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## **Fargo-Moorhead Environmental, Social Justice Advocates Strike, March for Climate Action, Environmental Justice**

**Fargo, N.D.-Moorhead, Minn.** (Sept. 24, 2021) – Fargo (N.D.)-Moorhead (Minn.)-area environmental and social justice advocates are joining forces today for a climate strike and march in Fargo to raise awareness about the existential threat of climate change and pressure elected officials to take actions that force systemic change and ultimately end global warming.

The event begins today at 3 p.m. at Island Park, 302 7<sup>th</sup> Street South in Fargo, and includes a march to Fargo City Hall, at 225 4<sup>th</sup> Street North. The rally at City Hall features youth speakers, a Stop Line 3 water protector and FM-area environmental and social justice advocates.

Jessa Mueller, a senior and student body president at Minnesota State University Moorhead, will be speaking during the rally. "Young people care about the ongoing climate crisis but feel overwhelmed about the state of national politics, and many have been frustrated into inaction," she said. "That's why I'd like to see more of us become

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local advocates; there's lots of work that can be done in our cities and on our college campuses to start making significant changes, and the more people that help the easier the process gets. We outnumber the people in power. We simply cannot afford to wait for them to take action, so we must take the action to them."

[The local protest](#) is in conjunction with a global climate strike spearheaded by [Fridays For Future](#), which was founded by Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg. It is one of more than 1,000 events being staged around the world to focus public attention on the climate crisis. The primary hashtag for the worldwide event is #UprootTheSystem.

Fridays For Future demands are:

- Keep the global temperature rise below 1.5°C (3.6°F) compared to pre-industrial levels.
- Ensure climate justice and equality.
- Listen to the best united science currently available.

Additional goals of the local event include:

- Focus attention on the global climate crisis and the urgent need for governments at all levels to take actions that will limit greenhouse gas emissions.
- Engage more Fargo-Moorhead area citizens, and especially the communities' youth, in intersectional environmentalism.
- Point out the connections between climate change and social injustices.
- Educate the public on the importance of stopping Line 3 in Minnesota. The pipeline being constructed by Enbridge undermines the indigenous treaty rights of the

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Anishinaabe people, and its construction poses a clear and present danger to the future health of our climate, water and land.

- Appeal to state leaders to not fund technically experimental and unproven carbon capture or sequestration programs with taxpayers' dollars, but focus instead on developing alternative, non-CO<sup>2</sup> emitting energy sources.
- Undo the deregulation of natural gas, electricity and other services that are public necessities.

"We're only beginning to see the harsh realities of a planet in climate transition, and we're getting closer to more turning-point triggers all the time," N.D. Nonpartisan League and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa tribal member Tracey L. Wilkie said. "The young people protesting today understand the critical importance of moving away from fossil fuels and runaway emissions, and instead moving quickly toward building a sustainable, regenerative society. It's their lives we're talking about."

David Kelm, who is a senior at Concordia College, Moorhead, an intern with the college's Sustainability Program and founder of a new environmental student organization, agreed.

"We're in a box. Even if we want to cut down on individual carbon emissions the truth is we can't. We're forced to be reliant on corporations, and to stop being reliant on them costs a lot of money," Kelm said. "We're marching so that they hear us and hear how unsatisfied we are with where our climate is going. All we want is for them to care a bit about the future of the planet, which means cutting emissions."

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Organizers have asked that strike and march participants wear masks to protect themselves and others from the spread of COVID-19 and bring reusable water bottles to stay hydrated rather than single-use plastic bottles.

Groups engaged in climate strike/march planning and staging include the Citizens Local Energy Action Network (C.L.E.A.N.), Dakota Resource Council, FM Water Protectors, Honor the Earth, Knights of the Climate Covenant, N.D. Nonpartisan League and Red River Marshals.

[More Information](#)