

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## At Phoenix Earth Day Rally, Elected Officials Join Climate Leaders to Demand Climate Action

Hundreds Join in at Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza at Event Hosted by Climate Action Campaign

Phoenix, AZ — The Climate Action Campaign, alongside several Arizona officials and leading climate, justice, and public health organizations, hosted a dynamic "Climate Solutions Now" Earth Day Rally at Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza in Phoenix to call on federal, state, and local leaders to pursue solutions for pollution and action on climate change. The event was held to celebrate significant advancements in combating climate change while emphasizing the critical need for ongoing measures to fully address the crisis.

Algonside family-friendly activities, complimentary refreshments, the event included a vibrant program that featured performances from Edurado DJ duo Vinyl Vagos. Speakers included State Rep. Oscar de los Santos, Lyla Tango and Ryla Robinson, Community Catalyst Fellows, Maren Mahoney, Director of Arizona Office of Resiliency, and Pastor Aubrey Barnwell, First New Life Church, and Chairperson of African American Christian Clergy Coalition in Phoenix.

"The impacts of climate change are becoming more pronounced and affecting communities and ecosystems across the globe. However, in the face of this crisis, we must not lose hope. We have the power to drive change



and implement solutions that can mitigate the effects of climate change and build a more sustainable future. It is no longer enough to simply acknowledge the reality of climate change. We must take concrete actions to address it.

One key solution lies in transitioning to renewable energy sources." – Riyla Robinson, Community Catalyst Fellow.

"The fight for compassion, for our family of nature, it doesn't matter how much it takes to win, because it is literally the last fight we'll fight if we lose. I urge you to remember that nature is not simply something to admire and take photos of. It is not a hobby. Nature is life. Nature is sacred. Nature is our family, and Nature is us. Right now, looking at all of you, you are included in what I am trying to protect in this fight. This fight is sacred! We will not lose because we have each other, and we have compassion on our side!" – Lyla Yango,

## **Community Catalyst Fellow**

"Every day that I am at the Arizona Legislature, I work hard to make environmental justice and recognition of the need for climate action a priority. This year I sponsored a proposed constitutional amendment to ensure that every person has the right to a clean, healthy environment. Unfortunately, it was never heard in committee. That does not mean, however, that I have given up. I will continue to work to ensure that all Arizonans have clean air to breathe, healthy water to drink, and access to clean, affordable energy." – Representative Oscar de los Santos, Assistant Minority Leader, Arizona House of Representatives

Numerous climate, justice, and public health organizations - and their members - participated in the event, including:

- Climate Action Campaign
- Sierra Club Grand Canyon (Arizona) Chapter



- NextGen America
- Moms Clean Air Force
- Poder Latinx
- Elders Climate Action
- Arizona Interfaith Power
- Rural Arizona Engagement
- Climate Reality Project
- Environmental Defense Action Fund
- Arizona Faith Network
- Arizona Health Professionals for Climate Action
- Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments

## **About the Climate Action Campaign**

CAC is a vibrant coalition of dozens of major national environment, environmental justice, and public health groups, working together to drive ambitious, durable federal action based on science, to address the climate crisis. Our goal is to reduce climate pollution and accelerate the transition to clean energy in ways that support justice, jobs, health, and economic opportunity for all.

A video clip of the event can be found <u>here</u>. Photos can be found below:







