

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 8, 2009



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CANDLELIGHT VIGIL FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

AMHERST -- The Amherst 350 Committee, a community group comprised of civic and church organizations, will be hosting a vigil on **Friday, December 11, from 4:30 to 5:30 PM** on the Amherst Town Common.

Last week, world leaders announced that they would be postponing the main goals of the Copenhagen Conference. This news is both disappointing and dangerous. On October 24th (International Day of Climate Action), people worldwide held rallies, events and demonstrations in their communities to send a clear message to their political leaders-- the time for climate action is now. Yet leaders of some of the largest and most polluting nations say they need more time to formulate a binding climate agreement. **In protest, countries all over the world will be holding candlelight vigils December 11 through 13, midway through the Copenhagen Conference.**

After all the hard work put in to organizing a successful event on October 24th (to communicate our climate concerns to world leaders), we are dismayed at the lack of leadership our politicians have shown in taking a stand against the climate crisis. With this candlelight vigil, we hope to express to world leaders that although those in positions of power might not take global warming seriously, we do. The climate is reaching a tipping point fast, and citizens will continue to show their concern until their leaders take definitive action.

Bill McKibben, leader of both the October 24th Day of Climate Action and this month's candlelight vigils, says that "people all over the planet are demanding a binding global climate agreement guided by the latest science and built upon principles of justice and equity." He reminds people that, should global warming continue, "all of us will be hard-pressed by rising seas, spreading drought, and temperatures too hot for growing food."

The Amherst 350 Committee has worked together over the past year to plan the October 24th event, which, attended by hundreds of community members, was a success. The name 'Amherst 350' refers to the number of parts per million of carbon dioxide that can be dissolved in the atmosphere without disastrous repercussions (the atmosphere is presently at 387 ppm of CO₂, and climbing).