



As a Member of Friends of the Earth, you're fueling the fight for a healthy and just world. From protecting the Appalachian Trail (pictured here) from polluting pipelines to battling corporate greed, you're doing great things to protect people and the planet.

Annual Report

2020





Left: Erich Pica, President
Right: Jayni Chase, Chair of the Board



Friends,

How are you?

In the time of the pandemic, this question has become more complicated than ever. Yet we're pleased to say that, despite the chaos of the past year, the Friends of the Earth family—including our Members, volunteers, activists, board of directors and staff—has achieved some important wins for people and the planet.

“While we had to adjust some advocacy plans and tactics, the pandemic didn't stop our campaigning.”

Together, in response to the crisis, we fought alongside workers for greater safety measures in meatpacking plants after superspreader conditions emerged. We also fought for pandemic protections for family farmers, farmworkers and rural Americans, emphasizing critical relief for small, sustainable operations, farmers of color and other historically disadvantaged agriculturalists.

We were the first environmental advocacy group to publicly oppose the craven attempt by the oil industry to get a COVID-19 bailout, exposing attempts to secure tax breaks, access a Treasury Department bond program, and acquire royalty relief. We also led efforts to prevent companies from receiving protection from lawsuits related to their roles as global COVID superspreaders.

While we had to adjust some advocacy plans and tactics, the pandemic didn't stop our campaigning. On the 50th anniversary of Earth Day we joined more than 1.6 million people to launch “Stop the Money Pipeline,” a campaign

aimed at preventing the financial industry from profiting off the climate crisis. We also secured pollinator health policies from three of the four largest U.S. food retailers, as well as the strongest retailer policy on bee-killing pesticides to date from Giant Eagle.

Finally, in 2020, we witnessed Americans across the country rise up for racial justice. The murders by police of George Floyd and so many other black men and women forced us to question our role in and commitment to creating a healthy and just world. Friends of the Earth aligned behind the Black Lives Matter movement and the calls for justice, health, and the right for all to thrive.

We have achieved a lot this year, but we could not do it without you. We are deeply grateful for your advocacy and support. Thank you!

We wish you good health and resolve as we head into 2021 with a new president, renewed hope of taming the pandemic, and a reinvigorated commitment to a more healthy and just world.

Warmest regards,

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is "Jayni Chase" and the signature on the right is "Erich Pica".

Jayni and Erich



We made it through 2020 **THANKS TO YOU!**

This past year was difficult for everyone as we faced a global pandemic, the most anti-environment administration in history, and a high-stakes election. But with creativity, agility, determination and your staunch support, Friends of the Earth scored some huge victories in 2020.

Your support as the pandemic began enabled us to forcefully speak out against fossil fuel bailouts in the CARES Act, ultimately winning the battle to get those wasteful giveaways removed from the final bill.

One of our biggest victories came mid-year when relentless pressure from Members like you forced the cancellation of the Atlantic Coast pipeline project that would have endangered communities and wildlife across three states.

You helped save bees by securing pollinator health policies from three of the four largest U.S. food retailers and winning key bans on pollinator-toxic chlorpyrifos. Your support also helped pollinators and people as we pushed for climate-friendly food legislation in Maryland and DC and fought for family farmers, farmworkers and rural Americans as they reeled from the pandemic.

You gave our legal team the support they needed to fight back against Trump administration efforts to turn our planet over to polluters. Through FOIA requests, lawsuits and other legal actions, we were able to help cancel the Keystone XL pipeline, force the Department of Interior to turn over key documents, and cancel an Alaska offshore drilling project.

Members like you also helped us celebrate the cancellation of the Pebble Mine, which would have devastated Alaska's pristine Bristol Bay, as well as fight for stricter protections for the San Francisco Bay, Puget Sound, and Alaska's Glacier Bay.

In fact, your support kept Friends of the Earth nimble during this trying year, as we moved from supporting Black Lives Matter protesters, to pressuring banks and investment firms to divest from funds tied to deforestation and fossil fuels, to protecting people from power and water shutoffs during the pandemic.

