DAILY CAMERA

BOULDER, Colo. — The first Earthfest Boulder drew large crowds to the Boulder Theater on Saturday with live music and a diverse lineup of vendors and environmental groups promoting awareness of sustainability.

Keith Desrosiers, director for the Center for Research Conservation, said the event's goal was to unite people around environment causes and, he thinks, they've accomplished that.

"A single person making an environmental action is a single person making an environmental action," he said. "But when everybody comes together and realizes they're doing it together, it's powerful and it's important and that's what we have here today."

The event — which was put on by Allphases Event Group, Boulder Adventure Film Festival, Redirect Guide and former Earth Day celebration Dirt Days — is meant to try and build a foundation with people and, hopefully, motivate them to stay involved with these organizations.

Paula Kehoe, an artist and art teacher, said she brought her work to the festival because she wants to educate people on how to make environmentally friendly art.

"I kind of wanted to add an eco-art element to the festival," she said. "And I just thought it would be a lot of fun to get people to think about the environment through art."

Davidson Lewis, president of Green Guru, a company that manufactures eco-adventure gear out of recycled materials, agreed that educating people about the issues at hand is one of the main reasons for events such as Earthfest.

"Education-wise it gives people a first-hand opportunity to talk to people in a variety of different fields and to look, touch and smell new technologies," he said. "And, hopefully take that back and share that with their friends and get on board and get excited about some of the alternatives that are out there."

Robert Velcheck, 37, who attended, said that the focus on education and awareness at community events such as Earthfest really does work.

"It just kind of gathers the community around and you end up seeing things here that you've never known existed — groups you didn't know existed," he said. "You realize there's people out there thinking the same things you are and that they care about the same things you do."

Adventure Film Director Jonathan Copp said he's exited about the turnout and that hopefully the event will continue to grow in the next few years.

"We want to grow it here in Boulder so it's the Front Range's biggest Earth Week festival," Copp said. "And we also could see it expanding to Fort Collins, Denver and, potentially, some other towns who want to bring the concept there ... but growing it here at home is the first thing."

Contact Camera Staff Writer Jabril Faraj at 303-473-1302 or jabril.faraj@gmail.com.