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Friends Earth Newsmagazine



A Messsage From Our Leadership WE LIVE IN DYNAMIC TIMES

Friends,





Erich Pica President

Arlie Schardt Chairman of the Board

Over the past year, deep societal tensions fueled by economic inequality, persistent structural racism, climate change, the perpetual state of war and concerns about corporate power are overwhelming our national consciousness. These tensions — fueled by unparalleled technological innovation and the ability to self-organize — are creating a potential moment in time where massive societal change can fundamentally alter the status quo.

When this change will occur and how it will unfold is still a mystery. But signs are everywhere. The emergence of #BlackLiveMatter's grassroots power highlights and challenges structural racism; disrupting the old narratives on race and equality. The emerging #KeepItintheGround movement (the spiritual heir of #NoKXL) is fundamentally reframing the climate fight from regulating energy pollution to preventing it from being emitted in the first place.

At their cores, #NoTPP, #GetMoneyOut and

#EndCitizensUnited are challenging the entrenched corporate power which prevents democratic and social progress. Many of these thoughts and ideas are skillfully interwoven by leaders such as Pope Francis in his environmental encyclical, "Laudato Si': Our Care for Our Common Home;" Naomi Klein through her book, "This Changes Everything;" and Jane Mayer's exquisite documentation of the Koch brother's war on environmental protection and voting rights, "Dark Money."

Recognizing these movements, and in pursuit of our mission to champion a healthy and just world, Friends of the Earth is changing and evolving by incorporating economic, racial and social justice into our campaigns.

For instance, our campaign to promote good food and a healthy planet led us to partner with the Food Chain Workers Alliance to challenge Darden Restaurants, which owns and operates more than 1,500 restaurants including Olive Garden, Longhorn Steakhouse and The Capital Grille. We asked that 20 percent of Darden Restaurants' food purchases follow the Good Food Purchasing Principles, which combines animal welfare and environmental purchases with fair wages.

Our fledgling democracy reform campaign led part of the ground effort in Maine to pass a state ballot measure which restores clean and accountable elections, while limiting the power of wealthy, special interests. We were also leaders in working with indigenous peoples from the Americas to draft and release a declaration in Paris calling for the end of fossil fuel extraction and subsidies.

And our trade campaign went toe-to-toe with "green" Democratic members of the House of Representatives, criticizing and holding them accountable for their votes granting President Obama "fast-track" trade negotiating authority. Simply put, Friends of the Earth believes that such trade agreements enhance corporate power at the expense of people and the environment.

Finally, the environmental community and Friends of the Earth's winning effort to stop the Keystone XL pipeline incorporated the voices of farmers, ranchers and indigenous people in a more inclusive and holistic campaign.

In 2016, Friends of the Earth plans to increase our advocacy to keep fossil fuels in the ground. We just won an important effort to temporarily close down new federal coal leases. This win must be permanent, and it is imperative that we stop new oil and gas drilling. We will continue our leadership in the push to ban bee-killing pesticides and to eliminate the use of antibiotics in animal factory farming. We will also fight to finally close down the earthquake-endangered Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Station in California, prevent President Obama from enacting the Trans Pacific Partnership trade agreement, and organize members and activists to reclaim our democracy.

This is an exciting time to be an environmental campaigner and activist. While we have much to learn, incorporating racial, economic and social justice into our campaigns will enable more holistic solutions and create deeper and longterm change.

Warm Regards,

Erich Pica, President

Årlie Schardt, Chairman of the Board

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Halting fossil fuels from the front lines

by Benjamin Schreiber, climate and energy program director

rom Washington, D.C. to Paris, here are some notable accomplishments by the Climate and Energy program in 2015. Our Keep It in the Ground effort galvanized the climate movement: Key actions included going to the courts to demand the Bureau of Land Management look at the impacts of the Federal Coal Management Program, standing up to Shell's attempts to drill in the Arctic, showing up at fossil fuel auctions across the country, and supporting Indigenous communities demanding an end to fossil fuel extraction during the Paris Conference of Parties. Partly due to our efforts, Senator Jeff Merkley introduced legislation, the Keep It in the Ground Act, to end fossil fuel extraction on public lands. He was joined by Senators Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and four others. Our climate colonialism campaign pressed President Obama to commit to doing our fair share to stop the climate crisis. Then when he didn't, we responded back home by demonstrating in front of the White House. Through all of our endeavors, we are building a solid foundation to ensure fossil fuels are kept in the ground.