Please take a moment to read our 2020 Annual Report and reflect on the powerful difference you made for our planet and the people who call it home this past year. And with Members like you at our side in 2021, we can—and will—win more key victories for our Earth!

"I am donating because I care deeply about monarchs and other pollinators... with your work, I believe we can save this beautiful butterfly and bring it back from the edge of extinction. Please keep up the good work."

**FRIENDS OF THE EARTH MEMBER
ANNINA PUCCIO**



Going Toe-to-Toe with the Fossil Fuel Industry

Amid the many challenges of 2020, Friends of the Earth's Climate Team won some huge victories, leaving us poised to make even bigger strides in 2021.

Pandemic protection for people, not polluters

When the pandemic erupted, we were the first group to publicly oppose the proposed fossil fuel bailout. We mobilized the environmental community to demand those resources go to support communities instead.

As the fossil fuel industry continued to try to profit off the pandemic, our campaigners produced reports and analyses exposing its attempts to secure tax breaks, acquire royalty relief, and receive a liability waiver from lawsuits related to its role as a global COVID super-spreader.

In a huge victory, we successfully defeated a \$3 billion aid package for Big Oil via the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR)—a shameless bid to backstop the plummeting price of oil and benefit political allies of the Trump administration. We also led public and media outcry against a special lending program for oil and gas using stimulus dollars, forcing the Trump administration to reverse course. And pressure from Members

like you led Congress to kill liability waiver language in a second relief bill.

We shut down the Atlantic Coast Pipeline

In July, we scored a major victory under the leadership of Native American, African American, and other affected communities, forcing the cancellation of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline—a fossil fuel project that would have carried fracked gas across three states.

The proposed pipeline would have been an environmental and human rights disaster, destroying wildlife and polluting the water and air of low-wealth, Black and Indigenous communities.

We showed up at shareholder meetings to target the companies behind the project, and tens of thousands of people signed petitions demanding that big banks stop financing the pipeline. And we worked with allies to expose the weak business case for the pipeline, showing financiers how regulatory and legal hold-ups, cost overruns, and a regional surplus of gas rendered the project economically unfeasible.

We also piled the pressure on elected officials, protesting during a hearing by NC Governor Roy Cooper and mobilizing tens of thousands of Members like you to urge their representatives to oppose all pipelines.



To raise the campaign's national profile we organized a protest in front of the Supreme Court, and shortly afterwards generated 26,000 comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission urging it to deny a two-year extension for the project.

Victory was ours when Duke Energy and Dominion Energy canceled the pipeline, but the fight isn't over. We continue our work with local communities to end other polluting projects in the region.

We stood up to anti-environment extremists

Our activism helped force the Trump administration to withdraw racist, pro-polluter William Perry Pendley's nomination to lead the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the agency in charge of many of our federal lands. Our activism included sending a moving truck with "volunteer movers" to the Department of the Interior building in Washington, DC with a giant pink slip saying Pendley should be "fired." A judge eventually ruled that Pendley was serving illegally in an acting position, and we were part of an effort to have his decisions vacated.

Working with you to protect our public lands

In other efforts to protect our climate future, we collected over 330,000 public comments from Members like you opposing oil and gas lease sales on public lands in Utah, Colorado, Wyoming,

In July, we scored a major victory under the leadership of Native American, African American, and other affected communities forcing the cancellation of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline—a fossil fuel project that would have carried fracked gas across three states.

Montana and California during the pandemic. We joined the nationwide coalition to defend the bedrock National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). And we forced the BLM to delay or halt several lease sales, including 87,000 acres that were set to be leased to oil and gas interests near Arches and Canyonlands national parks.

With Members' help, we'll do even more in 2021 to move our nation away from filthy, climate-destroying fossil fuels and toward a cleaner, greener future.



Fighting for a Planet-Friendly Food System

Friends of the Earth made access to healthy, environmentally sustainable food a top priority in 2020, and with our Members' help we made real progress in advancing a more climate-friendly and equitable food system.

We fought for pandemic protections for food workers and farmers

As the pandemic intensified, we coordinated a campaign targeting Tyson Foods to demand safety for meatpacking workers on the frontlines of this crisis. We also fought to extend protections and support for family farmers and farmworkers struggling amid the pandemic recession.

