



# Groundswell News

Newspaper of The Go-Back Club, a Simple-Living/Action Brigade

*These are OUR stories: [www.gobackclub.org](http://www.gobackclub.org)*

Our Motto: Use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without.

Issue No. 42: October 2018

## Iona's Column: TEAM 54 Project



Dear Reader,  
I'm totally enthralled with the new people I'm networking with, primarily in Africa, and I want to share them with you. It's called TEAM

54 Project. Their founder, Gbujie Daniel Chidubem, sent his organization an email telling his colleagues about *Groundswell News* and I've been networking with wonderful people doing wonderful work, often with very restrictive conditions, all over the world.

They are responding with more enthusiasm than anyone else ever has. That has given me more hope than I was actually feeling lately. Many of them are young but not all. I'm smiling as I type this just thinking about them spreading all over the planet.

Here's a message I received on September 7<sup>th</sup> as I was Facebooking with my new friends. This came from Mayaya Mack in Tanzania: "You're warmly welcome to Green Green Family of like-minded sisters and brothers in Nature."

And this came from Samwel Orendi in Kenya: "I have farming project and greening Kenya project, I do farming to help the elderly widows and the people in our community. Greening Kenya is to plant trees in schools, dispensaries, communities. You are highly welcome to see copies of my project pictures on my Facebook wall."

I'm including only some of the new material but there is more to come. I've been trying to find original work and now I have plenty! Thank you, Universe!!! Thank you, TEAM 54!!!

For the Earth,

*Iona*



Photo Courtesy Amazon Frontlines

*Community of Sinangoe gathered in front of a courtroom in Lumbaqui (Succumbios) on July 27. The Cofán are among the oldest surviving indigenous cultures in the Ecuadorian Amazon. They have lived for centuries in the forests where the Amazon Basin stretches toward the sky on the slopes of the Andes and its volcanoes. Cofán lands are home to primary forest, wild and pristine rivers, forbidding swamplands, and several thousand species of plants and animals, some found only here. Over one million acres (about the size of the U.S. State of Delaware) of Cofán territory directly provide environmental, social and economic services for the Cofán, and also directly provide environmental services to everyone on the planet!*

## Historic Indigenous Victory Against Amazon Gold Mining

By Nicolas Mainville, *excerpt*  
Amazon Frontlines: August 13, 2018

Submitted by Allen Hengst  
Washington, DC

In a lawsuit that will inspire and galvanize many other indigenous communities across the Amazon for years to come, the Cofan of Sinangoe have won a trial against four Ecuadorian ministries and agencies for having granted, or attempted to grant, more than 30,000 hectares [74,000 acres] of mining concessions in pristine Amazonian rainforest on the border of their ancestral land without their free, prior and informed consent. The destructive mining operations that were taking place within these concessions threatened not only the Cofans' lives, culture and health, but also those of the countless communities

located downriver.

In a historic decision on July 27<sup>th</sup>, a regional judge accepted the evidence provided by the community, charged the government with not having consulted the Cofan, and suspended all mining activity in more than 52 concessions in the headwaters of the Aguarico River. The decision was immediately appealed by all the authorities involved, and then by Sinangoe and their ally in the Defensoria del Pueblo, who seek an even tougher verdict recognizing that rights to health, water and a clean environment had also been violated ...

Like in many places around the world, the Ecuadorian government has a mining claim system built to facilitate any interested party in purchasing cheap concessions — maximizing foreign interests and accelerating the

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# What on Earth is The Go-Back Club?

## A Simple-Living/Action Brigade

**Our Motto:** *Use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without.*

**Founder/Editor:** Iona Conner

**Wire Editor:** Allen Hengst

**Established:** September 2013

**Web site:** [www.gobackclub.org](http://www.gobackclub.org)

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**Contributors:** Mbaarak Abdalla, Sharon Malhotra, Nkwain Adeline Yafi

### What is The Go-Back Club all about?

We want to change people's hearts. Our members live simply (or try to) so that our collective carbon footprint grows smaller and smaller every day. We are working toward a common goal of reducing our individual impacts on climate change to protect future generations and all life.

### Who are we trying to attract?

We hope to reach people who are concerned about global warming and realize that they are

part of the problem but don't know what to do. We invite them to join our Club. Please tell your family and friends about us. They can go to [www.gobackclub.org](http://www.gobackclub.org) to learn more.

### What are we trying to achieve?

Our members are part of the global movement of people who know that global warming is an immediate threat and who want to prevent further harm and even reverse the situation.

