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6-30-2014

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#### **Recommended Citation**

University Relations, "Citizens' Climate Lobby Comes to Morris" (2014). *Campus News Archive*. 50. https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel\_news/50

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Contact

Melissa Weber, Director of Communications Phone: 320-589-6414, weberm@morris.umn.edu

Jenna Ray, Editor/Writer

Phone: 320-589-6068, jrray@morris.umn.edu

### **Citizens' Climate Lobby Comes to Morris**

Summary: Morris students engage with the Citizens' Climate Lobby and continue to impact environmental policy in Minnesota.

(June 30, 2014)-Last summer University of Minnesota, Morris students helped start a Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) group in Morris. Sustainability-minded faculty, staff, and community members participate in monthly meetings. The launch of this group is another example of how Morris student leaders are increasing climate literacy in the community.

Morris's CCL group, one of the first in rural Minnesota, was formed by Tim Sheehan '16, Minneapolis. As part of the larger organization, Morris's chapter focuses primarily on environmental issues affecting Minnesota's farming regions.

"I think it's important for citizens to come together, especially in rural communities," adds Sheehan. "Our voices can be heard, and we can form more substantial relationships with each other and our legislators."

Sessions are held twice per month. During these sessions Morris connects with other institutions not only around Minnesota, but also around the country and the world.

"As a <u>National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Campus Ecology Fellow</u>, I was really interested in getting Morris involved with CCL," Sheehan says. "It is one of the most active groups engaging citizens with national policy change. It also helps students and community members to meet, which is important because there are few places where those two demographics connect."

CCL is committed to creating the political will for a stable climate and empowering individuals to have breakthroughs in exercising their personal and political power. Additional information is available at <u>citizensclimatelobby.org/</u>.

Pictured above: A meeting of Morris's Citizens' Climate Lobby group.

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.