Momentum builds for climate-friendly food nationwide

In California, Friends of the Earth helped secure \$10 million for a new Farm to School grant program that will include investments in organic and regenerative agriculture. We also provided direct support to help over a dozen California school districts increase climate-friendly food offerings. Nationwide, we have provided hundreds of school districts with resources to support shifts toward climate-friendly, plant-based, and organic menu items with lower carbon and water footprints. And our webinar series on climate-friendly

school food led to more than 50 California school districts expressing interest in receiving technical assistance to support a shift toward organic and plant-based food.

On the legislative front, we spearheaded climate-friendly food legislation aimed at reducing the carbon footprint of state food purchases in Maryland, New York, and the District of Columbia.

Exposing unnatural and inhumane food production

Ahead of the potential 2021 release of genetically engineered salmon, the first GMO animal approved for human consumption in the U.S., we secured commitments from the three largest food service companies and more than 80 grocery retailers not to sell it. GMO salmon poses risks to wild salmon and the Indigenous and fishing communities that depend on them. We also released a new report revealing that a new wave of genetically engineered animals are in development, including chickens, pigs, and cows engineered to fit into filthy, crowded, and inhumane factory farms.

With Member support, Friends of the Earth will continue fighting for a more sustainable and just food system that is healthier for people and the planet.



Meeting the Challenges of 2020 with People Power

The COVID-19 pandemic forced all of us to change the way we work and live. But despite moving our work online to stay safe, Friends of the Earth's Organizing Team, our Members and dedicated activists stepped up and made real change.

We mobilized millions for Earth Day

As the nation locked down, we quickly adapted plans for Earth Day's 50th anniversary. Earth Day Live became a three-day online event, drawing millions together to celebrate our planet and take action. On day two we helped launch the "Stop the Money Pipeline" campaign, with more than 1.6 million people joining us to call, text, email and tweet at the heads of major banks, investors and insurers profiting off the climate crisis.

Making government work for people, not polluters

When Congress finally responded to the pandemic, Friends of the Earth activists spoke out and mobilized against fossil fuel bailouts in the CARES Act and called for reforms like the ReWIND and End Polluter Welfare Acts.

Thanks to your advocacy and years of hard work by our organizers and allies, NY Governor Cuomo's administration permanently rejected the fracked gas Williams Pipeline.

Showing up for racial and social justice

As the Black Lives Matter protests erupted nationwide, Friends of the Earth organizers on the ground in Minneapolis and elsewhere led donation drives to get critical supplies to protesters. We also helped train new activists on organizing tactics, and led calls for justice, health and the right to thrive for all.

In early fall our Organizing Team joined leaders for migrant justice in calling out global money management firm BlackRock's investments in Palantir, a data analytics firm that facilitates the surveillance, detention, and deportation of immigrants in the U.S. We organized an online rally to flood the phone lines and social media channels at BlackRock, demanding they defund the deportation machine.

Thanks to the support of our Members, supporters and activists, Friends of the Earth is ready to respond nimbly and creatively in the fight for our planet and the people who call it home.



Fighting for People, Pollinators, and the Planet

As beekeepers faced some of their worst winter losses on record, Friends of the Earth and our Members won key victories to ensure a better future for our bees and other pollinators.

Our bee- and butterfly-friendly retailer campaign

Thanks to your support, we secured pollinator health policies from three of the four largest U.S. food retailers—Costco, Kroger, and Albertsons. We also secured the strongest retailer policy to date from Giant Eagle, committing to a timebound phase-out of bee-killing neonicotinoid (neonic) pesticides in its produce supply chain.

Building on our success in shifting the garden industry away from neonics, in late 2020 we launched a new #RejectRoundUp campaign to save monarch butterflies from the herbicide glyphosate. Along with allies we sent over 150,000 petition signatures from people like you to Lowe's and Home Depot, demanding they end sales of Roundup and other glyphosate-based products.

