

Keyword: global-warming

Headline: Thousands gather in Hamburg, elsewhere for climate protest

Byline: Associated Press

Published Date: 06:35 PM March 01, 2019

Section: technology

Word Count: 195

Content:

Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg attends a protest rally in Hamburg, Germany, Friday, March 1, 2019. (Daniel Reinhardt/dpa via AP)

Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg attends a protest rally in Hamburg, Germany, Friday, March 1, 2019. (Daniel Reinhardt/dpa via AP)

BERLIN — Thousands of students have gathered in the German city of Hamburg as part of a worldwide protest calling for action to curb global warming.

Friday's rally in the northern port city is being led by Swedish teen activist Greta Thunberg, who has become a prominent voice in campaigns against climate change.

In January, the 16-year-old spoke at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, telling business and government leaders: "I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day."

At the Hamburg protest, students held banners featuring slogans such as "March now or swim later" — a reference to rising sea levels from melting ice caps — and "We (heart) Greta."

Similar protests were planned in dozens of cities worldwide. /kga

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