

# ANNUAL REPORT 2016



Victories for people, the planet, and pollinators

INSTRUCTION OF THE PROPERTY OF

# mobilize. resist. transform!

As we sort through the ramifications of the 2016 election, it can be hard to feel hope. Before the election, Friends of the Earth was on a path to expand our campaigns to keep fossil fuels in the ground, to ban bee-killing pesticides, clean our oceans and expand our leadership in shaping an effective policy to mitigate climate change.

But now, unbelievably, we must also stop a wave of new attacks on the most fundamental, long-settled pillars of a civilized society: public health, clean air, safe drinking water, access to public lands, safe food, safe drugs, workplace safety – not to mention basic democratic rights and values.

Despite these unprecedented new challenges, there are many places we find hope. We urge you to hold on with us.

Hope shines in the millions of people willing to **mobilize** for the Women's March on Washington; the spontaneous rallies against the Keystone XL pipeline and the Dakota Access pipeline; and even the thousands of grade school students who have conducted school walkouts. Americans of all generations have decided we've reached a tipping point and it's time to show up and speak up.

Hope shines in the countless groups and individuals who have pledged to **resist**. Lawyers and other organizations are challenging the legality of every executive action. Hundreds of thousands of people are calling out their elected officials at town halls across the country and, as evidence of a strengthening and undeniably growing resistance, there is a symbolic denial of Donald Trump's title and legitimacy.

Finally, hope shines in the fight we are waging to **transform** our country. We are in the battle for our children's and grandchildren's future. The November elections shattered many of the social, economic and political conventions that have bound public discourse ever since the New Deal era of the late 1930's.

While disorienting, this is the time for us to force deeper transformative action on social, racial and economic justice, correcting fundamental problems of democratic capitalism and the neoliberal economic agenda. **Mobilize. Resist. Transform.** 

Moving forward, you will find a changed Friends of the Earth. The severe environmental and political stress of this historic moment requires us to do things differently. We would not be good stewards of your trust, or of our planet, if we conducted advocacy as usual.

We need your help. There are more than 1 million Friends of the Earth Members, activists and followers on email, Facebook and Twitter. We need all of you to **mobilize and resist.** 

Hundreds of you have already pledged to attend town hall meetings or confront your elected officials on behalf of a healthy and just planet. But we need more of you. As part of our commitment to you, we have hired community organizers to provide you with support in these efforts. Stay tuned for email alerts from them; you may also contact us to be connected with them.

You will see us acting in solidarity with groups fighting for social, economic, racial and environmental justice. We are all in this together. If it wasn't clear before the election, it is now. The current political power regime is working tirelessly to weaken any and all opposition. Our actions of solidarity represent both a redefining and deepening of our environmental activism.

We will likely lose some big fights, and there is a practical recognition that solitary actions can fail to yield the necessary transformation.

Yet, standing in solidarity is still a critical and powerful lever, and we must not get discouraged. We must draw strength from each other.

As part of a larger Friends of the Earth International network spanning some 75 nations, as well as a fast-expanding progressive movement to champion a healthy and just planet, we have Friends everywhere.

Mobilize. Resist. Transform.

In solidarity,



**Erich Pica** President



Arlie Schardt

Chairman of the Board



Thank you for being a valued Member of Friends of the Earth! Through your partnership, you've shown yourself to be a dedicated champion for the environment. Although 2016 was a challenging year for many, your tireless activism and unwavering support ensured that Friends of the Earth was able to win key victories for our planet.

In this annual report you can read more about the progress you created this past year - from our work to eliminate bee-killing neonics and transform our food system, to our bold efforts to protect our nation's air,

> "More than ever, the Earth needs every friend it can get!"

a Member from New Jersey

land and water from polluting industries, to our crucial fight against climate change, and so much more.

As you know 2017 is already shaping up to be one of the most challenging years we've ever faced.

"I believe that Friends of the Earth has a strong and healthy vision for the planet... Together we can make a difference."

> Rachel, a Member from Michigan

The Trump administration is poised to roll back all of our hard-won progress – and we must not let down our guard.

