





# Annual Report 2011 bold action for the planet





Friends of the Earth is a bold, fearless voice for justice and the planet. We believe that all people deserve to live in a healthy environment.

### Our work is guided by the following principles:

We engage in **justice-minded environmentalism**, and defend the rights of all people to live on a healthy planet, free from environmental destruction and inequality.

We fight for **what's needed over the long term**, not just for what is easy or popular in the short term.

We know that **solving deep-rooted environmental problems** requires exposing and challenging the economic forces that fuel them.

We *act globally and locally*. As a part of Friends of the Earth-International, the world's largest grassroots federation with member groups in 76 countries, we employ worldwide collaboration to achieve victories.

Cover photos (clockwise from top right): Testing for radiation after the disaster in Fukushima; Friends of the Earth president Erich Pica at the State Department's hearing on the Keystone XL pipeline; Friends of the Earth-International chair Nnimmo Bassey with Archbishop Desmond Tutu at the interfaith rally that also marked the launch of the UN climate negotiations in Durban, South Africa; Erich speaking at a protest against the Pacific Rim mining company's abuses; our staff at a nurses' rally in support of a financial transaction tax.





# from the leadership

Dear Friends,

With your help, in 2011 Friends of the Earth took on a series of powerful polluter lobbies — the Big Oil, corn ethanol, nuclear and cruise industries — and won.

We played an indispensible role in the fight to stop the Keystone XL tar sands oil pipeline. Our work exposing favoritism and oil industry bias in the State Department's review process spurred media and congressional scrutiny that was pivotal in forcing President Obama's rejection of the pipeline permit in January, 2012.

After four years of relentless campaigning, we succeeded in erasing the biggest taxpayer subsidy for corn ethanol from the federal books, a \$6 billion per year giveaway for a fuel that is worse for our climate than gasoline. This marked the first congressional defeat for the corn ethanol industry in more than 30 years.

The nuclear disaster in Fukushima, Japan was a tragic reminder of the dangers of nuclear power. It compelled us to redouble our efforts to prevent new reactor construction in the U.S. We successfully intervened in Iowa to persuade the state senate to abandon a bill that would have funded new reactors via an electricity rate hike, burdening consumers with the costs and risks while allowing a private utility to reap the profits.

Besides compelling freighters and cruise ships to shift to cleaner burning fuels along America's west coast, we achieved a ban on cruise ship wastewater dumping in all five national marine sanctuaries on the U.S. west coast, protecting extraordinary marine animals such as orcas, sea otters and whales from an under-regulated industry with an atrocious track record of health and safety violations.

We approached all of these issues with an outlook that has guided our work for more than 42 years: namely, to hold our leaders accountable to the long-term public interest, regardless of the campaign cash or threats that polluters may dangle before them — and in line with what's scientifically prudent and socially just.

Besides our victories in thwarting polluter practices and subsidies, we continue to build the foundation for long-term solutions to tackle the economic and political roots of environmental destruction and injustice.

We launched our Earth Budget campaign to push for progressive tax and budget solutions that prioritize people and the planet over polluters. Our updated *Green Scissors* report, backed by a novel left-right coalition, generated robust media coverage and dialogue in Congress, identifying \$380 billion in savings Congress can achieve by eliminating subsidies for projects that harm our environment.

Internationally, we prevented corporations and the polluter-friendly World Bank from hijacking the Green Climate Fund, preserving the possibility of an equitable and effective mechanism to help the world's poorest and most vulnerable countries adapt to climate change and implement clean energy solutions.

We also continued to push for regulation of emerging technologies such as nanotechnology and genetic engineering that carry a host of new risks for our health and environment, while also threatening to further empower corporations to control our bodies and food systems. We filed the first-ever lawsuit aimed at compelling the federal government to address the health and environmental risks of nanotechnology. We also stalled federal approval of the frankenfish, a genetically engineered salmon that would be the first genetically engineered animal ever approved for human consumption.

In the following pages, you'll find more about these and many other accomplishments. None would be possible without your continued support, for which we convey our deepest thanks.

Sincerely,

Erich Pica, president

Arlie Schardt, chair

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### climate and energy

We promote clean energy and conservation, and we fight to end our dependence on harmful energy sources that pollute our air and water, threaten human health, and exacerbate the climate crisis, including biofuels, oil, coal and nuclear.

