.

Our first priority is moving members of the U.S. House of Representatives to support the Declaration. Type in your ZIP code here to see if who your Representative is. Then look them up on this sheet to see if they already support the Declaration or not.

If their name is not on the list, you can plan an event telling them to sign on as a cosponsor of the Declaration. If there is some reason you believe your Representative will never sign on, such as if your Representative is a climate denier, consider planning an event telling your Senator(s) to sign on instead.

If their name is on the list highlighted in green, they already support the Declaration, but they are a key Representative who could be doing more to help the Declaration advance. Some are chairs of powerful caucuses, some represent swing districts that hold more sway with House leadership, and others are members of key committees who will determine whether the Declaration comes to a vote at all. Therefore, they have a key role to play in getting their fellow committee and caucus member peers, as well as House leadership, to back the Declaration.

You should plan an event thanking them, and urging them to "champion" the Declaration by getting more of their colleagues on board. We want them to send Dear Colleague letters asking others to cosponsor the Declaration; give floor speeches on the Declaration; and if they are on the Energy and Commerce Committee or the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, hold hearings on the Climate Emergency.

If their name is already on the list as a co-sponsor and is NOT highlighted in green, then you should work on asking one of your Senators to sign on instead. Currently, everyone in the U.S. has at least one Senator who has not yet signed on. You can see the list of Senators who have signed on here.

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STEP TWO: Set the date and time that you will approach your Member of Congress.

Call your Representative or Senator's local office, and:

1. Ask about any town hall events or office hours that your Member of Congress may have coming up. If you are free the date and time of the event, register to go.

2. If there are no such events that you can attend, try to get an appointment to meet with your Representative or Senator sometime between now and early January.

3. If your Representative or Senator is not available, then you can make an appointment with their staff.

4. If that is not possible, then plan to hold your event simply by walking into your Representative's or Senator's office during the hours that it is open.

Know Before You Go:

About Town Halls: Many Representatives and Senators periodically hold town halls, where they come face to face with dozens, or hundreds, of constituents and address their concerns. Attending a town hall is a great way to make sure that you get in front of your Member of Congress and in front of their constituents, not just their staff. But note that during a town hall, you may have only a brief opportunity to interact with your Representative or Senator -- so you'll need to convey your message quickly.

About Visiting District Offices: Your Representative's or Senator's office is likely open five days a week. One advantage is that you can go at any time. And, district offices can offer more flexibility and a more relaxed atmosphere than a town hall -- including the option for some people to rally outside on the sidewalk while others go inside to speak with staff.

But there are several disadvantages. One is that most offices are only open during business hours, which can make it hard for people who work 9-5 to join you. Another is that your Representative or Senator may not be there, unless you get an appointment (which can take weeks to line up).

STEP THREE: Choose your approach.

Broadly speaking, Members of Congress will only listen to us for two reasons: **because we can give them something they want, or because we can take something away from them.**

Things that Members of Congress want include:

- To maintain their public image as someone who is effective and cares about their constituents, and/or as someone with certain types of values
- To show constituents that they are governing effectively
- Preserving relationships with organizations and communities that have supported them in the past
- Building relationships with new supporters
- Campaign contributions

Consider what you already know about your Representative or Senator. Where does their money (campaign contributions, business interests) come from? What about their relationships -- what constituents and organizations seem most important to them? What about their values -- what types of legislation have they championed in the past? What type of person do they want to be seen as?

The key question for you to think about is this: <u>How will co-sponsoring the Climate Emergency Declaration help them meet their goals?</u>

Are they at a point where you want to build on their past actions and continue encouraging them in the right direction, or are they at a point where it will be more effective to take away their positive image? Are there organizations or individuals they care about that can press them on the Climate Emergency Declaration?

Once you have thought through these questions, we recommend that you choose 2 or 3 of the following elements to include in your visit:

Thank You: For Members of Congress who have already supported the Climate Emergency Declaration, thanking them is a great way to show them that their constituents are taking notice of their actions. When thanking someone who has already co-sponsored the Declaration, make sure you are also use Persuasion and / or Pressure to ask them to get more of their colleagues on board.

