**ZERO HOUR YOUTH CLIMATE MARCH – JULY 21**

**New York Students Demand Total Transition To Renewable Energy**

**Thousands Expected To Gather At Columbus Circle Before Rally At United Nations**

NEW YORK, NY (July 9, 2018) – Thousands of New York City students are expected to gather on July 21 for the Zero Hour Youth Climate March demanding a complete and immediate action on climate change. The March kicks off at 11:00am at Columbus Circle and ends in front of the United Nations Building at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza.

The NYC march is one of many events taking place the same day in cities across the country developed by [Zero Hour](http://thisiszerohour.org/), a global non-profit organization founded to combine the efforts of student leaders to create a movement that will ensure that elected officials at every level of society stop ignoring the rights of young people to a safe, healthy, and clean environment.

“When we march on July 21st, we’ll be calling for complete institutional divestment from the fossil fuel industry, an 100% transition to renewable energy, the creation of clean energy jobs, an end to the disproportionate impact of environmental pollution on poor communities and communities of color, and a real commitment from every one of our policymakers to advancing a more sustainable future in our city, state, country, and world,” said Ilana Cohen, one of the organizers of the NYC march.

The New York metropolitan area is currently one of the most polluted regions in the country. According to the American Lung Association’s annual “[State of the Air](http://www.lung.org/our-initiatives/healthy-air/sota/)” report, the region is among the top ten worst regions for ozone alert days, making the simple act of breathing a life-threatening effort. Marchers and speakers will be encouraging the city to set an example of how to transition toward a clean, ethical environmental future.

Zero Hour NYC’s partners include the [People’s Climate Movement](https://peoplesclimate.org), [350.org](https://350.org), [Women’s March Youth Empower](https://www.womensmarch.com/empower/), [Sierra Club](https://www.sierraclub.org), and the [Alliance for Climate Education](https://acespace.org).

Marchers will assemble at Columbus Circle, 59th Street and Central Park West, at 11:00am before heading off for a rally at UN Headquarters. Participants will make their way around Columbus Circle towards Central Park South, proceeding towards 7th Avenue, where they will make a right turn. Marchers will head south on 7th Avenue, towards 48th Street where they will turn left towards 2nd Avenue. Upon reaching 2nd Ave., all marchers will turn right to head south towards Dag Hammarskjold Plaza. The post-march rally featuring student environmental activists will run from 12:30-2:00pm in front of the Glass House. On-site voter registration will take place throughout the day.

Zero Hour’s mission equates environmental justice with social justice. According to a 2016 report by [The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6030e.pdf), around the world, climate change is already affecting many communities’ ability to grow and buy enough food to eat, with impacts set to worsen dramatically over coming decades. It is estimated that climate change could drive a further 122 million people into extreme poverty by 2030. Climate change also exacerbates existing inequalities within communities, with its impacts felt disproportionately by women and children.

“We’re targeting all of America’s politicians because our platform is applicable to all levels of government,” said Jamie S. Margolin, founder of Zero Hour. “It doesn’t matter whether you’re a state or national senator – you can always divest from special interests and take bold action on climate change.”

More information on the NYC Youth Climate March, can be found online at [Zero Hour NYC](https://zerohournyc.weebly.com/) and on Facebook/Instagram, @thisiszerohour.nyc and Twitter, @zerohournyc.

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