

Thank you, Savannah, for your protest

Thank you for reporting on Savannahians protesting climate change during Thanksgiving weekend in order to raise public awareness of climate change, and of plans to build more fossil fuel infrastructure. Protesters hope the public will learn about climate change and become involved with the climate movement.

One organizer said: "It does seem odd that we would pick Thanksgiving to do a climate rally."

It isn't odd to me. People who are thankful for what they have should ensure security and well-being for future generations. Many people express gratitude on Thanksgiving by delivering meals to people in need, working in soup kitchens or volunteering in other ways. Why not attend a peaceful rally to encourage one's community to protect the environment and our future?

When I moved to Boston, I spent one Thanksgiving touring Plimouth Plantation.

I learned the history of Thanksgiving, the Pilgrims' settlement and their interaction with the Wampanoag. I learned that native peoples marked successful harvests with Thanksgiving celebrations. Similarly, Europeans celebrated plentiful crops with Thanksgiving festivities. The pilgrims gave thanks with feasts and joyous expressions of gratitude.

Nowadays, Thanksgiving is associated with returning home, reconnecting with family, enjoying local foods and taking comfort from being with family, friends and loved ones.

Scientists say local foods, homes and communities are at risk if society doesn't cut emissions quickly. People who value Thanksgiving, home, family and longstanding traditions should research climate change. For more information about our best pathways to slowing climate change, please contact Citizens' Climate Lobby.

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