

# Marchers already succeeded

*Letter to the Editor*

POSTED: 10/04/2014 12:11:06 AM EDT

To the editor of THE EAGLE:

Lauren Stevens conveyed the spirit of the Peoples Climate March in his Sept. 29 op-ed column "A pedestrian way to fight climate change," but he said something odd. He said the people who traveled to New York City, waited for hours to enter the march, and then walked three miles may never know if their effort made a demonstrable difference. Really? I knew as we were marching that we made a demonstrable difference just by showing up.

Marchers were energized, talked to each other as we walked, and were transformed that day. I sounded my shofar (ram's horn for the Jewish New Year celebrations occurring on Sept. 25) to make noise for the climate, and strangers asked what was that odd horn. In Jewish tradition it is used as a call to action, an alarm alerting one to danger and a call to God for help.

I returned from the march inspired to write more, do more outreach and tolerate less nonsense from deniers. These types of marches have a demonstrable effect solidifying a movement even if they don't directly affect outsiders immediately.

Yes, the march was pedestrian because we walked. Yes, it was commonplace and pedestrian because all major social movements need a moment when they crystallize. Yes, it was humdrum pedestrian because the next morning nothing changed from a global warming perspective.

But marchers will know Nov. 4 that the march was anything but pedestrian if it inspired the entire country to vote in a mid-term election year, and to vote only for candidates who acknowledge climate change is caused by humanity's use of fossil fuels, and who promise to enact legislation to cut emissions faster than EPA regulations can.

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Brookline

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