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New Haven climate rally's goal: 350 parts per million (video)

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By Abbe Smith, Register Staff
asmith@nhregister.com / Twitter: [@abbegsmith](#)



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NEW HAVEN — Downtown was all abuzz Saturday with the clean, green energy of more than 250 people rallying for a future beyond fossil fuels.

The environmentally friendly crowd was participating in the worldwide Moving Planet rally, a day of environmental awareness events dedicated to seeking a sustainable future through cleaner energy and alternative forms of transportation.

The Moving Connecticut rally was organized by grassroots climate change group, 350ct.org. The national 350.org seeks to lower the amount of CO₂, or carbon dioxide, in the atmosphere. The current level is 392 parts per million, but scientists say the safe upper limit is 350 ppm.

"350, it's cool because most people don't know what that is and it's nice to get all these people out and explain that 350 is the parts per million of carbon dioxide that we need to get to. So that's really important," said Kathryn Culhane of the Yale Student Environmental Coalition.

The event drew families, activists, students, bicycle advocates and people who care about climate change.

As part of the festivities, many in the crowd embarked on a critical mass bicycle ride at 4 p.m. Later, organizers of the rally got everyone in the crowd to form a human "350" on the green for a photo.

There were also information tables and speeches by environmental leaders and elected officials. The New Haven rally and other Connecticut events coincide with thousands of similar events worldwide, including hikes and 350-hour bike rides.

Visit <http://350ct.org/move/events> for more information.

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