CLIMATE ACTIVISM MAKES NOISE

Friends of the Earth's long-standing efforts to stop TransCanada from building the Keystone XL tar sand pipeline made a lot of noise in 2015. Wanting to make sure that the movement that has been built around Keystone XL continues, we publicly launched the Keep It in the Ground campaign at the beginning of the year. Our campaign's focus is on convincing President Obama to take executive action to end new fossil fuel leases on public lands. We joined with the Center for Biological Diversity to release a first-of-its-kind report by EcoShift Consulting, detailing the extent of the fossil fuel reserves that exist under public lands and waters in the United States. The report showed that if all of these fossil fuels are exploited it would blow most of the world's remaining carbon budget.

Our efforts to stop TransCanada from building the Keystone XL pipeline has built a grassroots movement of climate activists committed to keeping fossil fuels in the ground. With fossil fuel leasing fights taking place all over the country, Keep It in the Ground has pulled together these disparate strands into a larger and strong tapestry.

The campaign made its demand to President Obama with a letter signed by more than 400 Executive Directors of environmental organizations and other national thought leaders. The letter was delivered to the Obama administration at a press conference



TOP LEFT: The Indigenous flotilla takes to the Seine river to protest axing of rights from Paris climate pact. **TOP RIGHT:** Activists stand in solidarity with the communities threatened by REDD+. Credit: Friends of the Earth International / Luka Tomac. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Climate and Energy campaigner Lukas Ross stands with polar bear mascot at Keep It in the Ground rally in September. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Erich Pica speaking in front of The White House after President Obama's rejection of the Keystone XL.

in front of the White House. Keep It in the Ground has become a clarion call and the movement gained even more steam when President Obama gave final rejection to the Keystone XL pipeline. Moving forward, there will not be a fossil fuel lease auction where Friends of the Earth and our allies are not shouting to be heard.

Despite the few victories for the people and the planet and a renewed climate activism, the struggle continues. Farmers, ranchers, Indigenous communities and others on the front lines of the fossil fuel economy are having their water depleted and their air poisoned. Americans who live near railroad tracks are forced to breathe toxic coal dust which can cause asthma and lung disease and live with the threat of oil trains that can explode into deadly bombs. Communities around fossil fuelfired power plants are being poisoned with mercury, particulate matter and other airborne pollutants. These impacts are disproportionately borne by communities of color. And of course, fossil fuels are a leading cause of climate disruption.

PROTESTS IN PARIS SUPPORT THE VULNERABLE

During the Conference of Parties in Paris, Friends of the Earth U.S. teamed up with its sister organizations from all over the world. We protested with Indigenous communities who are being evicted from their lands to supply carbon offsets for the developed world. We supported the Indigenous flotilla and demanded that fossil fuels be kept in the ground. We served as a constant reminder to world leaders that people are suffering and dying from climate change as sea levels rise, droughts worsen and authorities push false solutions on disenfranchised populations.

More than **67 million acres** of public land and ocean are already leased to the fossil fuel industry. That represents an area **55 times larger** than Grand Canyon National Park and contains up to **43 billion tons** of potential carbon pollution.



Protecting the marine environment and all who use and enjoy it

by Marcie Keever, oceans and vessels program director

riends of the Earth works with the U.N. agency responsible for maritime safety and pollution standards – the International Maritime Organization – to reduce air and water pollution from ships worldwide. Our combined efforts this past year led to a few victories and laid the foundation for us to continue the fight for our oceans, the air above and the communities that depend on them. With climate change, the melting sea ice in the Arctic is posing new threats to the environment as well as the region's four million inhabitants and innumerable species.

