

Press Release

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**October 18 Extinction Rebellion Chicago Returns to Daley Plaza at 4 PM:
*Joins Worldwide Chapters to "Sound the Alarm" About the Climate Emergency***

Chicago, IL – Extinction Rebellion Chicago (XR Chicago) will be back in Chicago’s Daley Plaza October 18 at 4 pm, joining Extinction Rebellion chapters around the world to ***Sound the Alarm*** about the climate crisis. XR Chicago members and the chapter’s 30+ partner organizations plan to create a loud and peaceful ruckus with dancing, singing, chanting, whistle-blowing, and drum pounding. Their goal: to *sound the alarm* and demand that Chicago’s city, state and Midwest government officials tell the truth and declare a climate emergency.

“We came together in Daley Plaza October 7 to ask our officials to declare a climate emergency, but we have not heard a word from them,” said XR Chicago spokesperson Joe Phillips. “We’re coming back October 18 to *sound the alarm* and urge Mayor Lightfoot, members of Chicago’s City Council, and Governor Pritzker to declare a climate emergency. We’ll continue to sound the alarm until government silence stops and action begins.”

Two intergovernmental panels for the United Nations (UN) warned recently that the crisis we face is so comprehensive that it could lead to the sixth mass extinction of all life on earth. In 2018, the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warned that the world must utterly change its energy systems within 12 years to avoid social and ecological disaster. In May 2019 – less than a year later – a UN assessment compiled by hundreds of international experts and based on thousands of scientific studies concluded that our dependence on fossil fuels is hurling us toward mass extinction. Since then, new scientific studies are predicting that even the most drastic scenarios will occur sooner than expected.

“Our government officials rightly pride themselves on their progressive agendas,” said Phillips. “But no progressive agenda makes sense if the lack of immediate and drastic action guarantees a near-future of societal and ecological breakdown on a scale never experienced by humans before.”

XR Chicago’s October 18 *Sound the Alarm* event is part of a worldwide movement to demand immediate action on climate change, and chapters across the world have been taking to the streets.

“On October 18, we’re sounding the alarm in the streets, across the world. It is immoral to carry on business as usual and ignore a crisis so profound,” said

Phillips. “Meanwhile, frontline global communities are already suffering from water and food shortages, flooding, larger and more destructive storms, and extreme environmental degradation that causes health problems and habitat and species loss.”

The Sound the Alarm gathering in Daley Plaza on October 18 will be Chicago’s second climate-related event in 11 days. On October 7, XR Chicago gathered its partner organizations and their members in Daley Square and nearby streets to call on government officials to declare a climate emergency. Among them were 350 Chicago and 350 Kishwaukee, Greenpeace, Sierra Club, Climate Reality, Illinois Environmental Council, Frack-free Illinois, Save Our Illinois Soil (SOIL), Association of Climate Educators, Sunrise, and Nuclear Energy Information Service, in addition to a die-in orchestrated by Youth Climate Strikers. Many of these partners have dedicated years of struggle to work with government officials, with no or marginal change. But they vow to keep the pressure on until their demands are met.

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