All of our victories - and all of the important work we do for our planet and its inhabitants – depend on you. With your partnership in the coming year, we will keep up this all-important fight for the future of our planet.

With you at our side, we can continue to achieve pivotal victories for the Earth and all who call it home no matter the challenges ahead.



Members stand up for bees at EPA headquarters in Washington, DC.



Members sign petitions to RESIST Trump in their community.

# **WORKING TO PREVENT CLIMATE CHAOS**

by Michelle Chan, vice president of programs

t's indisputable: Our reliance on fossil fuels is changing our climate rapidly. Scientists estimate that we must keep over two-thirds of existing fossil fuels in the ground just to have a chance of avoiding the worst impacts of climate chaos. At the same time, we must resist the urge to turn to false solutions like dangerous nuclear power or forest-destroying biomass.

Our Climate and Energy team is leading the fight to take on the fossil fuel companies, working to end our unhealthy dependence on dirty fuels, and promoting energy efficiency and clean energy.

#### Your support this past year has led to some great victories for our planet:

- You helped us play a leading role in the Keep it in the Ground movement to stop new fossil fuel leases on U.S. public lands and waters. This campaign succeeded in postponing or cancelling 11 leases and saved 115 million acres of the pristine Arctic Ocean from future oil and gas development.
- In a huge win for our planet, we reached an historic agreement with Pacific Gas and Electric to shut down California's last commercial nuclear plant at Diablo Canyon and replace it entirely with greenhouse-gas-free renewable energy.
- We successfully blocked a congressional effort to declare biomass fuels (wood harvested from forests) "carbon neutral" – saving U.S. forests from destruction.
- We persuaded the Bureau of Land Management to freeze all new coal extraction leases until the agency assesses the climate impacts of the federal coal program.
- We fought against outrageous subsidies for polluters – preventing the Surface Transportation Board from making it cheaper to ship oil and coal across the country.
- We successfully stopped federal funding for a coal carbon capture and sequestration boondoggle in Texas.

#### TAKING ON TRUMP:

Donald Trump has shown – through his words, his dangerous appointments, and his actions since in office – that he's an enemy to our planet.

You can help us keep up the pressure in 2017. And you know how important that is, especially in the face of the massive opposition we're receiving from the new administration in the White House.

- In just his first few days in office, Trump signed executive orders to jump-start the stalled Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines – risking oil spills and trampling over indigenous peoples' rights in the process.
- No fan of the EPA, the administration appointed a new head who built his
  career by suing the EPA on behalf of oil companies. Now, they are attempting
  to defund the agency, weakening the federal government's ability to address
  climate change and other critical environmental issues.
- Already, the administration has attacked climate science and threatened the integrity of science-based policy and regulations – undermining agencies including the EPA, the Energy Department, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
- In an effort to expand fossil fuel development, the administration is working to open up more public lands and waters to destructive drilling; they're also planning to roll back rules governing fracking, coal mining and greenhouse gases.
- Trump will also surely try to resuscitate the nuclear power industry, including building a nuclear waste repository – a dangerous and unnecessary move.

With your support, we'll fight Trump every step of the way, combatting every administration attempt to hand over our planet's future to his fossil fuel cronies in Big Oil and Big Coal.

"Thanks to the tens of thousands of Members like you who submitted comments to the Department of the Interior, Friends of the Earth helped secure two major victories in 2016: a moratorium on new coal development on public lands, and protection of the Atlantic Ocean and large portions of the Arctic Ocean from offshore drilling."

- Marissa Knodel climate and energy campaigner



# **FOOD & TECHNOLOGY**

#### **BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FOOD FUTURE**

by Kendra Klein, PH.D., staff scientist, agroecology and environmental health

riends of the Earth's Food and Technology program works to rapidly transition our food system to one that is sustainable, healthy and just — the food system of the future. We carry out market, communications and policy campaigns aimed at protecting pollinators, reforming animal agriculture and reducing the harmful environmental and social impacts of industrial, chemical-intensive farming while advocating for the expansion of regenerative organic and agroecological farming systems that are healthier for people, communities and the planet. We also work to ensure the safe and precautionary management of chemicals and emerging technologies.