Whether you sent in a donation, wrote or called your member of Congress, or signed a petition, the actions you took in 2011 made a difference in the fight for justice and a healthy environment. We want to thank all of our activists and donors for the part you played in making this happen. This report provides an overview of the things you helped us accomplish in 2011.

### End taxpayer handouts for corn ethanol

This was the year that we took on the corporate corn ethanol lobby in Washington, and won! Corn ethanol production is driving up food prices, polluting our air and poisoning our water — all for a fuel that is far worse for the climate than conventional gasoline. Yet for years, the federal government provided billions of dollars in handouts to the corn ethanol industry.

Over the past few years, we built a broad coalition of "strange bedfellows" in support of ending the biggest tax giveaway to corn ethanol, the Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit, which was worth \$6 billion a year. Our coalition included groups ranging from the Grocery Manufacturers Association to Tea Party movement backer FreedomWorks to MoveOn.org. After lots of hard work, and given the current pressures on the federal budget, we persuaded Congress that taxpayer money should not be wasted on this dirty subsidy, and lawmakers allowed the subsidy to expire at the end of 2011.



#### Stop new nuclear reactors in Iowa

After last spring's post-tsunami nuclear disaster in Japan, we knew we had to redouble our efforts to prevent the construction of dangerous new reactors in the U.S. We focused our attention in Iowa, where the utility MidAmerican Energy was working to persuade the state's legislature to allow it to raise electricity rates in order to fund the construction of new nuclear reactors. Adding insult to potential injury was the fact that the bill offered MidAmerican a windfall profits opportunity — it would keep the money even if it never constructed the reactors. At the time we mobilized in support of local groups that opposed the bill, conventional wisdom held that it was sure to pass. MidAmerican had greased the skids of the legislature with campaign cash and thought its bill was a shoo in. But we campaigned to win, airing TV and print ads, generating lots of media coverage, phoning more than 100,000 Iowans and conducting a statewide poll that showed the public overwhelmingly opposed the measure. We scored a major victory in June when the legislature ended its session without passing the bill. Photos: Stills from our nuclear tv ad that ran in Iowa.

### Convince President Obama to reject the Keystone XL pipeline

The proposed Keystone XL pipeline would have carried the world's dirtiest oil from Canada's tar sands to ports and refineries along the U.S. Gulf Coast. Friends of the Earth has been campaigning to stop the pipeline for years, employing a variety of tactics, from grassroots organizing to policy analysis to media work to coalition building. We played a pivotal role this past year, as we used the federal Freedom of Information Act to force the State Department (the agency in charge of reviewing the pipeline permit application) to release internal documents that revealed how bias, lobbyist influence and conflicts of interested had corrupted the department's review process. We turned these documents into a front-page story in the New York Times and hundreds of media hits that put pressure on the Obama administration to conduct a new review. After President Obama announced in November that his administration would conduct a new review, congressional Republicans tried to force his hand and the president ended up rejecting the pipeline outright in January of 2012. Photo: Thousands joined hands in one continuous circle around the White House to protest the pipeline.



### Shed light on the tragedy in Fukushima

Unfortunately, 2011 will be remembered as a year of nuclear tragedy, the result of the nuclear disaster that occurred in Fukushima, Japan. After the accident we worked tirelessly for weeks with environmental groups in Japan to disseminate the latest information on the nuclear disaster to reporters across the world and to put journalists

in touch with independent experts on nuclear power, to ensure that the tragedy was covered in a fair and objective way.

The disaster also brought new impetus to our multi-pronged work to push back against the nuclear industry. We continued our battle against the federal government's attempts to build a temporary nuclear waste storage facility near the Savannah River in South Carolina. And we created a coalition to fight the use of recycled plutonium from nuclear weapons (MOX) for use as reactor fuel — a move that would natically increase the danger posed by nuclear accidents. *Photo: Damon Mo-*

dramatically increase the danger posed by nuclear accidents. *Photo: Damon Moglen, director of our climate and energy project, appeared on MSNBC to report on the disaster.* 

# in depth: stopping a dirty pipeline

In 2011, Friends of the Earth won a huge victory in the fight against dirty tar sands oil. In November, the Obama administration announced it would delay consideration of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline to explore a new route and conduct a new environmental review. After congressional Republicans tried to force the president's hand, President Obama rejected the pipeline outright in January of 2012.