### We look to others for inspiration.

People are "like a blind man walking randomly toward a cliff. The only thing that will save him is to go backwards." Michael Mann (GBC board member, climate scientist, member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), told us a couple of years ago referring to tipping points on a visit to Penn State, where Mann is director of the Earth Systems Science Center

"Our life is frittered away by detail. Simplify, simplify, simplify! Simplicity of life and elevation of purpose." Henry David Thoreau

*Please send me your stories and photos. I rely on our members' contributions.*

*I'm not looking for ugly.*

*I'm not looking for dark.*

*I'm not looking for hatred.*

*I'm looking for the opposites*

*to help raise our readers'*

*spirits. There is enough ugly*

*and dark and hateful in*

*the world. This newspaper*

*provides an antidote—*

*BEAUTY, LIGHT, LOVE.*

*Thank you for sending*

*me your material for*

*consideration.*

## Fair Use Law: <http://copyright.gov/fair-use/more-info.html>

Fair use is a legal doctrine that promotes freedom of expression by permitting the unlicensed use of copyright-protected works in certain circumstances. Section 107 of the Copyright Act provides the statutory framework for determining whether something is a fair use and identifies certain types of uses—such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, and research—as examples of activities that may qualify as fair use. Section 107 calls for consideration of the following four factors in evaluating a question of fair use:

**(1) Purpose and character of the use, including whether the use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes:** Courts look at how the party claiming fair use is using the copyrighted work and are more likely to find that nonprofit educational and noncommercial uses are fair. This does not mean, however, that all nonprofit educational and noncommercial uses are fair and all

commercial uses are not fair; instead, courts will balance the purpose and character of the use against the other factors below. Additionally, "transformative" uses are more likely to be considered fair. Transformative uses are those that add something new, with a further purpose or different character, and do not substitute for the original use of the work.

**(2) Nature of the copyrighted work:** This factor analyzes the degree to which the work that was used relates to copyright's purpose of encouraging creative expression. . . .

**(3) Amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole:** Under this factor, courts look at both the quantity and quality of the copyrighted material that was used. If the use includes a large portion of the copyrighted work, fair use is less likely to be found; if the use employs only a small amount of copyrighted material, fair use is more likely. . . .

**(4) Effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work:** Here, courts review whether, and to what extent, the unlicensed use harms the existing or future market for the copyright owner's original work. In assessing this factor, courts consider whether the use is hurting the current market for the original work (for example, by displacing sales of the original) and/or whether the use could cause substantial harm if it were to become widespread. . . .

Please note that the Copyright Office is unable to provide specific legal advice to individual members of the public about questions of fair use. See 37 C.F.R. 201.2(a)(3). For further information, see <https://www.copyright.gov/fair-use/more-info.html>.



Fair Use Logo

# Josh Fox and THE TRUTH HAS CHANGED

Email from Josh Fox, August 23, 2018

Dear friends,

Truth is truth. Love is love. And liars are liars.

Rudy Giuliani and Donald Trump and company are still in power.

They are destroying our democracy.

What can we do to fight back? We can invest in the truth. We can take back the truth. We can become students of truth. We can honor truth. That's what my new documentary is all about.

## THE TRUTH HAS CHANGED

It is not a FILM, it is a documentary that I SPEAK to you, LIVE ONSTAGE.

In a theatre.

I am touring all across the USA and opening officially at THE TOWN HALL in NYC on an important day for truth – September, 11<sup>th</sup>. [www.TheTruthHasChangedTour.com](http://www.TheTruthHasChangedTour.com)

We have been getting amazing standing ovations all across the country.

Come be with us and celebrate truth.

TRUTH IS ORGANIZING.

Let's organize and take back our power.

See you there!

LOVE AND REVOLUTION,

Josh

## THE TRUTH HAS CHANGED

Written and performed by Josh Fox

Directed by Josh Fox and Ron Russell

Featuring Music by Alex Ebert (a.k.a. Edward Sharpe)

*The Truth Has Changed* is a solo monologue that traces the arc of American political life from 9/11 to Trump from a front-line perspective. From his experience as a first responder during 9/11, to his groundbreaking reporting on fracking, to his eye-opening eco-flights over the Gulf of Mexico dur-

ing the BP oil spill, to Hurricane Sandy, to the massive rallies for Bernie Sanders during

the 2016 election and the Democratic Convention to Standing Rock and beyond, Josh Fox has been an active eyewitness to history. In *The Truth Has Changed*, Fox tells the story of this terrifying progression of American history from a front row seat.

The water has changed. The climate has changed. The rules have changed. There's toxic data everywhere. How do we know what's true?

The Oscar nominated and Emmy Winning filmmaker behind *Gasland*, the film that started the anti-fracking movement worldwide, Josh Fox was the subject of a 100-million dollar smear campaign from the oil and gas industry. But what is even more compelling is that this campaign of misinformation and slander was run by people we have heard quite a bit about in recent times: Steve Bannon, Andrew Breitbart, James O'Keefe and others. And what Steve Bannon did to Josh from 2010-2015, he did to the whole American electorate in 2016. Josh Fox was the beta test for the types of propaganda and smear that gang that created Cambridge Analytica is now known for worldwide.

And Fox tells his story in an uncompromising way like never before.

The project was commissioned by legendary documentary producer Sheila Nevins for HBO as a solo performance to inspire



action on climate change, fracking and democracy. And in the face of the advance of fracking and fracked gas power plants across the USA, the work has become more relevant day by day.

*The Truth Has Changed* offers both a warning and a way forward for our besieged democracy. Golden Globe winner Alex Ebert of *Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeroes* has penned the score for this performance, adding an immediate emotional musical impact to the work.

