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Walk for Climate: Building a Resilient Taiwan

PRESS RELEASE

**“Walk for Climate: Building a Resilient Taiwan” March Kicks Off to Call for Stronger Climate Commitments ahead of COP30.**

As 2025 marks a pivotal year for Taiwan’s climate policy, ten leading environmental organizations have joined forces to launch the “Walk for Climate: Building a Resilient Taiwan” march on November 1. The initiative calls on the government to strengthen its climate commitments and accelerate Taiwan’s transition toward a resilient, low-carbon future.

Ahead of the upcoming UN COP30 Climate Conference, the coalition urges Taiwan to adopt a 2035 emissions reduction target consistent with the 2050 net-zero pathway, reaffirm its non-nuclear and coal-free energy transition, and ensure that all policies promote both climate resilience and social equity. The campaign is built around three pillars of resilience — *Sustainability and Intergenerational Justice*, *National Security and Energy Autonomy*, and *Democracy and Cultural Diversity* — outlining 11 key demands for a just and sustainable future.

1. Under **Sustainability and Intergenerational Justice**, the coalition calls for stronger non-nuclear decarbonization targets to keep global warming below 1.5°C, fair and inclusive renewable energy planning, protection of ecosystems and biodiversity, meaningful participation of youth in climate governance, and enforcement of the polluter-pays principle to drive low-carbon industry transformation.
2. To **strengthen National Security and Energy Autonomy**, the groups urge Taiwan to reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels, enhance domestic energy resilience, and mobilize all sectors to adapt to the impacts of climate change.
3. Finally, under **Democracy and Cultural Diversity**, the campaign demands a just transition that safeguards labor rights and local livelihoods, promotes participatory renewable energy development, defends Indigenous land sovereignty, and rejects war and violence that deepen the global climate crisis.

The “Walk for Climate：Building a Resilient Taiwan” march aims to raise public awareness and amplify Taiwan’s voice in the global climate movement. By gathering citizens, experts, and civil society leaders, organizers hope to send a strong message to policymakers: Taiwan’s climate ambitions must match the urgency of the crisis.

**Shu-Hsin Tsui,** Secretary-General of the Green Citizen’s Action Alliance, stated that keeping global warming below 1.5°C is the critical threshold for climate safety, as surpassing it would cause irreversible and intensified disasters such as extreme heat, droughts, floods, and sea-level rise.

Tsui noted that while Taiwan has, for the first time, submitted its 2035 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0), the current reduction targets fall short of a net-zero pathway. The lack of clear strategies for energy, transport, and industry also risks weakening both policy impact and public confidence.

She emphasized that keeping global warming below 1.5°C is not just a technical goal but the minimum safeguard for humanity and nature. She urged this generation to cut emissions, phase out fossil fuels, and pursue a just transition to leave a livable planet for future generations.

**Chia-Wei Chao,** Director of the Taiwan Climate Action Network, urged the government to raise its 2035 emissions reduction target to 52% below the baseline year, warning that the current 38% goal would lead Taiwan toward a disorderly transition and fall short of the 2050 net-zero commitment. He called for a faster energy transition and a complete phase-out of coal within the next 10–15 years, reiterating that nuclear power — with its high costs, long construction times, and unresolved waste issues — cannot be Taiwan’s climate solution.

**Chao** also emphasized that with over half of Taiwan’s emissions coming from manufacturing, achieving decarbonization while protecting workers’ rights is vital to a just transition. He criticized the current Just Transition Committee established by the National Development Council for lacking accountability, meaningful dialogue and genuine cross-ministerial coordination. This year’s march invites labor unions to join in calling for “a support system that leaves no one behind — safeguarding local communities and workers’ dignity in a just transition.” The coalition urges the government to identify impact hotspots and timelines in its climate action plans, invest resources to help affected workers and communities integrate into the green economy, require companies to fulfill just transition obligations, and strengthen worker retraining and social dialogue to ensure concrete support for labor, supply chains, and local communities.

**Ching-Ting Huang**, Deputy Executive Director of Citizen of the Earth, Taiwan, emphasized that in the face of the climate crisis, Taiwan must base its planning on the National Land Planning Act, integrating energy, agriculture, and environmental policies, and establishing cross-ministerial and central-local collaboration mechanisms. She stressed the importance of open and transparent site review processes, ensuring that renewable energy development follows orderly and equitable land-use planning.

Huang highlighted the need to strengthen infrastructure proactively, using climate risk assessments and land-use planning adjustments as a foundation to enhance both societal and territorial resilience. She pointed to recent disasters — the April 3 Hualien earthquake, Typhoon Danas in July, and the September Mataian landslide and dam disaster — as urgent reminders for the government to incorporate long-term data on extreme rainfall and geological conditions into a comprehensive risk assessment framework.