Friends of the Earth played a critical role in the movement building and campaign in opposition to the pipeline that eventually led to the announcement. Our campaign focused on raising the profile of this fight and elevating it to the level of the key environmental test for the Obama administration ahead of the 2012 elections.

Friends of the Earth was instrumental in moving the Keystone XL pipeline to newspaper front pages, putting TransCanada and the State Department on the defensive and shifting the politics of debate. The media and public scrutiny generated by our Freedom of Informa-

tion Act request and conflict of interest investigative work put the administration and TransCanada in the hot seat, forcing the decision into President Obama's hands and thwarting a likely bureaucratic rubber-stamping by the State Department.

We also acted as a leader in the Keystone XL coalition by helping to broaden the scope of the coalition, particularly to elevate the perspectives of frontline communities and non-traditional allies, such as indigenous communities, labor unions, conservative Nebraskan ranchers, youth climate activists, interfaith leaders and Texas landowners like David Daniel.

The Keystone XL's route would have threatened David's land and surrounding communities in Winsboro, situated in East Texas. David's rectangular tract of 20 acres with spring-fed creeks, century-old hardwoods and more — the land on which he got married and built his own house — is facing the specter of gushing tar sands oil. We stood in solidarity with David in 2011 as he formed the grassroots citizens' group Stop Tarsands Oil Pipelines (http://stoptarsands.org/). Now that the Keystone XL has been rejected, TransCanada may attempt to modify its proposal and build a different tar sands pipeline that threatens David's land. We will continue to stand with him and all of the other people threatened by tar sands oil in 2012. Photos from top: David Daniel and his family; our graphic illustrating the web of corruption around KXL.



### economics for the earth

We work to transform financial and economic systems to make polluters pay for the costs of their pollution, minimize environmental and social destruction and fund a cleaner, brighter future. We advocate for regulations to encourage sustainability in financial markets and fight trade policies that allow companies to trample the environment and human rights. We collaborate with global allies to reform financial institutions that fund polluting activities and harm communities in developing countries.

#### Stand with communities in El Salvador

We stood with communities in El Salvador who, in the face of murder and intimidation, are fighting to enforce a ban on environmentally destructive mining projects. We briefed members of Congress and organized protests against Canadian mining company Pacific Rim. PacRim is using an international trade court to sue the government of El Salvador over its refusal to grant a permit for a proposed gold mine.

#### Spur more clean energy investment

The fruits of our seven-year climate lawsuit against the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, a government agency that funds investment projects abroad, are paying dividends. In 2008, when our lawsuit was settled, OPIC only financed \$10 million in renewable energy deals, but by 2011 it had approved \$1 billion in renewable energy projects — a 100-fold increase. As a result of the carbon cap we were able to negotiate, the agency also has declined to finance any coal projects since the lawsuit, a big win for the climate and a model for other government agencies.



### Call attention to the harm caused by fossil fuel subsidies

We made progress in our efforts to cut fossil fuel subsidies and other taxpayer handouts to environmentally harmful activities. We teamed up with The Story of Broke to help educate the public about fossil fuel subsidies, we briefed Congress on the issue, and we released our annual Green Scissors report with a left-right coalition that supports an end to wasteful polluter subsidies. Together these efforts generated substantial media coverage of the damage to the environment and our economy that polluter subsidies cause.

Image: A still from The Story of Broke.

### Safeguard fair climate funding for developing nations

We continued our fight for funding to help the world's poor and vulnerable countries adapt to the impacts of climate change and transition to clean energy economies. We attended UN negotiations where the UN Green Climate Fund was designed, coordinated civil society activities and met with government representatives from around the globe. We worked to ensure that money from the fund finances activities to save the planet and protect the poor in developing countries rather than ending up in the hands of Wall Street and multinational corporations. In addition, we helped introduce a bill in Congress to tax Wall Street currency trades in order to fund climate finance. Photo: Members of civil society at the UN climate talks called on negotiators to agree to a strong and fair agreement.