Our cutting-edge research

Our groundbreaking “Organic for All” study showed that an organic diet rapidly and dramatically reduces exposure to glyphosate—dropping levels of the

cancer-causing weedkiller in families' bodies by 70% after just one week.

We released a report on new “gene silencing pesticides” that genetically engineer organisms in farm fields, rather than labs. This open-air experiment could pose unique risks to people and pollinators.

Advocating for pollinators

Our advocacy secured bans on pollinator-toxic and brain-damaging chlorpyrifos in Maryland and New York. We submitted written testimony, organized lobby days, and mobilized thousands of people to reach out to legislators. And thanks to six years of advocacy from our Members and allies, the Massachusetts Pesticide Board voted to ban the consumer use of neonics, building on similar victories in Maryland, Connecticut and Vermont.

On the federal front we worked with Senator Tom Udall to support the introduction of the Protecting America's Children from Toxic Pesticides Act (which would overhaul our broken federal pesticide law), and with Senator Jeff Merkley to support introduction of the butterfly-friendly MONARCH and MPH Acts. We supported pollinator-friendly legislation with a Congressional Briefing, lobby days, and over 800,000 signatures and online actions from Members like you.

With our Members' support in 2021, we will keep pushing food retailers and elected officials to protect pollinators and people from pesticides.



Creating a Greener Economy for All

In 2020, our Finance and Economics team won key victories and made important progress in the fight against forces that finance ecological destruction.

We're exposing investors in environmental destruction

Thanks to our unrelenting pressure (and your support), BlackRock, the world's top investor in both fossil fuels and deforestation, announced the largest ever divestment from coal. The company also took unprecedented steps to "put climate at the center of its investment strategy," including promises to require companies it invests in to end deforestation—a big win for endangered wildlife like orangutans.

Our report "Doubling Down on Deforestation" revealed that BlackRock and fellow investment firms Vanguard and State Street had more than \$700 billion invested in companies directly driving deforestation—and had been using their shareholder votes to reject measures to protect forests. Armed with this data, and with the people power of a growing movement behind us, we worked with allies to persuade two-thirds of shareholders of Procter & Gamble—the world's largest consumer goods company—to vote for the company to eliminate deforestation from its products.

Sustainable investing can be hard, so we launched an expanded version of [DeforestationFreeFunds.org](https://www.deforestationfreefunds.org), helping everyday investors to get their money out of the companies responsible for destroying our rainforests.

Putting people before profits at home and overseas

We made progress in our campaign to help cities divest from climate chaos when Reps. Rashida Tlaib and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez introduced the Public Banking Act, which would allow for the creation of fossil fuel-free public banks that can invest in local communities—a vital economic lifeline for communities recovering from the pandemic.

We also ramped up pressure on the newly formed U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)—stopping Trump administration attempts to water down environmental protections, and pushing the DFC to improve access to sustainable and affordable energy in poor and rural communities.

Internationally, we're supporting local communities by calling on Chinese banks—the world's largest sources of development finance—to commit to stronger environmental standards. This work is crucial for protecting some of the most biodiverse wild places in the world.

In 2021, with the help of Members like you, Friends of the Earth will continue working toward a greener financial system for a more sustainable world.

*Bass Lake, North Carolina*

Winning Big Across the Southeast

From getting out the vote to working to stop the proliferation of nuclear power, and more, Friends of the Earth is a force to be reckoned with in the Southeastern United States.

Building a green energy future

In our ongoing effort to shut down the Turkey Point nuclear power station in Florida, we filed a federal suit against the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for allowing Florida Power and Light to reuse a “generic” Environmental Impact Statement in its application for a second license for the reactor. This sneaky move would mean the utility wouldn’t have to take climate change into account in the face of a warming future. If we win, we could not only stop Turkey Point, but also stop a dozen other aging nuclear power plants from going into a second license period.

We played a key role in pushing Memphis, Tennessee’s utility to study options for using greener power—revealing that this move would save hundreds of millions of dollars per year. The city is now poised to embrace a cleaner, local energy.

As North Carolina’s biomass industry heats up—now producing more wood pellets for export to overseas power plants than any other state—Friends of the

Earth led efforts pressuring the state’s Department of Environmental Quality to better protect the largely Indigenous and African American communities where these facilities are located.