FINALLY A POLAR CODE

After five years of effort, Friends of the Earth has succeeded in our work to support the enactment of strong precautionary measures to protect the Arctic environment. Known as the Polar Code, this mandatory suite of rules will govern shipping in the region. The environmental portion of the Polar Code was adopted in 2015 and will go into effect in 2017. Friends of the Earth was heavily engaged in negotiations on the Polar Code since the outset of in-depth discussions in 2010, and we are pleased to see the Code come to fruition. The environmental portion of the Polar Code includes some noteworthy elements, such as a ban on the operational discharge of oil and chemicals and enhanced standards associated with disposal of sewage and garbage into polar seas. Moreover, voyage planning provisions to safeguard marine mammals will provide additional conservation protection. These provisions will be the first species-specific measures that explicitly extend beyond whales and thus will also pertain to sea lions, seals and walrus.

#SHELLNO

2015 was a pivotal year for the Arctic when it came to drilling for oil as well. On September 28, Shell Oil announced that it was halting its Arctic operations for the foreseeable future. Shell reported that it



TOP LEFT: Kayactivists protest the arrival of Shell Oil's drilling rig in Seattle, Washington. Credit: Flickr/Backbone Campaign, CC BY 2.0. TOP RIGHT: #ShellNo banner seen in West Seattle. Credit: Dennis Bratland, CC BY-SA 4.0. BOTTOM RIGHT: New provisions in the Polar Code will help provide conservation protection to arctic mammals like the walrus. Credit: Shutterstock.

found indications of oil and gas, but they were not "sufficient to warrant further exploration." Friends of the Earth worked alongside a strong coalition of groups opposed to Arctic drilling by joining litigation objecting to the Obama Administration's approval of the oil lease to Shell and its exploration plan. We also voiced our objections to the Port of Seattle's lease to Foss Maritime for the staging of Shell Arctic drilling resources in Seattle, Washington. We are still engaged in the litigation to ensure that Shell's drilling permit is revoked and all future leases in the Arctic Ocean are cancelled.

With few pristine areas left in the world, it is essential that we work collectively to make sure that the marine environment, its inhabitants and surrounding communities are protected from the threat of climate change and oil spills from increased shipping activity.

#SHELLNO IN WASHINGTON STATE

In addition to opposing Arctic drilling and staging Shell resources at the Port of Seattle, Friends of the Earth, along with several regional partner groups, successfully demanded that Shell Oil conduct a full environmental review of its plans to build additional rail capacity at its Anacortes refinery in Washington state. Shell along with the other four refineries in the state (BP, Tesoro, U.S. Oil and Phillips 66) are all working to bring more tar sands and Bakken shale oil to their facilities by rail, endangering the surrounding communities and the people that live, work and recreate along the rail and shorelines where this oil will be transported.

With few pristine areas left in the world, it is essential that we work collectively to make sure that the marine environment, its inhabitants and surrounding communities are protected from the threat of climate change and oil spills from increased shipping activity. Friends of the Earth is working to ensure that the IMO or other international bodies implement measures that are precautionary, comprehensive and robust in order to truly protect the region and its people from the impacts of shipping.

economic policy



Follow the money to ensure human and environmental health

By Doug Norlen, economic policy program director

rade and finance shape our world for good or bad. Trade and finance institutions can create the rules and resources that make clean water, healthy food, good schools and safe environments possible. But, too often these institutions are captured by special interests pushing projects and practices that pollute the environment, and undercut peoples' rights. And too often, these same vested interests try to write political and economic rules for their own benefit.

Friends of the Earth campaigns at the nexus of trade, finance, environmental protection and social justice. Here are some examples from this past year:

CURBING COAL FUNDING, GROWING RENEWABLE ENERGY

As climate change worsens, one of the most counterproductive things governments can do is finance more fossil fuel projects. Yet, public finance institutions such at the U.S. Government's Export-Import Bank provide tens of billions of dollars in public subsidies for fossil fuel projects that not only worsen climate chaos but pollute local communities as well. However, this year Friends of the Earth and allies around the world successfully campaigned for international restrictions on coal plant financing by most of the world's export credit agencies — a crucial

THE RESOURCES ARE ALREADY THERE

Contrary to popular belief, paying for climate finance is not beyond our reach; we just need to redirect funds we already have. For example:





TOP: Graphic illustrates where the United States could get the money to pay their fair share of climate finance. BOTTOM LEFT: Economic Justice Campaigner Jenny Bock speaks about defunding fossil fuel projects in front of the Export-Import bank in Washington, D.C. BOTTOM RIGHT: Friends of the Earth and allies rally in front of Japan Bank for International Cooperation to protest their funding of coal projects.

step to completely ending this pernicious kind of fossil fuel subsidy. At the same time, we advanced efforts to increasing public funding for appropriate renewable energy in developing countries which lifts communities out of energy poverty without polluting them in the process.