Josh's first book, also called *The Truth Has Changed* and featuring a new introduction by Bill McKibben, will be published by Seven Stories Press on September 11, 2018. For further information, please visit [sevenstories.com](http://sevenstories.com).

## Amazon continued from page 1

approval process. Although both Ecuador's Mining Act and the Constitution recognize the need for "free, prior and informed consent" from stakeholder communities for mining operations, it is still mostly a theoretical concept ignored by Ecuadorian agencies ...

According to experts heard over the course of the legal process, the Mining ministry leaves the "consultation" to the mining company or the concession owners themselves, which in turn have no legal obligation to consult with local people, and often will perform their "consultation" through a phone call or by handing out a simple information pamphlet. In the case of Sinangoe, it was when machines started tearing up the riverbed of the Aguarico looking for gold

that the community learned about the new concessions ...

Interestingly, according to the Mining Act, the Environment Ministry needs to grant environmental licenses before operations can begin, unless the granting process takes more than six months, in which case — as unbelievable as this is — the permits are automatically granted to the operators.

So basically, via a very simple bureaucratic process involving nothing more than paperwork, a mining operator can very quickly obtain 20- to 25-year land claims within six months, while the impacted communities living downstream haven't even heard about the concessions. This is a loophole the judge described as a violation of the right to free, prior and informed consent, a verdict

that will help many other communities facing the same threats in a country where gold mining is booming ...

Sinangoe had accrued such a massive body of evidence of environmental damage and inaction on the part of the government that the judge requested a field inspection, a key event that helped him understand the scale of the damage already done, showed the deep connection the Cofan have with the area transformed into mining concessions, discredited the ministries' arguments, and also allowed him to witness the sheer beauty of the area at risk.

Source: <https://www.amazonfrontlines.org/chronicles/historic-legal-victory/>




Photo: Nick Cobbing/Greenpeace

*Scientists say thinning of the sea ice has reached even the coldest parts of the Arctic.*

## Arctic's Strongest Sea Ice Breaks Up for First Time on Record

Submitted by Allen Hengst  
Washington, DC

Usually frozen waters open up twice this year in phenomenon scientists described as scary.

By Jonathan Watts, *excerpt*   
Microsoft News: August 21, 2018

The oldest and thickest sea ice in the Arctic has started to break up, opening waters north of Greenland that are normally frozen, even in summer. This phenomenon — which has never been recorded before — has occurred twice this year due to warm winds and a climate-change-driven heatwave in the northern hemisphere.

One meteorologist described the loss of ice as “scary.” Others said it could force scientists to revise their theories about which part of the Arctic will withstand warming

the longest. The sea off the north coast of Greenland is normally so frozen that it was referred to, until recently, as “the last ice area” because it was assumed that this would be the final northern holdout against the melting effects of a hotter planet. But abnormal temperature spikes in February and earlier this month have left it vulnerable to winds, which have pushed the ice further away from the coast than at any time since satellite records began in the 1970s. “Almost all of the ice to the north of Greenland is quite shattered and broken up and therefore more mobile,” said Ruth Mottram of the Danish Meteorological Institute. “Open water off the north coast of Greenland is unusual” ...

Ice to the north of Greenland is usually particularly compacted due to the Transpolar Drift Stream, one of two major weather patterns that push ice from Siberia across the Arctic to the coastline, where it packs. Walt Meier, a senior research scientist at the U.S. National Snow and Ice Data Center, said, “The ice there has nowhere else to go

so it piles up. On average, it's over four meters thick (about 13 feet) and can be piled up into ridges 20 meters thick (nearly 66 feet) or more. This thick, compacted ice is generally not easily moved around. However, that was not the case this past winter (in February and March) and now. The ice is being pushed away from the coast by the winds.”

The world may have warmed by around 1C (1.8F) over the past century but the Arctic far outstrips this global average and is warming at around twice the rate of the rest of the world. In places, the rate of warming has been astonishing. Novembers in the Alaskan town of Utqiagvik, formerly Barrow, are now 5.5C (9.9F) warmer than they were in 1979. This past winter, the warmest on record in the Arctic, saw some locations exceed 20C (36F) hotter than normal.

The Arctic is dominated by sea ice, unlike the Antarctic which is essentially a huge land-based ice sheet. As the ocean and atmosphere warm, sea ice is shrinking in extent, at around 13% a decade since 1979, ac-

**Arctic** continued on next page

Arctic continued from previous page

According to NASA. The bright white surface of ice, known as albedo, is giving way to the dark ocean, meaning that sunlight is being absorbed rather than reflected, amplifying the warming effect ...

This is all providing a major challenge to communities in the Arctic, but a boon to the shipping industry, which can navigate the area more easily. This task will get even simpler once the Arctic is ice free in summertimes, forecast as soon as the 2040s.

Ice is easier to blow around as a result of a warming trend, which has accelerated over the past 15 years. "The thinning is reaching even the coldest part of the Arctic with the thickest ice," [says Meir.] "So it's a pretty dramatic indication of the transformation of the Arctic sea ice and Arctic climate."