This has been a big year for our team – and it's all thanks to you and your fellow Members. Your support has given us the power, drive and resources to win key victories for the health of people and our planet.

- We've ensured that, despite Food and Drug Administration approval, GMO salmon won't be showing up on your plate anytime soon. Thanks to the work of thousands of Members like you, nearly 80 grocery retailers nationwide have pledged not to sell this engineered fish, and chefs and restaurant chains have made similar commitments.
- Working with the local community in Key Haven, Florida, we prevented the release of genetically engineered mosquitoes by helping defeat a ballot measure this November – the result of five years of community relationship-building.
- We've transformed nearly three-quarters of the garden industry! A recent study found that 74 percent of growers are eliminating the use of bee-killing neonicotinoids in production in 2016. And a growing number of companies – including Costco, Whole Foods, Home Depot and Lowe's – have made anti-neonic pledges to protect pollinators.

- We won critical protection for the rusty patched bumblebee when the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service responded to our petition and added the wild pollinator to the Endangered Species List.
- We led state and local efforts to protect pollinators, helping to pass landmark pollinator protection bills in Maryland, Connecticut and Minnesota.
- Our Keep the Hives Alive Tour traveled to eight cities across the country, drawing attention to the bee crisis. We delivered more than 2.6 million dead bees to the headquarters of chemical giant and neonic peddler Bayer and nearly 5 million signatures to the Environmental Protection Agency demanding immediate action to restrict pollinator-toxic pesticides.
- We released Farming for the Future: Organic and Agroecological Solutions to Feed the World, our report on agroecology, the science and practice of

sustainable farming.
This report outlines
over four decades of
science backing a switch
to agroecology and
debunks the myths
that agribusiness
promotes to keep us
hooked on destructive
chemical-intensive industrial
agriculture practices.

- We helped to publish a peer reviewed study on the presence of nanoparticles in baby formula.
   Shockingly, the United States has developed no mandatory regulations for the use of these potentially toxic materials in our food.
- With the support of our Members and allies, we pressured some of the largest chain restaurants in America – including Subway, Pizza Hut and Taco Bell – to make public commitments to remove meat raised with routine antibiotics from their supply chains.

#### TAKING ON TRUMP:

You know how important this work is. For decades, U.S. food and farming policy, corporate power and agricultural science have been aligned to create an increasingly chemical-dependent food system. Now, under Trump, things could get a whole lot worse:

- From the EPA to the USDA, it is clear that this administration will try to dismantle key regulations and undermine enforcement of laws covering factory farms, pesticides, GMOs, animal welfare and organic agriculture.
- Many vital programs that support local, regional and organic agriculture are also under threat.

But working together with Members like you, we have the power to resist Trump. With your help, we will:

- Push companies to stop selling and marketing foods produced with bee-killing neonicotinoid pesticides and genetically engineered ingredients.
- Promote markets and policies that expand regenerative organic agriculture beyond one percent of U.S. agricultural land.
- We'll pressure companies to reject factory farm meat while growing the market for healthier, more humanelyraised animal products.

This work will be more challenging in the current climate. But with your support in 2017, Friends of the Earth's Food and Technology team is determined to keep the victories coming as we work to ensure a safe, healthy food system for us all.

"Without Members like you emailing, making calls and showing up in person at stores, it wouldn't have been possible for Friends of the Earth to secure commitments from major retailers to eliminate neonics or win policies at the state level to eliminate these bee-killing pesticides.

Thank you for all that you do!"

- Tiffany Finck-Haynes food futures campaigner



#### PUTTING PEOPLE AND PLANET BEFORE PROFITS

by Doug Norlen, economic policy program director

he hunger for economic, financial and political power often drives companies and governments to act in ways that sacrifice the well-being of people and the planet. Many are willing to do whatever it takes to use their power and influence to re-write political and economic rules for their own benefit, polluting the planet and trampling over people's rights in the process.

