

Activists want to talk about climate change

By Danielle Wiley, Daily News staff writer | Posted: Friday, June 13, 2014 1:00 am

Moscow climate activists welcomed the Idaho GOP convention to the city Thursday with a downtown demonstration to create awareness about global warming and the welfare of the environment.

"We wanted to welcome the Republicans to town, and we are concerned about climate change, so we wanted to bring those two things together," said Tina Hilding, one of the coordinators of the event.

Citizens Climate Lobby and Friends of the Clearwater were among the groups involved.

The event was held in Friendship Square on Main Street during the evening, despite the on and off rain showers. Chalk messages and painted cardboard signs displayed statements about climate change and the environmental impact for pedestrians and drivers to see.

Hilding said the groups chose to hold their event in Friendship Square instead of a place closer to the GOP convention because it was a welcoming place that could draw more people in.

Speakers talked about their participation in local groups and committees and about their opinions on climate change. Then, the crowd listened to live music by Simba and the Exceptional Africans. bicyclists and pedestrians coming from local restaurants and shops stopped by to grab information packets.

Tom Lamar, director of the Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute, a Moscow City councilman and candidate for Latah County Commissioner, said, "My Republican parents taught me about conserving our natural resources and for more than 30 years I've been getting my hands dirty alongside other Latah County residents to improve our land, our communities and our economy."

Lamar said, "Latah County has a proud history of farming, natural resources, natural resource production and energy services. These same local strengths, upon which our economy is built, are the same strengths that are needed by our county, our state and our nation to address climate change."



Welcome GOP: Let's talk about climate change

Alena Perrigvey-Kringa, left, 15, and Annika Buehler, 13, both of Moscow, carry the signs they made for a Global Warming protest Thursday, June 12, 2014, at Friendship Square in Moscow.

Rob Briggs, a volunteer with Citizens Climate Lobby, described it as a rapidly growing, non-partisan, national grassroots association. The groups mission is "enactment of effective public policy to address global warming."

"Probably most of the people here recognize that the Earth is warming, that humans are responsible and that we have options to deal with that," Briggs said.

Briggs pushed the CCL legislative agenda to put a gradually rising tax on carbon and return the proceeds from those fees to the nation's taxpayers on an equal per capita basis.

Three members of Friends of the Clearwater talked about what effects global warming would have on the local environment, both plants and animals.

A student from Moscow High school and a student from Moscow Middle School discussed the effects that global warming has had on the planet already and what kind of effects climate change will have on their generation and the generations that follow them.

Hilding said this event was important because the issue of climate change has been divisive among the political parties, but she believes that awareness could bring the opposing parties together to create effective results.

"It is something that we can all care about and do something about," Hilding said.

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