

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE FUTURE IS NOW... TAKE ACTION!

CORVALLIS, Oregon – Fires without precedent are burning throughout the West, while record numbers of tropical storms are battering the East Coast; and extreme temperatures are setting records planet-wide. We were warned by World Scientists in their Notices to Humanity that we must “practice a more environmentally sustainable alternative to business as usual” or suffer the current environmental conditions. Alarming, if we don’t change our habits, future conditions will be worse. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, global warming will result in more severe droughts, floods, and windstorms, leading to more wildfires, landslides, and other disasters.

Fortunately, regardless of how climate change manifests, we have the ability to adapt. To create a better future, Dr. Susan Salafsky, Ecologist and Co-leader of 500 Women Scientists Corvallis, suggests we focus on mitigating the causes and impacts of climate extremes. For example, managing forests for water retention and structural diversity can enhance resilience to drought, reduce fire severity, support greater biodiversity, and increase timber production.

Contrary to the presumption of some people, denial of climate change and disregarding the expertise of scientists will not protect us from natural disasters. As the pandemic and raging wildfires have demonstrated, we will have to endure the same calamitous events despite our beliefs. Consequently what is most critical to our future is how each of us acts today.

That is why Salafsky and other members of the Corvallis Climate Action Alliance are hosting the second annual Week of Action (September 21-27). Their goal is to engage diverse individuals in solutions-based thinking as part of the Healthy Planet = Healthy People campaign. They are asking us to participate in daily (4:30-5:30 pm) socially-distanced sign displays along busy roadways in downtown Corvallis. Create your own sign (or borrow one of the Alliance’s*) and use it to enhance awareness of practical solutions to our environmental, social, and economic crises. All are welcome to join the Sign Line but participants must: 1) Be masked and at least 10 feet from others, 2) Use signs to silently communicate solutions, 3) Maintain non-violence, and 4) Respect all others.

Take and post pictures of signs and masked participants on Facebook page (HPisHP) and Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/p/CESsDVlgha1/>) with #HealthyPlanet=HealthyPeople and #Solutions

Additional activities for the 2020 Week of Action include Chalking for Change (a community art project) and daily online presentations by experts on relevant themes including: Peace, Energy, Waste Prevention, Environment, Climate, Social Justice, and Democracy.

*More information, resources, signs, and access to the presentations can be found at <https://CorvallisClimateActionAlliance.org>, or check out the Solutions Table near the Benton County Courthouse daily (3:30-5:30 pm) during the Week of Action.