

*The Villager*

Guest Editorial

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On October 25, 2012, Hurricane Sandy made landfall in Brigantine, New Jersey. At that moment, Americans up and down the East Coast felt what tens of thousands of men, women, and children in Sandy's path had already endured - a sense of helplessness, uncertainty, and fear. After all, what can anyone do in the face of a *superstorm*, a catastrophic symptom of a global climate crisis?

In the days, weeks, and months that followed, as the incalculable damage from Sandy began to emerge, those feelings transformed - from helplessness into awareness, uncertainty into resolve, and fear into courage.

On September 21st, one year, 11 months, and four days after Sandy hit New Jersey - those feelings will transform into *action*.

Join me and tens of thousands of New Yorkers and others from across the continent - men, women, and children from every walk of life - in what promises to be the largest climate march in history: The People's Climate March. Supported by more than 1000 organizations - including two of the country's major labor unions; the NAACP; and local environmental justice, neighborhood, and faith groups - the People's Climate March is our chance to take a stand, just days before an emergency climate summit at the United Nations, that can change the course of history.

I have long been concerned about the disproportionate impact climate crises have on low income communities and communities of color. We know all too well that extreme weather events increase the vulnerability of people who already deal with bad air, unsafe housing, and that lack adequate resources to plan, prepare, and recover. Climate action must proceed with an eye toward environmental justice, providing jobs and hope to the Americans who need it most.

On September 21, we'll take to the streets to demand a world that we know is within our reach: a world with an economy that works for people *and* the planet. A world safe from the ravages of climate change. A world with good jobs, clean air, and healthy communities for everyone.

I, like most Americans, am ready for a change. The sheer size and diversity of the People's Climate March will shine a spotlight on the unified national - and *global* - demand for climate policy that respects the earth, and *all* of us who share it.

Storms pass, but activism lasts. On September 21st, make sure you're not left out in the rain.