



City of New Bedford
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PRESS RELEASE

A Day to Celebrate Climate Solutions – 10-10-10 Global Work Party, New Bedford

New Bedford, MA – On October 10, The P.O.W.E.R. Project – People Organizing for Wealth and Ecological Restoration – a project of the Marion Institute’s Green Jobs, Green Economy Initiative, will host a Weatherization Barn-raising and Enviro-Action Block Party. The event is part of the international climate campaign 350.org’s 10/10/10 Global Work Party. New Bedford and other Southcoast communities will join 6,000 groups in over 180 countries coming together to take action on global warming and to demand stronger leadership on climate issues. The 10/10/10 Global Work Party will be history’s largest day of practical action to fight the climate crisis.

“It’s time for us to roll up our sleeves and get to work on building the clean energy future that will generate economic opportunity and a safer, healthier world for our children” said Mayor Lang. “I encourage everyone to do his or her part to break the back of the fossil fuel economy and find solutions to the climate challenge.”

The Weatherization Barn-raising will go from 10am to 3pm – those interested in participating should meet at the corner of Kempton and Chancery Streets. The barn-raising will teach local residents how to make their homes more energy efficient, while doing actual work on home. 10-10-10 activities will also take place in other Southcoast communities. In Westport, local residents will be asking people to sign up for a delivery of biodeisel for home heating. In Dartmouth, Mass Audubon will host a beach cleanup and followed by a bike caravan to the West End of New Bedford to join other Southcoast Work Parties as they converge at the Sacred Green Space on the corner of Kempton and Chancery for the Enviro-Action Block Party from 3-6pm. The Enviro-Action Block Party has been organized with the support of the ESHU² Collective, the Marion Institute,

Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance, PACE YouthBuild, Southeastern Massachusetts Agricultural Partnership, All Scholastic Athletic Program, and Mass Audubon.

The Block Party is free and open to everyone. The festivities will include live music and entertainment, training on weatherizing your home, contests and prizes, a swap meet, workshops on vermicomposting, interactive art and free locally grown food. Attendees will also have a chance to sign up for free home energy assessments as part of the Community Mobilization Initiative, a partnership with YouthBuild, NSTAR and the City of New Bedford to help the city reach its goal of weatherizing 5,000 homes and businesses in the City.

“Being a part of the P.O.W.E.R. Team and working in collaboration with all these strong organizations and businesses to restore the equity, ecology and economy of our community has truly been an empowering experience,” says Norman Rebeiro, a Community Mobilization Leader for the P.O.W.E.R. Project. “350 really is the most important number in the world. Please come out and support our efforts to reduce carbon emissions and build community.”

According to leading climate scientists, 350 parts per million is the highest concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere that we can maintain without threatening the ability to survive on this planet. Carbon Dioxide is a greenhouse gas that is produced when we burn things like coal and gasoline and when we cut down forests. The current concentration is 392 and is increasing by 2 parts per million each year.

Following a similar global action hosted by 350.org last fall, 112 countries endorsed the 350 parts per million target at the UN Climate Meetings in Copenhagen. “People will do very practical things on 10/10/10,” said 350.org founder and author Bill McKibben. “But they also were sending a pointed political message – ‘We’re getting to work, what about you?’ Maybe now that they’ve seen us hammering in solar panels, they’ll decide to hammer out a treaty.”

For more information about these and other 10-10-10 events visit www.350.org.

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About P.O.W.E.R.

P.O.W.E.R. – People Organizing for Wealth and Ecological Restoration - is a project of the Marion Institute’s Green Jobs, Green Economy Initiative created in partnership with the ESHU² Collective. We are local residents of New Bedford who are dedicated to helping our fellow community members restore the equity, ecology and economy of our area and our nation.