



MARCH 28-30
HUSTON-TILLOTSON UNIVERSITY
AUSTIN, TX

AT THE INTERSECTION OF CLIMATE, ECONOMY, AND CIVIL RIGHTS
IS A VISION FOR OUR STATE AND NATION

Introduction:

Over the past three years, our country has experienced a paradigm shift. All across the nation, diverse voices are beginning to rise to the climate challenge, and they are all calling for action. At this moment our generation has the opportunity to offer a bold new vision of our energy future.

On March 28-30 2009, at Huston-Tillotson University, one of the oldest Historically Black Universities in the state, will host the second-ever ReEnergize Texas Summit. Young people from across the state of Texas will converge in Austin for the largest youth climate conference ever held in Texas.

In the first two days of the summit hundreds of young people will be engaged by speakers, workshops, and panels addressing the many aspects of climate change. They will meet in regional groups to network for future actions, and they will hear political leaders discuss their positions on climate change. On Monday, March 30th, these young people will march from Huston-Tillotson in East Austin across Interstate 35, a long-recognized racial barrier in the city of Austin, and will walk to the Capitol Building where they will lobby the State Legislature for climate change legislation.

We will engage, share, and inspire one another with a vision for the future; a vision focused on our potential to overcome the energy challenges of the 21st century and build new sustainable and just societies through clean energy economies. Through our training and networking opportunities, we will empower our generation to make this vision a reality.

We are all in this together, one generation, united with a single vision: building a better world for future generations. Coming from all corners of the state and representing all races, ethnicities, socio-economic backgrounds, and ideologies, the voice of our generation is clear: Now is the time for action. Now is the time for boldness. We will accept nothing less from the people with whom we have entrusted our future.

Goals

The ReEnergize Texas Summit will:

- **Empower, engage** and **inspire** 500 young people in Texas to take action on global warming with trainings, speakers and a coordinated lobby day.
- **Strengthen** the movement for real climate solutions, in a coordinated and effective manner.
- **Connect** youth with local community leaders and strengthen bonds between the youth climate movement and the environmental justice movement.
- **Unify** the youth climate movement with one voice and one vision for shifting our nation into a new energy future.



- **Elevate** the prophetic and morally compelling voices of America's youth into the national debate about global warming and our energy future.
- **Frame** the global warming and energy debate as an opportunity to strengthen our economy and reestablish our state and our nation as global leaders in technology and energy production.

Significance

The *ReEnergize Texas Summit* will be the largest gathering of Texas youth around the issue of climate change. It is being organized by and for students. The *ReEnergize Texas Summit* is action focused and results oriented. Young people will walk away from *ReEnergize Texas Summit* with the tools, networks and resources which they will utilize to create change in their communities. *Re-Energize Texas 2009* is a collaborative effort that will unite not only a diverse body of young people, but a diverse coalition of partners, organizations, and supporters.

The ReEnergize Texas Summit: Structure, Planning, Process

The *ReEnergize Texas Summit* is designed to engage and empower youth, not only at the conference itself, but also throughout the planning process. Planning committees with young people from campuses across the state are involved in every element of the planning process. The vision for *The ReEnergize Texas Summit* is being driven by a steering committee made up of seven young leaders. Each of these leaders is responsible for sub-committees covering specific areas of the conference. The sub-committees are: recruitment, logistics, budgeting and fundraising, agenda, lobby day, and media. Each sub-committee works closely with a staff mentor, who has expertise in the sub-committee's working area. Staff mentors play a supportive and guiding role in the conference planning process.



Outreach and Recruitment Strategy

The recruitment strategy for the *ReEnergize Texas Summit* is based first and foremost upon the strategy developed for the Power Shift 2007 conference which brought over 6,000 young people from across the country to Washington DC to drive action on global warming. The strategy involves creating a "buzz" around *The ReEnergize Texas Summit* through new media and the internet, as well as the utilization of 20 campus and regional recruiters.



While we have an explicit focus on energy, the ReEnergize Texas Summit also prides itself on its dedication to social justice. While many organizations active on climate issues limit themselves to narrowly defined environmental concerns, we emphasize social justice and the inequitable impacts of dirty energy and climate change. The first step in solving these inequities is to engage overlooked and marginalized voices as part of the movement. We are outreaching to audiences ranging in diversity from Historically Black Colleges and Universities to Baptist schools and others.

Conference Agenda and Conference Components

- **Keynotes:** Attendees will be energized by leaders of the climate movement such as Reverend Lennox Yearwood and Mark Ewall, as well as leaders from Texas such as Arlington Mayor Robert Cluck, State Legislator Kirk Watson, and Texas businessman Trammel Crow, Jr. (*all invited*)
- **Workshops and Trainings:** Conference attendees will learn best practices for organizing from Sierra Student Coalition trainers and others, including: campaign and event planning, recruitment, communications and media, lobbying, leadership development, coalition-building, and meeting with decision-makers.
- **Speakers:** Diverse speakers will enlighten youth about the connections between climate and faith, job creation, global health care, and many more presentations that will help build our movement and add new perspectives.
- **Regional Breakouts:** After splitting into geographically-based groups, youth will identify upcoming regional opportunities to realize tangible progress and plan coordinated campaigns and events. These will help establish networks in centers like Houston, Dallas, and Central Texas.
- **Rally to ReEnergize:** Administrators from leading universities will tout their transitions towards climate neutrality and demonstrate the capacity of youth to create meaningful change.
- **30th Anniversary of 3 Mile Island:** Youth will learn about the issues surrounding nuclear power and uranium mining at a film screening party. At the event we will also provide youth with toolkits and resources to host film series on their own campuses.
- **Youth Climate Digital Video:** A central component of the lead up into and for the documentation of the conference, digital media trained youth will record their individual and shared stories to a broader audience.
- **Texas Lobby Day:** Students will have a day to meet their legislators and take the message of a clean energy economy to the Texas Capitol. Our goal is to have meetings between constituents and legislators representing half of the 150 House Districts in Texas.
- **Art, Music, and Poetry:** The conference will feature cultural components as well, allowing students to connect to the issue in vivid and inspiring ways.