Persuasion: For Members of Congress who may not yet know about the Climate Emergency Declaration, it is important to email the materials ahead of time and bring copies when you go in person (including this Fact Sheet and this Frequently Asked Questions document); provide at least a brief overview of why the Declaration is important, what it will accomplish, why you think they would and/or should support it and how supporting it will help the Member of Congress achieve their goals.

- If possible, refer to past statements they have made regarding the urgent need for climate action.
- Connect our resolution to other legislation they have supported. For example, "As a supporter of the Green New Deal, you could consider our Climate Emergency Declaration a first step in moving that forward."
- Consider your Member of Congress' interests, committees and pet issues. Try to structure your comments within that lens.
- Let them know who you are representing. The wider the range of constituents you can speak on behalf of the better.

Regardless of how much emphasis you are placing on persuasion, make sure to leave this Fact Sheet and this Frequently Asked Questions document as written reference materials for the Representative's staff.

Pressure: Pressure on your Member of Congress can be implied by the numbers of people and organizations involved in our event, or it can be explicitly stated by spelling out the positive or negative consequences of their stance on the Climate Emergency Declaration. **Pressure is most effective when it is both implicitly and explicitly stated.**

Implied Pressure: Bringing 30 people to rally outside their office, or bringing letters signed by five large organizations, shows that a significant number of constituents will be pleased if they act, and disappointed if they do not.

Explicitly Stated Pressure can include statements like:

At a small meeting:

- "This issue is a high priority to the thousands of voters that our organization reaches out to before every election."

At a large public event:

- "Signing on to the Climate Emergency Declaration will be a win for you. It will show that you are working to protect your constituents and take meaningful action on the issues you care about."
- "If you do not sign on, we will make sure that people in every corner of your district know that you care more about your fossil fuel industry donors than about their safety."

Displeasure: When expressing displeasure with a Member of Congress, we have moved on from *stating possible consequences* to *actually making those negative consequences occur.* In this scenario, we are actively trying to take away things our Member of Congress wants. Examples of how to do this include:

- Creating negative media attention. This will be most effective if it shows the ways that a Member of Congress is letting down specific constituencies that are important to them

- Getting community members and / or donors who care about the climate emergency to let the Representative or Senator know that they will cease their support unless he or she acts now

- Letting other constituents know that the Member of Congress is failing to take action. This could be done through an online or paper petition, or (ideally) in a

public forum where the Member of Congress is in front of dozens or hundreds of other constituents

When you are expressing displeasure, make sure you offer your Member of Congress a way out. Make sure it's obvious that the negative publicity and headaches will go away for now -- and that they will benefit in tangible ways -- if they sign on as a cosponsor of the Climate Emergency Declaration.

STEP FOUR: Plan your event.

Regardless of whether you are speaking at a town hall or visiting the district office of your Member of Congress, it's important to get more people involved in planning, and have a clear plan for what everyone involved will say and do.

Think about who you should approach about planning the event.
Are you part of an organization that is challenging local impacts of the Climate Emergency, working for environmental justice, or working to create justice for the communities of color and low-income communities that climate and ecological breakdown hit hardest? If not, is there an organization like this in your area that might want to collaborate in planning the event, or speak at the event?

You can also consider whether to involve other climate groups, youth or student organizations, or racial, social and economic justice organizations.

Finally, think outside of formal organizations. Is there is anyone else in your community who has brought people together to tackle challenges in the past, or who has previously interacted or worked with the Member of Congress?

Decide the format of your event.
Building on your understanding of your Member of Congress' needs, track record, and goals, decide which type of approach (Thank You, Persuasion, Pressure, Displeasure) you think would be best.

Based on that strategy, on which setting you have available (an office or a town hall), and the number of people you think you can bring out, choose one of the following event formats. ***Don't forget to get as much as you can on video!***

At a Town Hall Meeting

Option One: **Bring a group of 5-10 people to speak at a Town Hall**. Briefly introduce the group, sharing what organizations and/or constituencies you represent. Briefly talk about the Climate Emergency Declaration. Then, make a clear ask for the Member of Congress to sign on to the Declaration, or (if they've already signed on) to do more to get their colleagues to sign on. Work elements of Persuasion and / or Pressure into your statement, and consider having your group close with a 10-second chant for emphasis. *Make sure to move through your points quickly, in 90 seconds or less.*

If your Representative has signed on to the Declaration already, consider offering them a token of your thanks - such as a giant thank you card signed by members of the group.