"Scary," wrote Thomas Lavergne, a scientist at the Norwegian Meteorological Institute, in a retweet of a satellite-gif of the blue water penetrating white ice and exposing hundreds of miles of the Greenland coastline. He said this would flush chunks of thicker ice out through the Fram or Nares Straits into warmer southern waters. "I cannot tell how long this open water patch will remain open, but even if it closes in few days from now, the harm will be done: the thick old sea ice will have been pushed away from the coast, to an area where it will melt more easily," he added.

This year's openings are driven more by wind than melting but they have occurred during two temperature spikes. In February, the Kap Morris Jesup weather station in the region is usually below -20C (-4F) but earlier this year there were 10 days above freezing and warm winds, which unlocked the ice from the coast. Last week, the crack opened again after Kap Morris Jesup briefly registered a record high of 17C (62.6F) and strong southerly winds picked up to 11 knots. Experts predict that coastal seas will freeze again but probably later than normal

...

The latest readings by the Norwegian Ice Service show that Arctic ice cover in the Svalbard area this week is 40% below the average for this time of year since 1981. In the past month, at least 14 days in the past month have hit record lows in this region. Although thinner ice elsewhere in the Arctic means this is unlikely to be a record low year overall, they are in line with predictions that there will be no summer ice in the Arctic Ocean at some point between 2030 and 2050 ...

As well as reducing ice cover, the ocean intrusion raises concerns of feedbacks, which could tip the Earth towards a hot-house state. Freakish Arctic temperatures have alarmed climate scientists since the

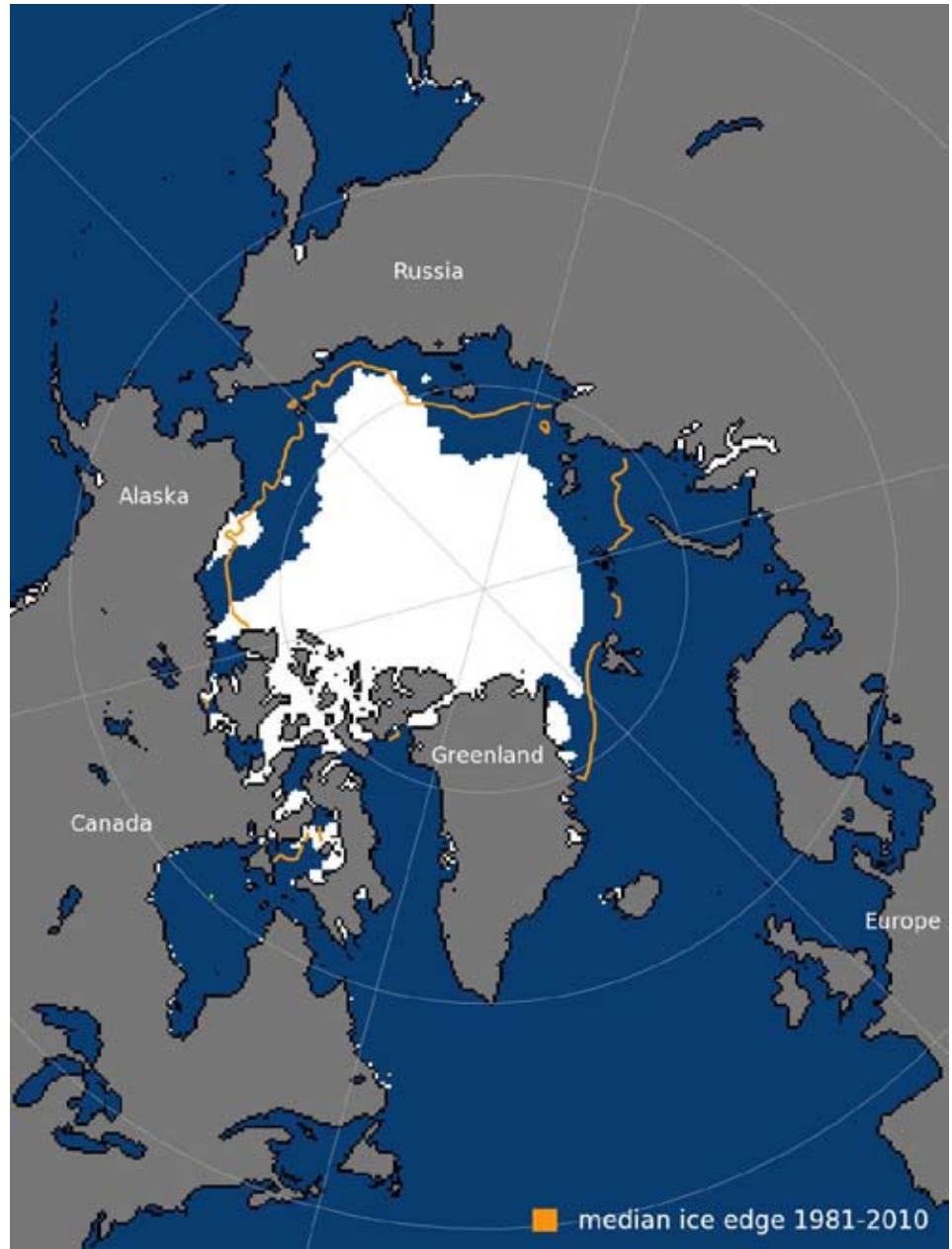


Photo: National Snow & Ice Data Center

Arctic sea ice extent for August 15 was 2.2 million square miles; orange line shows 1981 to 2010 average extent for that day.

