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Under the gorgeous Santa Ynez Valley sun Wednesday afternoon, Earth Day Network President Kathleen Rogers said it's easy to feel inspired by the green fields and blue sky.

"The community is very lucky to live in an environment like this," Ms. Rogers said. "By being here, I feel inspired to do more on top of what we're already doing. We're on a mission to talk to leaders in the green community who can act and make changes."

Ms. Rogers was visiting from Washington, D.C., for an informal luncheon at Santa Ynez restaurant Trapporia Grappolo, and to spread the word about Earth Day, April 22.

Earth Day Network was established on the first Earth Day, April 22, 1970, which is credited with starting the modern environmental movement and leading to the passage of the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act and other environmental laws, the network's website says.

"We are one of the largest organizations dedicated to this cause," Ms. Rogers said. "We are like an umbrella for organizations to help build the environmental progress."

More than 22,000 partners in 192 countries are involved in the network and more than a billion people participate in Earth Day activities, Ms. Rogers said.

"Everyone has to understand that we all have to give up something to make changes," Ms. Rogers said. "I don't want my children or your children to look back years later and go, 'What were they thinking? Why didn't they do anything?' It's important because they are the ones who are still going to be here."

The network has mounted successful campaigns on issues ranging from climate change and drinking water, to creating green jobs and investments, and promoting activism to stop air and water pollution.

"We have a new commitment called A Billion Acts of Green as our theme for the 41st annual Earth Day this year, which basically means we want to have a billion people to take the first step to make a change for the environment," Ms. Rogers said.

"It can be from planting a tree or using renewable energy. We want to have a billion acts of green done by the time we hit our Global Earth Summit at Rio in 2012."



Ivonne Baki , rear left, and Earth Day Network President Kathleen Rogers, rear right, listen to Bo Derek, front left, and Kraig Butrum while they have lunch at the Trattoria Grappola in Santa Ynez on Wednesday.

MIKE ELIASON/NEWS-PRESS

Progress is needed with climate change, Ms. Rogers said.

"We don't have a climate treaty so that makes it harder for us to make changes in that direction," Ms. Rogers said. "But I think 2012 will be the year where we all come together and talk about it. The climate needs to be talked about, the toxic waste, the increase in population and bio-fuels; these are just a few things that need to be brought to the open.

"There are three main tiers of involvement -- civil society, corporations and the government," she said. "Now is the time to bring all of them together as team and figure out how to face our current climate issues."

Greening schools and promoting education also is on the "to-do" list.

The U.S. Green Building Council and the Clinton Foundation are both planting their seeds with the Earth Day Networks' Green School Campaign, which aims to green all of America's K-12 schools within a generation. According to the website, green schools save money, conserve energy and water, and foster better performing, healthier students.

"We are also hoping to bring more women to the table with our Women and the Green Economy initiative," Ms. Rogers said. "I think women will play a good role in building green economic policies and leadership."

For more information, please go to: [www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org).