Option Two: **"Mic-check" your Representative or Senator by interrupting a Town Hall or another public event.** This is an option to put additional Pressure on your Representative or Senator, and a great way to show Displeasure if it is time to escalate.

In a mic check, you will have 20 seconds or less to make your point before you have to leave. Consider opening with a brief chant to grab the group's attention, talk about how your Representative or Senator needs to act (or has failed to act), and close with a clear ask. If you're allowed to remain in the room once you're done speaking, wait for a response from your Member of Congress, and if they don't offer one, keep pushing them. Although your mic check will have a different message and tone, and will likely be much shorter, you can see a great example of former Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker being mic-checked here.

At a Representative's or Senator's Office

Option One: Go into the office, with or without an appointment, and have a conversation with staff explaining why the Member of Congress should co-sponsor the Climate

Emergency Declaration. Announce your entry into the office with a chant, and chant or sing as you wrap up the meeting and leave.

Option Two: To add more pressure and/or express your displeasure, you can do the above, but have only 5 people go inside the office to meet with staff while an additional 10 or more people hold a "This Is Not A Drill" rally outside.

Option Three: If you feel that you need to escalate further, consider refusing to leave the office until the Representative or Senator's staff commit to supporting the Declaration, or until security tells you to leave. *If you are taking a more confrontational approach such as this, please get in touch with rebecca.harris@climatemobilization.org to talk through safety considerations and receive additional support in planning.*

Get clear on how to make your ask.
Say the following to your Representative, Senator, or their staff.
"We are here to say that This Is Not A Drill: Declare a Climate Emergency. Will you sign on as a Co-Sponsor of the Climate Emergency Declaration, House Concurrent Resolution 52 / Senate Concurrent Resolution 22?"

STEP FIVE: Find people to join you.

The single biggest factor that determines whether your Representative or Senator signs on is not anything that you say or do. It's the number of people and organizations who show up to your event in support of the Climate Emergency Declaration.

To get people to join you, start by thinking about all of the different places in your life that you come into contact with people. Then, begin inviting people to join you. The groups that you list out may include:

- Climate and environmental justice organizations
- Non-climate political organizations
- Organizations where you volunteer

- Members of your family (list out each side of your family)
- Different groups of friends (list each one.)
- Coworkers
- Hobby, sport or fitness organizations (list each one)
- Your place of worship
- Your book group

Make it personal, and persist until you get an answer. A mass email and a Facebook event are a good way to *start* getting it on people's radar, but make sure to follow up with personal texts, personal phone calls, and mentioning the event to people in person.

Get twice as many RSVP's as you need. In general, half the people who say they will come will not materialize. We want each of these events to have at least 10 people -- *that means you should get 20 people to say they will come.*

Remind, remind, remind (3 times). Keep track of who has told you they will or might attend. Then, follow up with a reminder 3 or 4 days before the event, and a final reminder call or text message asking if they will come the night before or the morning of the event. ***People typically do not show up unless they say 3 times that they will attend.***

STEP SIX: Get the details ready.

Plan before the event so that you have a **schedule, materials,** and **roles** ready to go.

A ***schedule*** (sometimes also called a Tick Tock) notes who is doing what for your event, minute by minute. Consider having participants gather at a nearby park or coffee shop 30-45 minutes before the event to make sure everyone understands the plan, and minimize the chance of people showing up too late to participate.

It's a good idea to have one or two people who are key in organizing the event do nothing else besides making sure that the schedule is being followed, and everyone else is doing what they are supposed to be doing at the right time.
An example schedule for an event where some people go inside to try to meet with a Representative while others rally outside the office could look like the following:

Noon: All participants meet at Curt's Cafe, including Tom who is bringing the sound system.
12:15pm: Cross the street to head to the Representative's office.
12:20pm: The inside group goes inside to meet with the Representative, with Sally leading them in a brief chant as they enter.
12:22pm: Bill begins to lead the outside group in a series of chants.
12:30pm: Bob speaks to the people rallying.
12:35pm: Bill leads more chants.
12:45pm: Jenny speaks to the people rallying outside.
Around 12:50pm: The group that was inside comes out, joins the rally, and reports back on the results of their meeting.
1pm: The group goes back to Curt's Cafe across the street to debrief.