beginning of the year. During the sunless winter, a heatwave raised concerns that the polar vortex may be eroding. This includes the Gulf Stream, which is at its weakest level in 1,600 years due to melting Greenland ice and ocean warming. With lower circulation of water and air, weather systems tend to linger longer. A dormant hot front has been blamed for record temperatures in Lapland and forest fires in Siberia, much of Scandinavia and elsewhere in the Arctic circle.

Source: <https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/weather/arctic%E2%80%99s-strongest-sea-ice-breaks-up-for-first-time-on->

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# An Outstanding Eco-Based Group and the Human Force Behind its Global Impact

By Mardy Kurt-Murie and Nonso Ikechi

Given the current concentrations and ongoing emissions of greenhouse gases, it is likely that by the end of this century, the increase in global temperature will exceed 1.5°C compared to 1850 to 1900, if nothing is done. The world's oceans will warm and ice melt will continue, sea levels will rise and severe drought will be a common feature. This horrifying scenario can be too much to handle for mortals.

However a global organization "TEAM 54 PROJECT" is rekindling hope with the support of members from across the various continents.

The group is committed to taking climate actions which in turn support the vision of the 2015 Paris Agreement, in which 175 nations agreed to the capping of temperatures below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) before the year 2100.

According to the United Nations, Executive Secretary of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Ms. Patricia Espinosa said, "Climate change currently affects every nation. It is disrupting the socio-economic system and by extension lives and communities are negatively affected".

Consequently, the story of any great movement often begins or starts with an ordinary human being deciding that, it's time to make an extraordinary impact.

Fortunately, I met that kind of person recently while in Los Angeles. He happens to be the arrowhead and one of the human forces behind the "Team 54 Project" vision. He is Gbujie Daniel Chidubem, a man in his early 30s. I heard him speak and was immediately convinced that I need to act to save the environment.

Hence my decision to co-write this article with a wonderful journalist Ikechi whom I met at Eco-Gala Night Event last week (August 27, 2018). He has covered Gbujie's activities for over a year now.

Gbujie bagged the two Eco-Awards that night – one for his organization in the category tagged "Outstanding Environmental Global Impact Award" and one individual one, the "Environmental Exemplary Leadership Award for 2018", from a diaspora-based Climate Advocacy group, in the USA.

Gbujie Daniel Chidubem is an unconventional Earth warrior and a global hero, with deep ties to his African roots as heritage. He stands out in every gathering either through his words/deeds plus the sheer presence he commands as the only man in a room with



**Gbujie's Facebook photo**

*Gbujie Daniel Chidubem, CEO of TEAM 54, with his family. See <https://gbujie2dan.wixsite.com/team54project-org>.*

the red cap and African wrist accessories called "beads" – but don't be fooled. He is endowed with an uncommon knowledge about the environment, a persuasive mindset backed up with intellectual Climate Change understanding and creative solutions.

"I actually never doubted the powerful impact that committed and thoughtful people can make, I was just shocked that the impact was soon felt, plus we now have inspired tens of thousands of individuals and it's estimated that we possibly have a quarter of a million people as members" Gbujie said.

Gbujie was invited to speak at the close of the plenary session at the UN Headquarters on May 30, 2018. He was among over 90 selected young global achievers recognized for their global impact in addressing the sustainable development goals.

"Our little gradual victories are not only a cause for jubilation, but they are indeed a testament to what is achievable if you work

hard to create ideas, and having a great team also serve as teaching moments for the younger generation. In going forward, it's important for Team 54 Project to reflect on the mechanics of each of our collective successes to help us examine what more can be done in the future to improve more on our climate campaign actions," Gbujie said.

Further, research reveals that his organization has a strong network of country coordinators and contact persons. They are ordinary citizens from 170 Nations inspired by this great man to make their respective nations green again.

"By building a network of partners, volunteers, and reaching out to similar NGOs that share similar values, Team 54 Project has been able to tell the climate change story in such a way that people are motivated to take climate actions like planting over tens of thousands of trees across the world and about a million by ending of the year,

**TEAM 54** continued on next page

Team 54 continued from previous page

school-based awareness campaigns mainly in Africa, facilitate training of our coordinators with the support of our partners, plastic eradication campaigns, and have groomed and encouraged the use of passion, talent and skills to find solutions on Climate Change.”

Gbuje surely has powerful self-will to have come this far, and a lot of people are inspired because he is making people realize that they can also do more in the world to change their current predicament, if they work together in unity.

Notable international organizations across the world are collaborating with him and the organization e.g World Health Innovation Summit Africa-Green (WHISAfricaGreen) made him one of the 12 Global ambassadors a few months ago. Other organizations in collaboration with him include Parvati.org based in Canada, Let's Do It World based in Estonia, Umuntu Ltd. based in Switzerland, Farm to Flame Energy based in the USA, Climate Reality Project based in USA/Africa, Nadam Foundation based in India and the City Government of Monrovia in Liberia.