She further urged relevant government agencies to leverage ecological expertise and local knowledge to set pathways for “no net loss” of nature by 2030 and habitat restoration by 2050, establish long-term monitoring and decision-feedback mechanisms, and promote Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs). Huang emphasized that this approach must recognize Indigenous rights over land and traditional knowledge and move toward both biodiversity net-zero loss and carbon neutrality, ensuring that land-use planning and collaboration create fair renewable energy development and climate resilience, while protecting, restoring, and managing ecosystems and biodiversity.

**Yuwen Tu**, Executive Director of the Environmental Rights Foundation, emphasized that under the climate crisis, disasters often strike Indigenous lands, making it essential that resilience and adaptation efforts are rooted in local culture and land-based contexts. She stressed that the government must provide Indigenous communities with greater resources, space, and opportunities for dialogue on climate adaptation and community disaster preparedness during normal times—not only after crises occur.

Tu also underscored the importance of implementing the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in all relevant policies, ensuring that Indigenous peoples have genuine voice and decision-making power in processes such as temporary relocation, disaster prevention and recovery, and the energy transition.

**Pi-Shuang Wu**, Secretary General, Homemaker United Foundation, emphasized that extreme weather is now a daily reality for all sectors and households. Heatwaves impact construction and delivery workers, heavy rains flood streets and damage vendors, droughts and typhoons disrupt agriculture and tourism, and vulnerable groups like the elderly and disabled are at greatest risk.

She stressed that adaptation must become a core competency for both local and central authorities, including workplace heat management, social welfare support, school cooling, healthcare response, and resilient agriculture. Communities should adopt “energy-efficient in normal times, resilient in crises” strategies—solar-powered cooling shelters, urban heat mitigation, watershed-based drainage, and backup power for essential facilities. Industrial transition must also be just, with training, income continuity, and community participation.

**Yuping Chen**, Chief Executive, Taiwan Environmental & Planning Association, pointed out that since 2016, the government has actively promoted energy transition. While this has facilitated the development of the wind and solar industries and led to a significant increase in renewable energy, it has also resulted in growing conflicts and a sense of relative deprivation. Recent controversies and corruption investigations have further highlighted the inadequacies in government energy policies and regulations. In practice, the lack of a comprehensive framework, opaque project information, and overly complex procedures without holistic planning—coupled with a system that fails to ensure and respect local participation—have all contributed to a loss of public trust in green energy development.

The greatest challenge now facing the government is how to share the responsibilities of energy transition with local communities. Green energy should no longer be the sole responsibility of the economic sector or a commodity monopolized by a few capitalists. Instead, it should become a shared asset from which local communities can benefit. We look forward to working with the government to establish a new system tailored to Taiwan—one where central and local governments can collaborate, and where every community can reap the benefits of energy democracy.

**Pin-Han Huang**, Secretary-General, Mom Loves Taiwan Climate Action Alliance, stated that under the dual challenges of escalating climate change and rising geopolitical risks, countries around the world are paying closer attention to the critical role of energy in national security. Heatwaves, extreme rainfall, and super typhoons have increasingly strained energy infrastructure, making cooling and stability difficult. Just this July, Taiwan was hit by Typhoon Danas, which damaged coastal power grids in the south.

To address these challenges, Taiwan should develop resilient microgrids that integrate solar power and energy storage systems. These should empower households, rural farming and fishing villages, urban residential buildings, and industrial zones with independent power supply capabilities. At the national level, reducing reliance on imported energy fuels is key to strengthening both energy security and economic resilience.

**Yi Hsin**, Climate and Energy Campaigner of Greenpeace, stated that the devastating impacts of Typhoons Danas and Koinu are the most direct warning signs of the climate crisis. Yet when we filed a climate lawsuit demanding government action on carbon reduction, the judges dismissed the case, arguing that “Taiwan naturally experiences many typhoons, and there is no proof these are linked to extreme climate events.” We must ask: how many more disasters and casualties will it take before the government and the courts recognize the urgency of this crisis?

We demand the implementation of the “polluter pays” principle — not only as a matter of climate justice, but also as Taiwan’s only viable path to enhancing industrial competitiveness in a low-carbon global economy. Facing the projected eightfold surge in electricity consumption driven by AI technologies, we call on power-intensive industries such as the semiconductor sector to publicly commit to more ambitious renewable energy roadmaps and to transition from “major power users” to “green energy prosumers.”

At the same time, the government must reform its systems to provide tax incentives and address regional imbalances in electricity supply. Taiwan must also confront the deadly link between plastics and climate change — state-owned enterprises like CPC Corporation should immediately halt unnecessary capacity expansions and take the lead in transforming their business models.