## food and technology

We fight for regulations and testing to protect human health and the environment from dangerous emerging technologies and harmful chemicals in foods, consumer products and in research and development of new technologies. Our work focuses on gene patenting, genetic engineering, synthetic biology and nanotechnology.

### Keep genetically engineered fish off of grocery store shelves

We successfully stalled the Food and Drug Administration's approval of genetically engineered salmon for human consumption and fought for a more thorough review. This fish would be the first genetically engineered animal to enter the U.S. food supply and poses a variety of environmental, human health and ethical concerns. We are partnering with members of Congress on laws to prevent the spread of genetically engineered foods and to require that any genetically modified foods be labeled as such. *Photo: Genetically engineered salmon could out-compete wild salmon and threaten species, like the Alaskan brown bear, that rely on them.* 



### Re-introduce a law regulating toxic cosmetics

We helped draft and re-introduce the Safe Cosmetics Act in Congress. This bill lays out federal policy for safe cosmetics, including a provision that requires labeling of manufactured nanomaterials in cosmetics, so that consumers can make informed decisions about the products they use.

### Hold the FDA accountable to its responsibility to regulate nanomaterials in sunscreens

We joined with the International Center for Technology Assessment and our coalition of nonprofit consumer safety and environmental groups to sue the FDA for failure to respond to a six-year-old petition requesting the agency acknowledge the risks of nanotechnology in sunscreens.



### Expose the health risks of nano-silver

We released a report highlighting the perspectives of notable scientists and other experts who make the case that two of the greatest health problems of our time — antibiotic resistance and the allergy epidemic — share a very important link: our war on bacteria. We learned from experts that the increasing use of nanosilver as an antimicrobial agent in many consumer products could breed bacterial resistance, ruining its effectiveness in hospitals — where it is needed most — and hastening the development of super bugs. Photo: The use of nano-silver in conusmer products could breed bacterial resistance and lessen its effectiveness in hospitals.

## oceans and forests

We work to stop harmful air and water pollution from ocean-going vessels, cruise ships and oil platforms in order to protect human health and the marine environment. In addition, we promote the protection of forests and the people who live in them by addressing the underlying drivers of deforestation.

### Ban wastewater dumping in a Pacific marine sanctuary

After several years of advocacy, we achieved a ban on cruise ships dumping sewage, graywater, oily bilge and other harmful wastewater in Washington State's Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, a move that will safeguard more than 2,700 square miles of extraordinary marine life, from orcas to eelgrass. This victory builds on our successful efforts in California, and now all five National Marine Sanctuaries on the U.S. west coast are protected from harmful wastewater from cruise ships.

### Support communities trying to protect our global forests

Working alongside allies from around the globe, we are ensuring that international efforts to combat climate change by protecting forests respect the rights of forest dependent communities and indigenous peoples. As a result of our advocacy, institutions that fund these forest protection efforts will adhere to important environmental and human rights safeguards and be held accountable to local communities.



# Influence the international organization developing rules for shipping in the Arctic

We persuaded the U.S. government delegation to the International Maritime Organization to call for voyage management planning in the polar regions in order to protect whales from ship strikes. Our policy analysis and research laid the groundwork for the delegation's decision.

### Pass a California oil spill prevention bill

In the wake of a 2009 bunker oil spill in San Francisco Bay, we sent letters, met with legislators and oil spill agency staff and testified at hearings. This year we secured passage of legislation to reduce oil spills from vessels in state waters.

### Fight for stronger cruise ship rules in Alaska

Since we successfully sued Alaska's Department of Environmental Conservation in 2010 for failing to adequately protect Alaska's sensitive marine environment from cruise ship dumping, we, along with Earth Island Institute's Campaign to Safeguard America's Waters and represented by Earthjustice, pushed ADEC to follow the court's 2011 ruling requiring it to update its cruise ship permit.