We helped provide a lifeline for local communities

As COVID-19 wreaked havoc on residents throughout the region, we worked with allies in North Carolina and Memphis, TN to win a months-long moratorium on all electric and water utility shutoffs during the pandemic. And in Florida, we helped persuade the governor to establish free community-wide testing in Immokalee, a poor agricultural community that was a national hotspot for the coronavirus.

Ensuring safe voting for citizens

During the 2020 elections, Friends of the Earth took the lead in organizing “Parties at the Polls” in several rural districts in North Carolina, providing personal protective equipment, water, snacks and entertainment for voters waiting in long poll lines.

With Members’ support in 2021, Friends of the Earth will continue working with communities and fighting for cleaner energy, agriculture and industry across the Southeast.



Fighting for Clean, Healthy Oceans

This year, our Members helped us make great strides to clean up and protect our oceans and waterways.

A year of victories for our oceans

We won a big victory in our years-long battle against the Pebble Mine proposal in pristine Bristol Bay, Alaska. In November, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers caved to pressure from thousands of activists and Members like you and denied Pebble Mine a permit, effectively killing the project.

Tens of thousands of Members like you submitted objections to Trump's plan to open 90% of our oceans to drilling, forcing his administration to postpone the effort until after the 2020 election. The Biden administration has now put a hold on new drilling in our oceans while it reviews the environmental and climate impacts of fossil fuel extraction.

Our advocacy led to the cancellation of a permit to expand the Phillips 66 oil refinery and dredge the San Francisco Bay—a plan that would have greatly increased the risk of oil spills in the region.

Demanding accountability from the cruise industry

Amid growing public attention following COVID-19 cruise ship outbreaks, we released our latest Cruise

Ship Report Card highlighting the industry's major environmental and public health issues.

Friends of the Earth successfully helped block federal bailout funds for the cruise industry and tens of thousands of our Members called on the CDC to reinstate the No-Sail order that was in place until October 2020. Despite Trump's attempts to help the domestic cruise industry, it remains dormant due to COVID-19.

Tens of thousands of Members like you urged the National Park Service to keep Carnival Cruises out of Glacier Bay National Park, into which the company dumped 26,000 gallons of polluted graywater in 2018.

Fighting for a future for endangered orcas

In the Pacific Northwest we helped protect the 75 remaining Southern Resident Killer Whales by successfully advocating for more precautions for oil barges and tankers traveling in Puget Sound—critical habitat for the endangered whales. We also pushed for stronger protections for Chinook salmon—the orcas' favorite food.

This year we will continue to fight the dirty fossil fuel projects and cruise and shipping industries that endanger our waterways, our communities and our marine mammals.



Defending our Planet in Court...and Winning

With our Members' support, Friends of the Earth brought the full power of the law to bear in our fight for a cleaner, greener planet.

We won two huge victories against Big Polluters

We ended 2020 with a huge win in federal court when the Trump administration's approval of an Alaska offshore drilling project was rejected after a two-year legal battle.

In a monumental victory in January 2021, President Biden canceled the disastrous Keystone XL pipeline—a win for our planet made possible by more than 10 years of hard-fought legal battles and tireless work

from our Members and campaigners. This came after several key fights to halt the pipeline, including recent lawsuits we helped file to challenge federal agencies' approvals for Keystone during Trump's presidency and his administration's streamlined processes for approving pipelines.

Putting workers first during the pandemic

After the COVID-19 pandemic hit, we filed challenges against the Departments of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services for their unconscionable delays in providing personal protective equipment to frontline workers during the pandemic.

Exposing and undoing Trump's anti-environment attacks

Using the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), we forced the Department of Treasury to disclose information about the fossil fuel industry's lobbying for COVID-19 relief. And thanks to our many legal challenges, courts rebuked the Department of Interior for failing to respond to dozens of FOIA requests regarding monument designations, offshore drilling and related matters.

We are fighting to overturn Trump's anti-environment legacy, filing lawsuits to protect the Tongass National Forest and Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from greedy polluters, and challenging the damaging rollback of many environmental protections.