That's why Friends of the Earth is putting up fierce resistance against the threats posed by polluters and those who profit from their activities. At home and abroad, we fight hard for policies that protect the Earth and defend communities. We're determined not to let companies run roughshod over the environment and human rights.

Our fierce and dedicated campaigners are working at the intersection of trade, finance, environmental protection and social justice – and with you at our side, we're making huge strides.

#### With your support in 2016, we were able to:

- Fight with allies to stop the destructive Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal and its massive giveaways to multinational corporate polluters and reckless Wall Street banks.
- Work with *The Guardian* to expose the U.S. Export-Import Bank – a taxpayer-funded agency of the government, charged with providing loans to American exporters – and its destructive financing of **70 dirty** fossil fuel projects around the world.
- Win a \$500 million contribution from the Obama administration to the Green Climate Fund to help developing countries adapt to and mitigate climate change, and keep fossil fuels and Wall Street excess out of the Fund.

- Assist in the defeat of the Ekumfi coal plant in Ghana, a country where climate change is increasing coastal erosion and swallowing up villages.
- Force Guatemalan palm oil company REPSA to adopt a "Zero Tolerance for Violence" policy and an action plan to improve its socio-environmental practices, following the appalling murder of environmental activist Rigoberto Lima Choc by unknown killers.
- Mobilize students and others to successfully pass pro-democracy initiatives in Washington state, California and Maine – pushing back against the disturbing corporate influence on our elections.



#### TAKING ON TRUMP:

But you know that under the Trump administration, much of this progress could be rolled back – or erased entirely. Throughout his campaign and his time in office, Trump has shown no interest in protecting the environment or human rights. In fact, he's actively trampling on both.

Together, we must remain vigilant throughout the coming year to counter these looming threats from the Trump administration:

- Trump will try to roll back clean energy projects at the Export-Import Bank and other major lending institutions, in favor of dirty fossil fuel projects.
- He'll negotiate trade deals that exclude environmental and other public interest protections and that limit our rights to protect the environment.
- With the help of Attorney General Jeff Sessions, he'll take even more drastic steps to weaken voting rights and increase voter suppression.
- He'll work to eliminate the few remaining restrictions on Big Money in our political system.
- Famously thin-skinned and sensitive to the slightest criticism, he'll increase harassment of progressive nonprofit organizations like Friends of the Earth that speak truth to power, and he'll tighten restrictions on freedom of expression and association.

In 2017 Friends of the Earth's Economic Policy team will be there fighting – on your behalf, and on behalf of our Earth – every step of the way.

And you, as a dedicated and valued Member, will be right there with us, creating a more environmentally sustainable and just world by transforming our financial and economic systems.

At home and abroad, you'll help us advocate for policies that minimize environmental and social harm and fund a brighter

"Thanks to the advocacy and generosity of Friends of the Earth Members like you, we were able to pressure Dimensional Fund Advisors, one of the top ten US fund managers, into divesting two of its portfolios from all palm oil plantation companies! This is a huge step forward in holding private finance accountable for its role in rainforest destruction."

- **Jeff Conant** senior international forests program manager





# **OCEANS & VESSELS**

#### STANDING UP FOR OUR OCEANS

by Marcie Keever, oceans and vessels program director

trouble.

Friends of the Earth's Oceans and Vessels team is combatting the pollution that is poisoning our oceans and waterways and causing terrible harm to the wildlife and people that depend upon these waters.

ithout healthy oceans, we cannot have a healthy planet. And right now, our oceans are in

#### Thanks to you, we won some big victories for our oceans:

- You said "Shell NO!" Thanks to you Shell cancelled plans to transport hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil by rail to its refinery in the Pacific Northwest every week - saving the region from increased oil tanker traffic and potentially devastating spills.
- Friends of the Earth was proud to stand with the Lummi Nation and other tribes to protest and ultimately stop the biggest coal export terminal proposal in North America, at Cherry Point, Washington. This is a huge victory for tribal rights, and for the environment – preventing nearly 1,000 additional shipments of coal in the Salish Sea every year.



