

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice Hosts Union of Concerned Scientist (UCS) as Group Discusses Historic Findings

DETROIT, Mich., July 24, 2012 – On Wednesday, July 26th at 1 pm, Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice (DWEJ), an advocacy organization for cleaner, healthier and safer neighborhoods in Detroit, will host UCS, the leading U.S. science-based nonprofit organization working for a healthy environment and a safer world. The group will meet at DWEJ's offices at the Hannan House, 3rd floor conference room to discuss findings from their "Heat in the Heartland" report.

The report is the latest in an ongoing research series studying the affect of climate change on our current health, potential future impacts, and concrete steps to protect against the health risks of global warming.

"We don't always think about the affect of global warming on us, which is why this report is significant, because it outlines the serious and costly risks that can be posed to public health as a result of the problems caused by rising temperatures," said Kimberly Hill, Policy Manager, DWEJ. "Specific to Detroit, the number of heat waves has doubled over the last 50 years, dangerous hot air masses have increased, and cool air masses decrease every summer which can be a deadly recipe for our health."

Detroit and Toledo, OH weather records dating back to 1950 were examined to understand weather trends across southeast Michigan and produce the report.

DWEJ recently formed the Detroit Climate Action Collaborative, which is composed of academic, research, environmental, community, government and volunteer partners. DCAC will build public awareness of climate change and its impact on residents. The Collaborative will use findings from this report to implement preventive measures to protect public health in metro Detroit.

ABOUT THE UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS (UCS)

The Union of Concerned Scientists is the leading U.S. science-based nonprofit organization working for a healthy environment and a safer world. Founded in 1969, UCS is headquartered in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and also has offices in Berkeley, Chicago and Washington, D.C.

ABOUT DETROITERS WORKING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (DWEJ)

DWEJ, a voice for environmental justice in Michigan since 1994, works with communities to create cleaner, healthier and safer neighborhoods and envisions Detroit as a vibrant urban center in SE Michigan where all thrive in environmental, economic, and social health. DWEJ is dedicated to empowering urban residents to take a meaningful role in the decision-making process surrounding environmental concerns in their own communities. We are also about building connections—between jobs and a healthy environment, community development and environmental justice, community-driven policy and economic development.

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