# financial report

For the 2011 fiscal year ending June 30, 2011

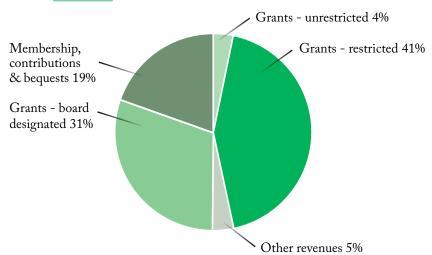
### Statement of activities

Revenues	Unrestricted		Temporarily restricted		Total
Grants Member contributions Other income Net assets released from	\$	1,917,417 1,056,704 285,689	\$	2,254,284	\$ 4,171,701 1,056,704 285,689
restriction		2,709,253		(2,709,253)	-
Total revenue & support	\$	5,969,063	\$	(454,969)	\$ 5,514,094
Expenses					
Program expenses Supporting expenses	\$	3,646,615	\$	-	\$ 3,646,615
Management & general	\$	596,280	\$	-	\$ 596,280
Fundraising		251,836		-	251,836
Total supporting expenses	\$	848,116	\$	-	\$ 848,116
Total expenses	\$	4,494,731	\$	-	\$ 4,494,731
Net assets					
Change in net assets	\$	1,474,332	\$	(454,969)	\$ 1,019,363
Net assets - beginning		267,344		2,121,278	2,388,622
Net assets - end of year	\$	1,741,676	\$	1,666,309	\$ 3,407,985

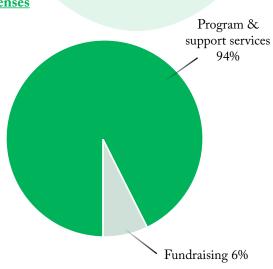
### Statement of financial position

Assets	
Cash & cash equivalents Accounts receivable	\$ 3,835,773 699,439
Prepaid expenses & other assets	89,832
Investments at market value	57,023
Fixed assets, net of depreciation	559,462
Total assets	\$ 5,241,530
Liabilities	
Accounts payable	\$ 266,044
Lease-related liabilities	730,312
Charitable gift annuities	35,293
Total liabilities	\$ 1,031,648
Net assets	
Restricted	\$ 2,475,584
Reserve & endowment fund	240,227
Unrestricted	1,494,071
Total net assets	\$ 4,209,882
Total liabilities & net assets	\$ 5,241,530

#### Revenues



### **Expenses**



### member profile

Joseph Bower

**Joseph Bower has always** had an affinity for the wilderness. As a young man he enjoyed outings with the Sierra Club and reading John Muir and David Brower. But it is his passion to protect the environment that led him to be a staunch supporter of Friends of the Earth. "Friends of the Earth is so effective in addressing a wide range of environmental issues and has an international presence."

Living in the coastal mountains of California for nearly four decades, Bower and his wife, Susan, are surrounded by acres of national forest. They enjoy living close to the land, and growing much of their own food and medicines. "My interest in forests is why I live where I do. Forests and oceans are the lungs of the planet. If we destroy them, we probably can't live here anymore," said Bower. His passion and activism come from a desire to protect his own backyard.



"Back in the 70s, national forests and private timber companies were converting these forests into tree farms. They were clear cutting the trees and then spraying them with dangerous chemicals like Agent Orange! With our steep terrain, creeks are a primary source of drinking water. Everything and everyone was affected — people, wildlife, fish. After a decade of fighting, we were successful in getting ordinances passed to restrict this practice."

This battle made Bower a lifelong environmental activist. He was soon appointed to a committee to determine the best use for acres of roadless areas in his county. The committee's recommendations became part of the California

I like knowing that Friends of the Earth is a champion to better the Earth.

Wilderness Bill of 1984. "As we learn about the importance of forest ecology, this is the type of area we want to protect. It is an old growth habitat which is fast disappearing elsewhere," said Bower.

Bower's other endeavors include fishery restoration and serving as a county planning commissioner. Along with other concerned citizens, he continues to work with the National Forest Service to determine the best ways to manage the land. "Dealing with a federal bureaucracy has been a big learning process—trying to get them to accept new ideas that are not their own. Even though the Forest Service must apply a certain amount of science to their management, they do their best to dodge that."

Bower continues to join collaborative groups and battle for agreement on better ways to manage these lands. Another way he has an impact is through his yearly contributions to Friends of the Earth. "I want to support Friends of the Earth's work and see them grow larger and stronger."

He has made plans to include Friends of the Earth in his will to continue this support in the future. "I like knowing that Friends of the Earth is a champion to better the Earth."



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