Materials that you need might include things like signs, banners, a megaphone, a portable speaker, and T-shirts. Please use visuals and other tools that reflect the "This Is Not A Drill" theme, including:

- Shirts and signs made using this ClimateEmergency.US stencil
- Fire alarms
- A portable flashing red siren light(s)
- Pictures / cardboard cutouts of ambulances
- Firefighters in uniform, if any are interested in joining you
- Occasionally using your megaphone's siren setting, for effect.
- Painted representations of fire, floods, heat waves, or other climate threats that are affecting or could affect your region

Make sure to put ClimateEmergency.US prominently on your signs, banners and shirts. That way, people who look at photos and videos will know where to sign up!

Slogans you can use for your signs include:

- **This Is Not A Drill: Declare Climate Emergency!**
- **It's an Emergency**
- **Act Like It's An Emergency, or Get Out of The Way**

- **Tell the Truth**

Roles will vary significantly depending on what type of event you are planning. Ask people if they can take on a role at least a week in advance if possible, and confirm one or two days before that they are still available and feel ready to take on their role.

The most important role for ANY #NotADrill event is for one or two people to record video and post it online, using the hashtag #NotADrill and tagging @MobilizeClimate on Twitter or @The Climate Mobilization on Facebook so the video can be re-shared.

It is often ideal to have one person livestream on Facebook, and a second person take photos, record shorter video clips and post status updates on Facebook and Twitter.

A full list of roles for a town hall meeting could include:

- Sign-in sheet holder
- Main speaker
- Backup speaker (in case the main speaker gets sick or forgets something)
- Person presenting a thank you item (if you are thanking your Representative)
- Chant leader (If you are mic checking the town hall, the chant leader also makes the call on when to start doing so, and when to leave the event)
- Livestreamer
- Photographer / shorter video recorder
- Coordinator, who makes sure people are doing their assigned roles

A full list of roles for an event at a Representative's or Senator's office could include:

- Group going inside to meet with the Member of Congress
    - Chant leader
    - Song leader
    - Main speaker
    - Additional speaker
    - Livestreamer and/or video/photo taker



    - Coordinator -- If the group is planning not to leave the Representative's or Senator's office until they get an answer, this person decides when it is time to leave.

- Group rallying outside (if applicable)
    - Coordinator, who makes sure people are doing their assigned roles
    - Sound system coordinator
    - Chant leader
    - Song leader
    - Speaker(s), if any
    - Livestreamer
    - Photo / video taker
    - Banner holders

SONGS
The Voice of My Great Granddaughter

CHANTS
(leader): We're living in an emergency.
(crowd): This is not a drill.
(leader): It's time for (first or last name of Rep / Sen, ideally 2 syllables) to come and see
(*for example: It's time for Debbie to come and see)*
(crowd: This is not a drill.
(leader): We need a way to make it through
(crowd): This is not a drill
(leader): Our future, it depends on you
(crowd): This is not a drill

(leader): As our summers get hotter, we're here to say
(crowd): Protect our lives, or you can't stay.
(leader): In the middle of the floods, we want you to know
(crowd): Protect our lives, or you've got to go.
(leader): In the middle of the fires we're here to say

(crowd): Protect our lives, or you can't stay.
(leader): We have woken up and we want you to know
(crowd): If you're asleep at the wheel, then you've got to go.

STEP SIX: Follow up!

Gather with the group immediately after the event, or the next day, to debrief. Talk about what went well, what you would change for next time, and think about ideas for a follow-up action to increase the pressure, if needed.

Organize **follow-up calls** to your Representative's or Senator's office from everyone who was at the event, as well as any friends, family members, organization members or others who you can rope in to help. Use the calls to continue pressing the Representative or Senator for an answer.

One way to get more people to call in is by inviting your friends to a Facebook event for a call-in day, where everyone is asked to call in during office hours on a certain date.

Don't forget to use the hashtag #NotADrill and tag @MobilizeClimate on Twitter or @The Climate Mobilization on Facebook so the video can be re-shared.

Please take detailed notes during your conversation with any Representative, Senator or their staff. Then **submit photos, videos and a write-up about your event along with links to any social media posts using this form.**