“At some point in this vision, I met a great friend, Matthew Bonnstetter, and together we started to restructure the organization, so that we can fulfill our promises to our growing members. It is often rewarding to be able to make this level of impact and then stop to reappraise your actions, this approach indeed gave me the window seat to the future,” Gbuje said.

Gbuje was a guest speakers at the 5th World Climate Change and Global Warming Conference which was held on May 24 to 25, 2018, in New York. He presented a paper titled “IS CLIMATE CHANGE THE ARMAGEDDON THAT WAS FORETOLD? THE REVIEW,” his presentation was said to be one of the best presentations and he was later Awarded a Certificate of Achievement by the organizer. In attendance at the Award Ceremony was renowned scientist of note, Professor Don Easterbrook of Western Washington University, a former U.S. representative to the UN International Geological Correlation Program and a man mentioned by the American Men of Science as one of “The Most Influential Scientists in the whole of North America. Climate Change is a challenge that no one country or organization can solve by themselves, therefore we must collaborate and harness the talents and skills from every citizen in order to tackle this existential threat,” Gbuje said.

The sky's indeed is the limit for Dr. Gbuje, a Nigerian from a minority tribe in the southeastern part of the nation, who is on a mission to change the world and make a

difference.

He has been invited by the President of the General Assembly, His Excellency Miroslav Lajcak, to be part of United Nations General Assembly, he will be part of the high-level plenary meeting on global peace and nuclear weapons elimination starting from September 18 to October 5, 2018 at UN headquarters in New York.

Among his many achievements is a nomination as one of the Top 30 startup CEOs of a Not-for-Profit organization of African descent and is also named the RoleModel/Environmental Hero for 2018 by a publishing house “Conservative Mom” based in Florida, USA.

His efforts and work on sustainable development goals especially SDG 13 (Sustainable Development Goals) has appeared at the COP 22 and UNESCO bioethics Committee among many other international events.



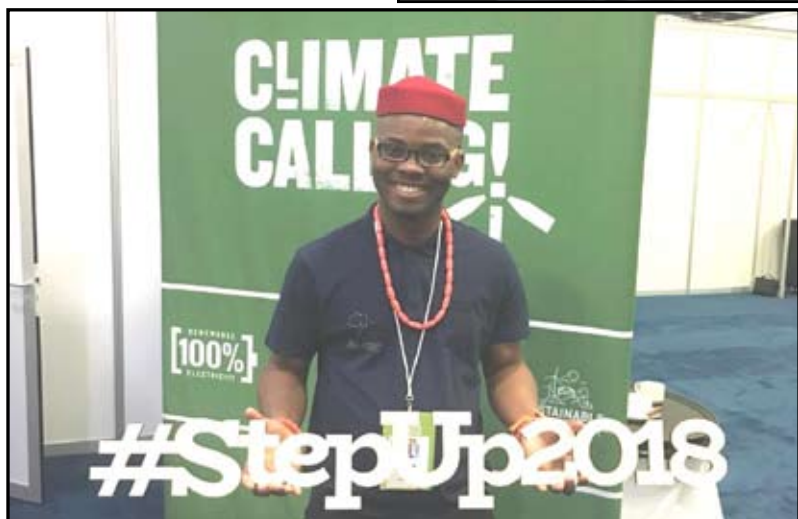
**The authors are based in San Francisco and South Africa respectively. They freelance both Eco-journalism and conservationist and have traveled across the globe reporting about environmental disruptions and individuals changing the world by handling environmental challenges.**

**Photos**

**Top:** Dr. Gbuje addressing the United Nations. (Photo by Gbuje)

**Middle:** Gbuje Daniel Chidubem during his photo shoot at the United Nations Youth Assembly Conference last Year. (Photo credit Dear World). He used removable markers, not tattoos, to show how passionate he was then, enough to paint.

**Bottom:** Gbuje at the recent Climate Summit in California. Photo Courtesy TEAM 54.



# Mangrove Restoration in Kenya Helps Youth, Economy, Too

By Mbaarak Abdalla, Founder and Coordinator of the Brain Youth Group and Forest Restoration Agency, Kenya, TEAM 54 Project

Dear Go-Back Club,

We are a community-based organization (CBO) called Brain Youth Group formed in 2011 whose membership includes youth between 18 and 35 years. The members of the CBO are drawn from Junda sub-location, Kisauni constituency in Mombasa County, Kenya.

Am doing mangrove restoration along Tudor Creek in Mombasa County, Kenya. The Creek is highly degraded from 1,641ha (4,055 acres) to 215ha (531 acres) due to human activities and natural disasters. So we have to restore 1,426ha (3,524 acres) of degraded mangroves.

I am also doing mari-culture/shrimps and milk fish farming and Apiculture (a bee keeping project).

The group is an environmental conservation, education and awareness group that seek to tap into the creativity, energy and initiative of the youth to provide for positive interventions in the management of the environment, educate and create awareness among the youth on HIV/aids and sanitation, develop alternatives to provide youth with employment, and income and poverty alleviation.

