

Cathy Strickler, organizer of the Climate Action Alliance of the Valley, unravels a petition that was sent to members of Congress asking them to make climate change their top priority. The group formed earlier this year.

Michael Reilly /
DN-R



New Green Group Just Warming Up

Harrisonburg-Based Climate Action Alliance Targets Global Warming, Emissions

By **JEREMY HUNT**
Daily News-Record

HARRISONBURG — A new environmental group has its sights set on Congress.

The Climate Action Alliance of the Valley aims to support legislators who “vote according to the science of the climate crisis,” and hold them accountable for their decisions, said Harrisonburg resident Cathy Strickler, the group’s organizer.

The group, which has a steering committee of about 15 members, focuses primarily on federal lawmakers in an effort to curb the human causes of climate change, Strickler said.

“The federal level is where the most emphasis needs to be placed at this time,” she said. “The regulations that need to be put into place need to be at the federal level for them to be the most effective to put a lim-

it on the greenhouse gases, in particular carbon dioxide emissions.”

The steering committee meets twice a month, usually at Massanutten Regional Library in downtown Harrisonburg, she said.

The nonpartisan group will meet at the library

Tuesday at noon and again on Nov. 21, also at noon.

For more information or to

“I really think this should not be a partisan issue because we are all in this together.”

— CATHY STRICKLER
ORGANIZER, CLIMATE
ACTION ALLIANCE OF THE
VALLEY, ON GLOBAL
WARMING

Group Still In Early Stages

Alliance

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get involved, call Strickler at 434-8690.

'Really Powerful'

The group formed earlier this year and is still in the developing stages, Strickler said.

It has more than 70 people signed up to receive e-mail alerts about climate issues, lawmakers and their representatives' voting records, she said.

Members are also looking to develop partnerships with other environmental groups and organizations, member Bly Brown said.

Other initiatives include lobbying and letter writing, she said.

Brown said the group has set up informational booths at several events this year, including the Rockingham County Fair.

"There's such comradery among the group and those we've spoken to at the venues we've made a presence at," she said. "To me, [it] feels really powerful."

At the events, people signed letters asking elected

officials such as Gov. Timothy Kaine and Sens. John Warner and Jim Webb to make climate change a top priority, Strickler said. More than 100 people signed the correspondence, she said.

'We Are All In This together'

For member Page Shields, the group is all about education.

If more people are educated about global warming, Shields said, then changes can be made.

"Hopefully, we can pass legislation and talk to people in the energy field," she said. "It's pretty dire when you look at a lot of things."

The group got its start, Strickler said, after she read several books on climate change and decided to do something about it.

"This was the issue that I really thought had priority over all the other good issues," she said. "I really think this should not be a partisan issue because we are all in this together."

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