#### TAKING ON TRUMP:

Unfortunately, the new administration has already shown that it cares more about fossil fuel companies than clean air or water. We are gearing up for a fight in anticipation that Trump will open up the Northwest and the Arctic to any and all fossil fuel projects – including trying to reestablish the Gateway Pacific Terminal we helped defeat last year.

Friends of the Earth – with your help – is gearing up to fight back against any attempt to overturn our victories, violate tribal rights, and decimate the precious wildlife in our oceans.

"Thanks to the advocacy of Members like you, Friends of the Earth helped the Lummi Nation stop what would have been the biggest coal export terminal in North America. Your support helped prevent nearly 1,000 coal shipments through the Salish Sea each year."

- Marcie Keever oceans and vessels program director

# **ON THE LEGAL FRONT**

In addition to pressuring companies and governments to do the right thing for people and the planet, Friends of the Earth also takes the fight for our environment to courthouses around the country. Here are some of our big legal wins from 2016, and some cases that we're working on right now:

# **KEY VICTORIES**

- Concerned about increased oil tanker traffic in the Pacific Northwest, Friends of the Earth filed a federal Freedom of Information Act request with the U.S. Coast Guard, requesting all incident reports and investigations associated with various vessel maritime incidents in Puget Sound. When the Coast Guard failed to respond, we filed a lawsuit – and victory was ours in September 2016, when all documents were turned over to us and the case was dismissed.
- After years of hard work with allies, we helped win a huge victory for Arctic waters imperiled by oil exploration. The story starts in 2008, when the U.S. Department of the Interior approved Lease Sale 193 to Shell Oil for offshore drilling in the Chukchi Sea, a wildlife-rich area of the Arctic that has seen a huge decrease in ice cover due to climate change. In 2015, Friends of the Earth and other national and regional organizations and native groups filed a National Environmental Policy Act challenge over the lease sale approval, and a second lawsuit challenging the approval of Shell's inadequate oil exploration plan for the Chukchi Sea. We asserted that the decisions were rushed and that the government failed to consider new information about the climate impacts of Arctic drilling. Last year, Shell decided to cancel all of its existing leases in the Chukchi Sea and not pursue development on Lease 193 a huge victory for this imperiled area.

# **ONGOING CASES**

 Friends of the Earth and other national and regional organizations filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Food and Drug Administration under the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act, challenging the FDA's final approval of AquaBounty Technologies' new animal drug application for genetically engineered salmon (AquAdvantage Salmon). We are represented by attorneys at Earthjustice and the Center for Food Safety.



# Your legacy and ours...

"We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors: we borrow it from our children" - WENDELL BERRY, ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST

A bequest is a simple way to pass on your values. You can make Friends of the Earth part of your life story by naming us in your will, trust, retirement plan, life insurance policy or financial accounts. Anyone can make a bequest, and every gift makes a difference. Together, we can create a lasting legacy for the planet.

#### **CONTACT US TODAY!**

Attn: Louisa Phillips // EMAIL: lphillips@foe.org • PHONE: (866) 217-8499 • VISIT: foe.org/YourLegacy

# **FINANCIAL**

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

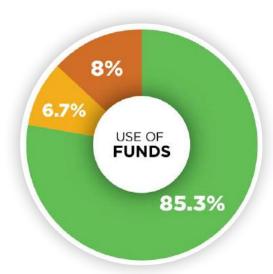
| ASSETS                            |              |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Cash & Cash Equivalents           | 5,659,381    |
| Grants Receivable                 | 648,712      |
| Accounts Receivable               | 99,252       |
| Prepaid Expenses & Other Assets   | 313,947      |
| Investments at Market Value       | 5,518,225    |
| Fixed Assets, net of Depreciation | 1,675,335    |
| TOTAL ASSETS                      | \$13,914,852 |

| LIABILITIES                         |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses | 623,122     |
| Grants Payable                      | 80,500      |
| Lease-related Liabilities           | 1,634,422   |
| Due to FOE Action                   | 455,833     |
| Charitable Gift Annuities           | 29,792      |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES                   | \$2,823,669 |

| NET ASSETS                |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Restricted                | 1,579,817    |
| Reserve & Endowment Funds | 5,633,306    |
| Unrestricted              | 3,878,060    |
| TOTAL NET ASSETS          | \$11,091,183 |

| TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS | \$13.914.852 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
|                                |              |