PROVIDING EFFECTIVE CLIMATE FINANCE

Wealthy countries that have caused global warming must provide funds – known

as climate finance – for environmentally-sound, socially just climate action in poorer countries, including through the newly-created international Green Climate Fund. Friends of the Earth led global resistance to GCF funds being channeled through giant private banks like HSBC – which are top fossil fuel financiers with poor records on human rights and financial scandal - and we instead promoted people-centered, sustainable initiatives. We also worked successfully to exclude

dirty energy from the GCF's first set of funding proposals, approved in November 2015. Additionally, we supported efforts to establish a tiny-butcritically important tax on Wall Street that would generate hundreds of billions of dollars of new revenue, including for climate finance.

SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES FOR GROWING ECONOMIES

Friends of the Earth has a long history of campaigning for sustainable finance policies at



ABOVE: RHS palm oil plantation in Central Kalimantan. Credit: WALHI, October 2015

Increasingly, international trade agreements are not about "free trade," rather they are about conferring greater legal power to corporations, weakening citizens' rights, while causing deregulation of environmental and social policies.

leading international financial institutions. As global financing from Chinese and Brazilian banks increases, we continue to advocate for sustainable finance policies at these emerging development financiers. We wrote two reports on emerging sustainability frameworks at national development banks, in addition to supporting local communities affected by industrial projects financed by these banks. We also encouraged the internationalization of positive green finance policies where they exist, such as China's Green Credit Guidelines.

DETERRING FOREST DESTRUCTION

Wall Street banks, equity funds and other money managers too often profit by forcing tropical forest communities off their lands and clearing forests for monoculture palm oil plantations. Few laws and regulations exist to mitigate these environmental, social and human rights impacts. Friends of the Earth supported local communities faced with these landgrabs, produced international reports exposing the companies and investors involved, and ramped up grassroots advocacy to force financiers to halt these unacceptable practices. Just in the last few months, our reports have pressured some of the world's largest asset managers to investigate abuses by palm oil companies they finance. As such, public scrutiny of the companies themselves has led to independent investigations into human rights abuses in Guatemala and Indonesia.

FIGHTING TRADE AGREEMENTS THAT HARM THE ENVIRONMENT AND UNDERCUT CITIZENS' RIGHTS

Increasingly, international trade agreements are not about "free trade," rather they are about conferring greater legal power to corporations, weakening citizens' rights,



LEFT: Senior Trade Analyst Bill Waren speaks at TPP Rally in Washington, D.C. RIGHT: Senior Democracy Campaigner Jon Fox canvassing voters in Portland, Maine.

while causing deregulation of environmental and social policies. Friends of the Earth is a leader in a growing national and international movement to draw attention to and oppose these bad agreements, most recently by combining policy analysis with grassroots activism to block the Trans Pacific Partnership.

WINNING BACK OUR DEMOCRACY

Environmental polluters like Exxon, and similarly-minded mega-donors like the Koch Brothers, poison the political

system with enormous financial contributions that sideline the voices of everyday Americans. But, Friends of the Earth is part of a growing movement that is turning back the tide against big money in politics. In November, Friends of the Earth was a leader in a victorious ballot measure in Maine that restores public funding for elections, makes campaigns more transparent and increases financial penalties for election law violations. This democracy win positions us for bigger success in 2016 to get big money out of politics and help

ensure voting rights for all.

These kinds of victories inspire us to create the healthy and just world we want to see. We will continue to fight economic policies at home and abroad that fuel environmental destruction and social injustice and replace them with fair and sustainable approaches.

