

For Immediate Release
November 29, 2009

Local Student Joins Greenpeace at Crucial UN Climate Talks in Copenhagen

**Expected to be the largest environmental gathering in history,
UNC Wilmington student will represent nation's youth**

As most local undergraduates pack their bags and head home to a Thanksgiving table with family, Brinkley Hutchings, a student at UNC Wilmington, will pack her suitcase to join Greenpeace in taking on global warming during critical international climate change talks in Copenhagen this month. World leaders are gathering in Denmark to forge a global climate deal that will cut pollution and invest in clean energy and Brinkley's work with Greenpeace will target these decision makers, holding them accountable to a growing demand from American youth to solve what is increasingly seen as a climate crisis.

"President Obama needs to hear young voices as he and other world leaders meet to decide the future of our planet." said Brinkley, "If they don't solve global warming now, it is our generation that will have to face serious consequences."

In Copenhagen, Brinkley will join with youth leaders from over a dozen other nations, from the Pacific Islands to Brazil to France. In addition to holding a weeklong vigil in Kongens Nytorv, Copenhagen's main public square, Brinkley and fellow American students will lobby their top American Diplomats in Denmark and orchestrate multiple demonstrations to focus attention on the talks as they rapidly approach. "The movement for climate justice is one of the biggest and most dynamic movements in history," Brinkley said. "Science demands bold action now and our job in Copenhagen is to remind our leaders that we are not going away."

"Here on campus I've seen students organize and unite to demand change. The youth feel this crisis more deeply than anyone because it's our future – our jobs, our environment, our potential. So, going to Copenhagen is a huge opportunity for me."

The UN climate summit in Copenhagen will be the crucial moment for world leaders to sign on to a treaty to avoid climate catastrophe and unleash a clean energy revolution. More than sixty heads of state are expected to attend what could be the most important meeting of our time.

Greenpeace and Brinkley are calling on President Obama and other world leaders to craft a fair, ambitious, and binding deal to address global warming at the UN summit. For a strong deal, President Obama must cut US global warming pollution 25-40 percent below 1990 levels by 2020 and launch a clean energy revolution that will end our reliance on dirty, dangerous fossil fuels. President Obama must also support international funds that will protect the world's most vulnerable communities from the worst impacts of climate change, stop tropical deforestation, and help developing countries avoid dirty energy development.

###

Contact: Mary Nicol, Greenpeace Student Network Manager
mary.nicol@greenpeace.org