**Our current projects are:**

- (1) Mangrove rehabilitation
- (2) Marine farming (Mari-culture development)
- (3) Bee keeping (Apiculture)

**OUR MISSION:** Work for sustainable development of Mombasa County by providing alternative sources of income while preserving the environment.

**OUR VISION:** Totally restore the mangrove at Tudor Creek and reduce poverty, unemployment and malnutrition in Mombasa County.

**OUR OBJECTIVES:**

- Plant mangroves at Tudor creek and reverse current mangrove deforestation.
- Educate local villagers on the important role that mangroves play in the ecosystem.
- Educate local villagers on other relevant topics such as HIV, drug abuse and nutrition.

-Create fish ponds and bee hives as a source of revenue and employment for the local community, honey and fresh fish.

We're currently looking for experts/scientists/researchers, volunteers for proposal writers, website designers, marketers, new marine fish ponds construction, bee keeping project help and fundraisers on mangroves restoration along the creek.

We are looking forward to hearing from



you soon.  
Kind regards,  
Mbaarak Abdalla  
Email mubarak-brain@gmail.com  
Cell phone +254707910222

**Photos this page:** (top) Top mangroves at Tudor Creek (middle) Mbaarak at the Project site, (bottom) Fishing in restored mangrove



**Photos next page:** (bottom left) Fresh fish. (top left) Members of Brain Youth Group, (top right) Oscar the Bee-keeper, (bottom right) Mbaarak, Abd and Charles at the beekeeping site





Mangroves *continued from previous page*

From Brain Youth Group Power Point

PROBLEMS

**Malnutrition:** No access to fish  
**Unemployment:** up to 70% for young people; both of these issues make villagers exploit natural resources, causing:  
**Degradation of land** because of sand harvesting activities  
**Degradation of mangroves** because they are cut down for wood, causing: deforestation, soil erosion, fish disappearance, reduction against tsunami protection, negative visual impact

SOLUTIONS

- Construction of **10 fish ponds** Alternative source of income for villagers, source of affordable fish
- Replantating **50,000 mangroves** per year
- The creation of a mangrove nursery will help this objective
- Creation of regular **educational campaigns**
  1. Teach about the importance of the forest
  2. Teach about other relevant topics such as nutrition or HIV



# Climate Change and Meat Consumption in Cameroon

Nkwain Adeline Yafi, Assistant Coordinator  
Team S4 Project on Climate Change, Cameroon

## Introduction

Who could ever imagine this link between climate change and meat consumption? Climate change is one of the greatest security issues faced by common man in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is a transnational threat whose effects respects no boundaries or territorial sovereignty. It manifests in the form of shifting weather patterns that threaten food production, rising sea levels that causes floods, droughts, mudslides and hurricanes.

Despite the devastating effects of climate change, the issue was received warmly by states as it was not fully recognized as a fundamental security threat, but over the years, it has become a major discourse at the international, regional and national levels. New debates have been generated on this issue, it has led to the adoption of key instruments like the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1992, as a first step in addressing climate change. It has also inspired major declarations. The High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherino emphasized at the event "Climate, Peace and Security: The Time for Action" that, "...sustainable peace needs climate Action... So let's keep this in mind: When we invest in the fight against climate change, we invest in our own security."

NASA defines climate change as "a broad range of global phenomenon created predominantly by burning fossil fuels, which add heat-trapping gases to the Earth's Atmosphere." Among several factors associated with climate change, is meat consumption. This includes meat in all forms, eggs and other dairy products.

## The Link Between Climate Change and Meat Production/ Consumption

It has an indirect effect on climate change in the sense that, an increase in the demand and consumption of meat and dairy products has led to an increase in the production of meat and dairy products, which has serious effects on climate change.

Meat production comes through organic farming which is a system of farming that relies on fertilizers of organic origin. Meat is also produced through free-range farming which is a method of animal husbandry where animals can roam freely outdoors, hunting and fishing.

Meat consumption has led to an increase in meat production, which causes pollution



Nkwain Adeline Yafi

through the burning of fossil fuels, that are formed by natural processes like the decomposition of dead organisms. These fossil fuels contain elevated levels of carbon dioxide and petroleum. Shindell Drew in 2013, held that the burning of fossil fuels produces around 21.3 billion (gigatons) of carbon dioxides per year. This is a greenhouse gas that increases radiative forcing and contributes to global warming. Meat production also leads to the production of animal methane, effluent waste, water and land consumption.

Bryan Walsh indicated in 2013 that, livestock production has a bigger impact on the planet than anything else. This is because about 30% of the world's surface is used not to cultivate grains, fruits and vegetables for human consumption, but to support chicken, pigs, cattle and all that we eat. He further explains that the production of livestock also uses one-third of the world's fresh water. Statistics from the International Research Institute in Kenya, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization in Australia and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Austria reveal that livestock in Africa is mostly grazed on grasslands, whereby about 50 million tons of grain are eaten a year. This is also substituted by grass and crop residue.