A GREENER 'ZINE

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Building a better food future

By Lisa Archer, food and technology program director

riends of the Earth's Food and Technology program conducts market and policy campaigns aimed at pollinator protection, animal agriculture reform and promoting regenerative organic food production. In 2015 our program scored many successes in our efforts to rapidly transition our food system into one that is sustainable, healthy and just.

SAVING BEES IN OUR BACKYARDS AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY

In 2015, due to the work of Friends of the Earth, our allies, beekeepers and bee activists across the nation, Home Depot and Lowe's, the world's two largest home improvement retailers, committed to stop selling bee-toxic neonicotinoid pesticides, a leading driver of global bee declines. The two DIY giants joined more than thirty garden retailers, nurseries and landscaping companies in making this commitment. Working with allies in cities and states across the country, we also pushed the EPA to restrict bee-toxic pesticides in agriculture and advanced or passed resolutions and bills to protect bees from Massachusetts to California.

KEEPING GMO SALMON OFF OUR PLATES AND FIGHTING FOR OUR RIGHT TO KNOW

Unfortunately, in late 2015, the FDA approved GMO salmon, the first genetically engineered animal approved for human consumption, based on a flawed assessment using company data. GMO salmon threaten wild salmon and its approval paves the way for other poorly assessed GMO animals, such as pigs, chickens and cows, engineered to fit within a harmful and inhumane factory farming system. After this announcement, and in response to pressure from Friends of the Earth and allies, Costco, the world's second largest grocery chain, joined more than 60 grocery store chains nationwide — including Kroger, Safeway, Trader







Joe's, Target and Whole Foods in making a commitment to not sell GMO salmon.

We also continued to advocate for mandatory labeling of GMOs and pushed back against the chemical and junk food industry's attempts to preempt state labeling laws via federal legislation dubbed the "Deny Americans the Right to Know Act." While the House of Representatives passed this industry-written bill in July, we and our allies successfully pressured the Senate to reject attempts to attach this bill as a last-minute rider on a must-pass spending bill.

CHALLENGING FACTORY FARMS AND ANTIBIOTICS ABUSE

Friends of the Earth has been leading national efforts to drive market change to end the routine use of antibiotics on factory farms, a leading driver of antibiotic-resistance, which is a growing public health threat. We co-authored a highly publicized report and scorecard, "Chain Reaction," that grades 25 of America's top restaurant chains on their policies and practices regarding routine antibiotics use and transparency in their meat and poultry supply chains. This report, along with coordinated pressure campaigns and direct company dialogues, has moved the world's two largest restaurant chains, McDonald's and Subway, to commit to phasing out routine use of antibiotics in their meat supply.

CONTINUING THE FIGHT: WE CAN SHAPE THE STORY OF FOOD

We also released "Spinning Food" in June, a groundbreaking report that exposes how the industrial food sector has spent hundreds of millions of dollars over the past few years on stealth PR tactics to push its political agenda and maintain its market share. The report reveals the rapid rise in industry front groups designed to attack organic food, defend pesticides and the routine use of antibiotics and promote GMOs. The report has been reposted, summarized and publicized by dozens of allies and progressive websites. It is an invaluable tool to help journalists and consumers separate out industry spin from the real story of food. This effort builds on the work we have been doing over the past year to push back on attempts by large agribusiness corporations to discredit the many public health and environmental benefits of organic food.

It was a year marked by intense on-the-ground campaigning and big wins that supported our environmental advocacy work all to ensure a healthy and just world.

KEY WINS

We won a Clean Water Act case we filed in 2013. It challenged a Washington Pollution Control Hearings Board decision to reject our appeal of the Department of Ecology's issuance of an unlawful National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit for the BP Cherry Point refinery near Bellingham, Washington. In 2015 - the court decided in our favor and the State removed the illegal provision from all the NPDES permits it has issued.

Friends of the Earth and other NGOs were sued by by Shell Oil along with the Skagit County Hearing Examiner for its decision granting our administrative appeal that demanded an Environmental Impact Statement for Shell Refinery's proposed oil-by-rail terminal at its facility in Anacortes, WA. **We won this case – the EIS we won in the administrative proceeding was upheld by the court and will be published in 2016**.