**Yun Fang Wu**, Co-Executive Director, Taiwan Youth Climate Coalition, questioned whether the rights of young people and future generations are truly being considered in decision-making. When we talk about development, adaptation, or energy transition, our discussions tend to revolve around economic growth as the central indicator — rarely do we assess the long-term impacts of these decisions on younger generations. The challenge we face is not only a 1.5°C rise in global temperature, but also a deeper question: are we still trying to solve tomorrow’s problems with yesterday’s mindset?

We see science parks continuing to expand, and natural gas still regarded as a main energy source. Do these decisions genuinely make our society more resilient? Or are we repeating the same mistakes — prioritizing short-term economic growth and capital accumulation so that some may retire comfortably in the next 20 years, while leaving the burden of more extreme climate disasters, resource risks, and uncertainty to the young and future generations?

This is unjust. True climate action is not only about the speed of carbon reduction; it is about whether the decision-making process is fair and whether it fosters intergenerational solidarity. Climate action should not be treated merely as an emergency response — it should be a collective process of imagining our shared future. Enabling young people to participate in decision-making is not only a matter of generational justice, but also the only path for Taiwan to become a more sustainable and resilient society.

**Cheetah Liu-Lee**, Legislative and Policy Director of Amnesty International Taiwan, stated that climate change–induced environmental degradation — including the scarcity of vital resources such as water and arable land — increases the likelihood of military conflicts. Military actions such as Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, Israel’s genocidal campaign in Gaza, and the Myanmar junta’s attacks on civilians not only consume vast amounts of fossil fuels, but also further devastate energy, water, and food systems, exacerbating the climate crisis and environmental pollution.

Amnesty International calls on corporations such as Lockheed Martin, Boeing, and Hyundai to cease supplying or investing in military equipment for Israel. It also urges Taiwan to completely stop purchasing fossil fuels such as Russian coal and light oil, which both intensify global warming and indirectly finance Russia’s invasion. Furthermore, Amnesty calls on the Taiwanese government to review its policies that fund facilities in Israel’s illegal settlements and to strictly examine all dual-use products exported from Taiwan to Israel — ensuring that Taiwan does not become complicit in acts of genocide.

The march will take place on **Saturday, November 1**, from **12:30 PM to 5:00 PM**, at **Taipei City Hall East Gate Plaza**.

The parade route begins at **the City Hall East Gate Plaza**, proceeds through **Songshou Square Park**, turns onto **Xiangti Avenue**, continues along **Songshou Road**, **Songzhi Road**, and **Xinyi Road Section 5**, then moves along **Shifu Road**, **Songgao Road**, and **Songzhi Road**, returning to **City Hall East Gate Plaza** as the endpoint — covering a total distance of **2.14 kilometers**.

The event will be divided into three main areas:

* **Main Stage Area** – featuring short talks on key issues, live band performances, and stand-up comedy shows.
* **Booth Area** – showcasing various civil society organizations.
* **Family Area** – offering environmental picture book reading sessions and an interactive “Junior Solar Engineer” activity for children.

Official march website:<https://neti.cc/ZmEK9Lo>

Facebook:<https://www.facebook.com/tw4climate/>

Instagram:<https://www.instagram.com/tw4climate/>

**March Organizers (10 organizations):**

Taiwan Climate Action Network Research Center, Green Citizens’ Action Alliance, Citizen of the Earth Taiwan, Environmental Rights Foundation, Homemakers United Foundation, Mom Loves Taiwan Climate Action Alliance, Taiwan Environmental & Planning Association, Greenpeace, Taiwan Youth Climate Coalition, and Amnesty International Taiwan.

**Co-organizing Groups**:(24 + additional partners to be announced)

The society of wilderness, Environmental Justice Foundation, Taiwan Renewable Energy Alliance, Taiwan Rivers Network Association, Taiwan Eco Tech Association, Trust in Nature Foundation, Taiwan Thousand Miles Trail Association, Environmental Ethics Foundation of Taiwan, Wild at Heart Legal Defense Association, Taiwan Labor Front, Taiwan Occupational Safety and Health Link, National Association for Firefighters, Taiwan Association for Human Rights, Association of Parent Participating Education in Taiwan, Ngóo-kak, Wanderers Lodge, Coalition for the Homeless, Dashuigou 2nd hand shop, Association for Taiwan Indigenous Peoples' Policy, Indigenous Youth Front, The Presbyterian Church In Taiwan, M.mutica in action, Taiwan, Say Hi Home, Coastline Environmental Protection Association

**Media Contacts：**

Su-Hsin Tsui, Secretary-General, Green Citizens’ Action Alliance — 0939121981

Pin-Han Huang, Secretary-General, Mom Loves Taiwan Association — 0963001150 (EN)

Ya-Jing Chen, Director of Public Relations, Citizen of the Earth, Taiwan — 0955679070