



NEW LEADERSHIP ON GLOBAL WARMING:

Montanans Draft Strategy for State Lawmakers To Pursue Global Warming Solutions

“Moral Responsibility to Protect Our Children’s Future”

HELENA, MT (September 25) – This weekend, a broad coalition of interests drafted a roadmap to pursue global warming solutions in the Treasure State.

“With global warming happening all around us, Montanans are charting a new course that focuses on resources we have available to solve these problems,” said Tom France, director of the National Wildlife Federation Northern Rockies Natural Resource Center in Missoula, who co-chaired the conference with the National Center for Appropriate Technology.

In the midst of a scorching fire season, the Climate Challenge Conference showed the power of grassroots democracy: 41 corporations, industry trade associations, conservation and labor organizations, science organizations, agricultural organizations, government agencies and universities co-sponsored the conference to provide a strategy for taking action. Conference sponsors will now provide Governor Brian Schweitzer and state lawmakers with their roadmap of global warming solutions, to move them forward.

“This conference makes clear that Montanans believe we have a moral responsibility to address global warming, to protect our children’s future,” said Kathy Hadley, Executive Director, National Center for Appropriate Technology, who co-chaired the conference with the National Wildlife Federation. “In drafting these strategies to address global warming, Montanans are leading – now, our lawmakers need to follow through.”

The diverse interests at the conference make plain that global warming is no longer an issue of left or right. It's right or wrong.

"We no longer wonder if global warming is real," said Jerome Ringo, Executive Director of the Apollo Alliance and Chairman of the National Wildlife Federation. "It's not a political issue, it's a people issue, and it belongs to us."

"We believe that in 10 years, America can declare its independence from foreign oil and get off the oil barrel we're being held over by foreign countries," Ringo said.

The Montana Climate Challenge Conference resolutions provide actionable strategies to address urgent global warming problems specific to agriculture, energy, forestry, recreation/tourism/lifestyles, and fish and wildlife. The conference resolutions include:

- Making Montana the "cleanest and greenest" state in the nation
- Reducing carbon emissions through a market-based system based on a carbon cap and/or carbon sequestration
- Increasing renewable energy consistent with standards set forth by the '25X'25 goal,' to get 25 percent of our energy from renewable sources like wind, solar, and biofuels by the year 2025 (<http://www.25x25.org/>)
- Labeling energy sources to explain where the power comes from
- Tax credits and energy bonds to encourage biomass heating systems
- Governor Schweitzer elevating his efforts to continue building a robust statewide media campaign that increases public awareness, and educates Montanans about global warming impacts and solutions
- Developing economic incentives to keep agricultural producers on the land
- Preserving fish and wildlife habitat through more efficient water usage and new funding sources
- Creating and funding permanent "Office of Carbon Reduction" government position(s) at the state or local level
- Providing annual state and local report cards on global warming impacts and initiatives
- Including science-based global warming curriculum in public education

The complete set of conference resolutions – organized into areas of agriculture, energy, forestry, recreation/tourism/lifestyles, and fish and wildlife – will soon be available at www.mtclimatechallenge.org.

The Conference showed Montanans believe global warming is a real and urgent problem, but the bottom line was that solutions are at-hand, if lawmakers will take leadership.

The National Wildlife Federation is America's conservation organization inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future.

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