ABOVE: Storage tanks and towers at Shell Puget Sound Refinery, Anacortes, Washington, Credit: Walter Siegmund, via Wikimedia Commons

NEW CASES AND CASE UPDATES

Cases filed in 2015:

Friends of the Earth and other plaintiff groups challenged the U.S. EPA's failure to respond in a timely manner to our 2009 petition requesting that EPA regulate concentrated animal feeding operations as a stationary source under the Clean Air Act.

We petitioned the federal Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. to review the NRC's secret approval of an amendment to Diablo Canyon Power Plant's license in violation of NRC regulations and the Atomic Energy Act.

Friends of the Earth, national and regional NGOs and native groups filed a National Environmental Policy Act challenge over the United States Department of the Interior's approval of Lease Sale 193 to Shell Oil for offshore oil drilling in the Arctic's Chukchi Sea.

Friends of the Earth and other national and regional NGOs filed a National Environmental Policy Act challenge to the USDI's approval of Shell Oil's Revised Outer Continental Shelf Lease Exploration Plan for the Chukchi Sea.

We are continuing to fight the increase in oil extraction and export as a part of our Keep It in the Ground campaign and our Northwest work.



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Statement of financial position

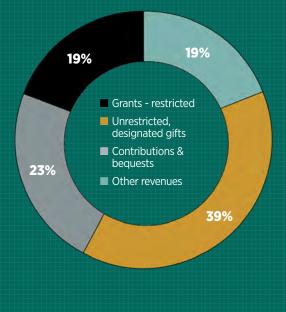
As of June 30, 2015

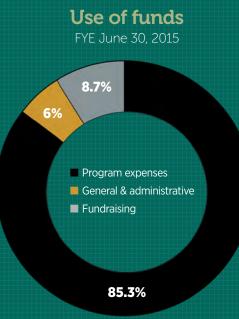
ASSETS			
Cash & cash equivalents	\$5,164,507		
Accounts receivable	\$284,234		
Prepaid expenses & other assets	\$417,910		
Investments at market value	\$5,413,637		
Fixed assets, net of depreciation	\$303,115		
Total assets	\$11,583,403		

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS LIABILITIES				
Accounts payable	\$435,693			
Lease-related liabilities	\$262,266			
Due to FOE Action	\$140,811			
Charitable gift annuities	\$30,077			
Total liabilities	\$868,847			
NET ASSETS				
Restricted	\$1,933,111			
Reserve & endowment funds	\$5,198,421			
Unrestricted	\$3,583,024			
Total net assets	\$10,714,556			
Total liabilities & net assets	\$11,583,403			

Revenues by source

FYE June 30, 2015





Statement of activities

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015

REVENUES	UNRESTRICTED	TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED	PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED	TOTAL
Grants, bequests & contributions	\$6,560,182	\$3,740,023	_	\$10,300,205
Other income	\$ 2,410,819	_	_	\$2,410,819
Net assets released from restriction	\$ 2,766,209	\$ (2,766,209)	_	-
Total revenue & support	\$11,737,210	\$973,814		\$12,711,024

EXPENSES				
Program expenses				
Economic Policy	\$1,482,985	—	_	\$1,482,985
Oceans & Vessels	\$309,998	—	_	\$309,998
Climate & Energy	\$1,260,350	-	_	\$1,260,350
Food & Technology	\$1,495,617	_	_	\$1,495,617
Outreach & Membership	\$3,689,330	_	_	\$3,689,330
Total program expenses	\$8,238,280			\$8,238,280
Supporting expenses				
Management & General	\$579,044	_	_	\$579,044
Fundraising	\$840,304	—	_	\$840,304
Total supporting expenses	\$1,419,348	-	—	\$1,419,348
Total expenses	\$9,657,628	_	_	\$9,657,628

NET ASSETS				
Change in net assets	\$2,079,582	\$973,814	_	\$3,053,396
Net assets - beginning of year	\$6,159,696	\$1,157,718	\$210,272	\$7,527,686
Net assets - end of year	\$8,239,278	\$2,131,532	\$210,272	\$10,581,082



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