

Step It Up! Review – Saturday, November 3rd, 2007

Saturday, November 3 was a day of action all across the country with people urging for a reduction in carbon emissions 80% by the year 2050. It is the second of such local actions, the first occurring last April 14 with over 1400 events organized in all fifty states.

In Iowa City, following a local policy forum, we gathered on the Pentacrest lawn at the University of Iowa to celebrate our shared concerns of global warming and climate change. With beautiful weather, signs, and a microphone available for anyone to speak, approximately 25 people listened to representatives on behalf of presidential candidates articulating their candidate's energy and environmental platforms.

Daniel Bell, co-organizer of the rally, spoke about Step It Up, the 1 Sky initiatives and the Green Finger campaign. 1 Sky is a campaign with three points: 1) Create 5 million green jobs conserving 20% of our energy by 2015; 2) Cut carbon 80% by the year 2050, to be accomplished by freezing carbon levels now and reducing emissions 30% by 2050; 3) No new coal-fired power plants. The green finger initiative realizes the importance of media and images. Following our event on the pentacrest everyone present stamped their finger green signalling their intention to vote with the environment in mind one year before the 2008 elections.

Robert Anderson spoke on behalf of the UIEC. He discussed UIEC's involvement in the first Step It UP, April 14, 2007. He identified a number of local actions with the environment as the focus and as a clear indication that the mindset of the country, and of Iowa City, realizes the importance of taking action. Robert spoke to the theme "who is a leader" and made clear that global warming must not be thought of as an issue to be addressed from afar; the individuals who showed up, those individuals who are directing local efforts ARE the leaders.

Eric Holthaus, Daniel Bell, and Robert Anderson were interviewed at the event and numerous photographs were taken. News crews from KWWL and KGAN were present and our event made the ten o'clock news on both stations.

Press links:

<http://www.press-citizen.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071104/NEWS01/711040336/1079>

<http://www.kwwl.com/News/index.php?ID=17196>