As of June 30, 2016





PROGRAM EXPENSES

GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE

FUNDRAISING

FYE June 30, 2016

#### STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

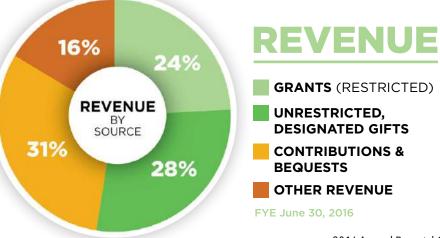
| <b>REVENUES</b>                      |              |                        |                        |              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
|                                      | UNRESTRICTED | TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED | PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED | TOTAL        |
| Grants, Bequests,<br>Contributions   | \$6,549,248  | 2,265,240              | -                      | \$8,814,488  |
| Other Income                         | \$1,720,716  | -                      | -                      | \$1,720,716  |
| Net Assets Released from Restriction | \$2,618,534  | (\$2,618,534)          | -                      | -            |
| TOTAL REVENUE<br>& SUPPORT           | \$10,888,498 | \$(353,294)            | -                      | \$10,535,204 |

| EXPENSES                  |             |   |   |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|---|---|-------------|
| PROGRAM EXPENS            | ES          |   |   |             |
| Economic Policy           | \$1,403,769 | - | - | \$1,403,769 |
| Oceans & Vessels          | \$400,738   | - | - | \$400,738   |
| Climate & Energy          | \$1,428,445 | - | - | \$1,428,445 |
| Food & Technology         | \$1,083,328 | - | - | \$1,083,328 |
| Outreach & Communications | \$3,476,253 | - | - | \$3,476,253 |
| Membership                | \$760,623   | - | - | \$760,623   |
| TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSE     | \$8,553,156 | - | - | \$8,553,156 |

| SUPPORTING EXPER         | NSES         |   |   |              |
|--------------------------|--------------|---|---|--------------|
| Management &<br>General  | \$666,799    | - | - | \$666,799    |
| Fundraising              | \$805,148    | - | - | \$805,148    |
| TOTAL SUPPORTING EXPENSE | \$1,471,947  | - | - | \$1,471,947  |
| TOTAL EXPENSES           | \$10.025.103 | _ | _ | \$10.025.103 |

| NET ASSETS                        |             |             |           |              |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|
| Change in net assets              | \$863,395   | \$(353,294) | -         | \$510,101    |
| Net assets -<br>beginning of year | \$8,239,278 | \$2,131,532 | \$210,272 | \$10,581,082 |
| NET ASSETS<br>-END OF YEAR        | \$9,102,673 | \$1,778,238 | \$210,272 | \$11,091,183 |

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2016





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# Friends of the Earth defends the environment and champions a healthy and just world.

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LICENSING BRANCH AT 1-888-830-4989. THE LICENSE IS NOT AN ENDORSEMENT BY THE STATE. PENNSYLVANIA - The official registration and financial information of Friends of the Earth may be obtained from Pennsylvania Department of State
by calling toll-free within the state 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. LTAH - Permit #C495. VIRGINIA - State Division of Consumer Affairs, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, PO Box 1163, Richmond, VA
23218; 1-800-552-9963. WASHINGTON - Charities Division, Office of the Secretary of the State, State of Washington, Olympia, WA 95504-0422; 1-800-332-4483. WEST VIRGINIA - West Virginia residents may obtain a summary of the registration
and financial documents for the Secretary of State, State Capitol, Charleston, WV 25305. Registration does not imply endorsement. Postmaster: Send address changes to Friends of the Earth, 1101 15th St. NW, 11th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20005.





