

# Ostrom to address local climate change forum Thursday: [www.heraldtimesonline.com](http://www.heraldtimesonline.com)

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Nobel Prize winner Elinor Ostrom will be the keynote speaker at a Thursday community forum designed to explore practical ways citizens can live ecologically friendly lifestyles and do their part to mitigate climate change.

Presenters at the free public forum, 2-5 p.m. in Alumni Hall at the Indiana Memorial Union, will discuss various ways people can conserve natural resources and promote ecological sustainability.

Ostrom is an Indiana University professor whose 2009 Nobel Prize recognized her research into the social mechanisms involved in decision-making and rule enforcement in communal resource management.

Her keynote address is titled, "What Can We All Do to Reduce the Threat of Climate Change?" Her speech is expected to span what communities, neighborhoods and individuals can do to promote sustainable lifestyles and practices.

Sycamore Land Trust organized and is sponsoring the community forum.

"Many of us came to IU to learn how to save the world, to learn big solutions we might apply over decades in our future careers, in the high-impact positions we hope to hold someday," land trust outreach coordinator Erin Hollinden wrote in an e-mail exchange. "This forum will share what people are doing right here, right now to try to avert ecological disaster. The presenters will give ideas for how each of us can join city efforts, county efforts, campus efforts and land trust efforts here where we live, today and next week and next year."

"I think people want to take positive environmental action with fairly immediate outcomes in our own neighborhoods — outcomes we can see and be proud of right away," she continued. "Each speaker at this forum is in the business of showing how to do that. Hearing them all in one afternoon should paint a picture of a collaborative approach in which everyone can play a role."

In addition to Ostrom, presenters will include:

- Mark Kruzan, mayor of Bloomington. Kruzan will welcome attendees and present a call to action.
- Jacqui Bauer, sustainability coordinator for the city of Bloomington. Bauer will speak on the topic: "Out, Out Damn Watt: Casting out the energy-sucking demons in your home."
- Karen Hanson, provost and executive vice president, IU Bloomington. Hanson will explain the environmental initiatives on campus, from student efforts to administrative planning.
- Iris Kiesling, Monroe County commissioner. Kiesling will describe collaborations among governments and nonprofits for ecological good sense.
- Christian Frietag, executive director of Sycamore Land Trust. Frietag will explain the role of land trusts in environmental conservation.
- Kenneth R.R. Gros Louis, IU chancellor and trustee professor. Gros Louis will introduce Ostrom.

Sycamore Land Trust works with private land owners in 26 counties to conserve natural places for healthy ecosystems, wildlife habitat and trees to mitigate greenhouse gases. Sycamore calls itself the fastest growing conservation group in Indiana.

Elinor Ostrom speaks at Indiana University in February. Jeremy Hogan | Herald-Times