In 2021, with your support, we will continue fighting to overturn four years of environmental attacks by the Trump administration, and lay the groundwork for ecological progress and environmental protection.

A Free Gift for You and Your Future

We're excited to offer you a free gift to help you prepare for the future and ensure your values live on indefinitely. We've partnered with FreeWill to give you an easy way to write your legally valid will today.

It's 100% free and most people finish in 20 minutes or less.

Creating a will is one of the most impactful ways to support the people and causes you love.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Anna Babcock
 ☎ 202-222-0716
 ✉ ababcock@foe.org

Have you already made a gift through your will? If so, please let us know so we can thank you and welcome you to the Shared Earth Society.

Tax ID# 23-7420660



VISIT WWW.FOE.ORG/FREEWILL2021 TO GET STARTED TODAY!

Financials

Statement of Activities

For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020

REVENUE			
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Grants, Bequests & Contributions	\$8,106,909	\$2,467,262	\$10,574,171
Other Income	\$1,568,890	\$13,560	\$1,582,450
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	\$3,317,570	\$(3,317,570)	\$ -
TOTAL REVENUE	\$12,993,369	\$(836,748)	\$12,156,621

EXPENSES			
PROGRAM EXPENSES			
Economic Policy	\$991,263	\$ -	\$991,263
Oceans & Vessels	\$708,965	\$ -	\$708,965
Climate & Energy	\$1,023,198	\$ -	\$1,023,198
Food & Agriculture	\$1,373,544	\$ -	\$1,373,544
Organizing	\$305,128	\$ -	\$305,128
Outreach, Communications, DEIJ & NC Restricted	\$3,978,984	\$ -	\$3,978,984
Membership	\$681,174	\$ -	\$681,174
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$9,062,256	\$ -	\$9,062,256
SUPPORTING EXPENSES			
Management & General	\$814,300	\$ -	\$814,300
Fundraising	\$1,370,717	\$ -	\$1,370,717
TOTAL SUPPORTING EXPENSES	\$2,185,017	\$ -	\$2,185,017
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$11,247,273	\$ -	\$11,247,273

NET ASSETS			
Net Assets—Beginning of Year	\$8,867,409	\$2,341,525	\$11,208,934
Change in Net Assets	\$1,746,096	\$(836,748)	\$909,348
NET ASSETS—END OF YEAR	\$10,613,505	\$1,504,777	\$12,118,282

Statement of Financial Position

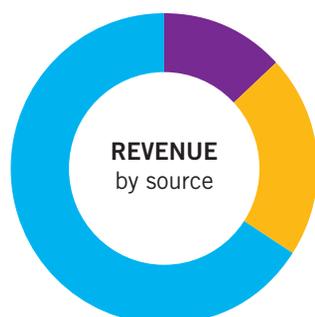
As of June 30, 2020

ASSETS	
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$6,878,325
Grants Receivable	\$878,190
Accounts Receivable	\$34,963
Prepaid Expenses & Other Assets	\$797,430
Fixed Assets, Net of Depreciation	\$1,050,583
Investments	\$6,213,387
TOTAL ASSETS	\$15,852,878

LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable & Accrued Expenses	\$934,920
Grants Payable	\$ -
Lease-related Liabilities	\$1,626,706
Charitable Gift Annuities Liability	\$10,470
PPP Loan Liability	\$1,162,500
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$3,734,596

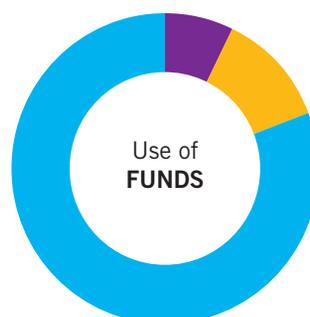
NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	\$10,613,505
Restricted	\$1,504,777
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$12,118,282

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$15,852,878
---	---------------------



Revenue

- 66% Contributions & Bequests
- 21% Grants
- 13% Other Revenue



Expenses

- 81% Program Expenses
- 12% Fundraising
- 7% Administrative