Walsh also holds that the highest total livestock-related greenhouse emissions come from developing countries which account for 75% of global emissions from cattle and 56% of global emissions from poultry. This is a similar case in all developing countries, including Cameroon. Scientists from the University of Oviedo averred that egg production has serious impacts like ozone depletion (mostly from the transpor-

tation of eggs), terrestrial acidification, human toxicity and land occupation.

In Cameroon, like any other African Country, the consumption of meat and dairy products is very high, yet the quality of feed used in feeding animals is very poor. Here, animals eat 10 times more feed just to produce a kilogram of protein. Each kilogram of protein produced by these animals contains 1,000 kilograms of carbon in the form of methane from manure. Animal production in Cameroon has also influenced deforestation to create pasture land.

## Statistics on the production and consumption of meat and dairy products in Cameroon (1967 to 2016) and Climate Change Nexus

The production of poultry meat has increased from 6,576 tons in 1967 to 81,680 tons in 2016. Therefore, an average annual rate of 6.06%. Besides, the production of beef and buffalo meat has increased from 25,760 tons to 84,703 tons, giving an average annual rate of 2.81%. In addition, the production of pork has increased from 3,000 tons to 31,961 tons. Therefore, an average annual rate of 6.32%. Furthermore, the production of eggs increased from 5,600 tons to 18,878 tons giving an average annual rate of 2.67%. Lastly, the production of dairy products has increased from 39,200 tons to 243,751 tons, giving an average annual rate of 4.08%.

The high level of meat production and consumption in Cameroon has also heightened climate change. This increase also indicates the significant increase in the tons of carbon dioxide produced from fossil fuels. Large scale meat production in Cameroon is also accompanied by the overuse of antibiotics which poses a serious threat to the health of Cameroonians. In addition, farmers practice free-range farming where animals are allowed to roam freely. As a result, so many crops and plants are destroyed, which could even absorb the tons of carbon dioxide released in the atmosphere. Most nomadic societies in Cameroon especially the northern regions of the country as well as other major towns and cities are currently facing water crises. Since 2017, Cameroon has experienced three floods in Bafut (early 2018) Limbe and Douala (August 2018) and two Mudslides in N'dian Division (2017) and Limbe (August 24, 2018).

## A Way Forward

Reducing the consumption of meat and dairy products in Cameroon can also lead to a fall in their level of their production,  
**Meat** continued on next page

## Cows' Self-Liberation From Autumn 2017 to Spring 2018

By Dan Fischer (nc) dfischer@riseup.net  
*Earth First! Journal*, Summer 2018

Sometimes cows refuse to be turned into mere commodities. They run, they fight back, and they even learn how to be wild. Around the world, cows have been resisting captivity and slaughter.

We've been taught that cows are mere objects, and we normally think little of how they are confined, branded, tortured, castrated, dehorned, forcibly impregnated and slaughtered so that companies can sell their milk, meat and skin for profit. The truth is that cows are sentient, intelligent, social, playful, resourceful and sometimes indignant.

Last Fall, a cow in Poland fled the farm that enslaved her and ran into the primeval Bialowieza Forest. This is a dangerous forest for a domesticated animal, since hungry wolves wander through it and foliage gets scarce in the winter. Luckily, the cow found a group of 50 wild bison who accepted her into their herd. She was spotted with the bison once in November and again in January. The bison seem to have protected her from predators and taught her how to survive in the woods.

In September, it was reported that an English bull had been running free for three months, "causing chaos and dodging police."

In October, a cow in the state of Georgia grew tired of being pushed around, and she refused to budge when a farmer tried to move her. Instead, she rammed him against a fence over and over. The farmer was declared dead when he was brought to the emergency room. In New York, an escaped bull roamed Prospect Park before being sent to an animal sanctuary in New Jersey. In England's Greater Manchester, 50 cows escaped and were reported to have "run riot" in the suburbs before being captured.

In December, a cow in Germany escaped



Photo: <http://www.veganpeace.com>

from a slaughterhouse. Preferring to die free rather than on an assembly line, she walked onto the train tracks in Buehl and stayed there for over an hour. She refused to move, causing an express train to come to a halt. A hunter eventually came and killed the animal. Newspapers called the cow's escape attempt "futile," but at least she did not die without putting up a fight.

That same month, Hermien the cow was being loaded onto a slaughterhouse-bound truck in the Netherlands. Evading her captors, she bolted into the woods, where she hid for over a month. She only came out at night. Hermien's supporters raised enough money to buy her from the farm, and upon her capture in February she was brought to a sanctuary where she will live out her days in peace.

In January, a cow in Poland who was being loaded onto a vehicle headed toward a slaughterhouse rammed through a metal fence and ran toward a lake. When a farmer pursued her, she resisted, breaking his arm. She then entered the lake and swam to an island. When firefighters tried to retrieve her, she escaped to a nearby peninsula. She was captured almost a month after her escape and died while being transported.

In February, a herd of about 70 cows escaped onto a major English road, causing

heavy traffic. Another herd of escaped cows reportedly caused mayhem in Ireland's town of Bailieborough.

In March, a cow in Scotland was about to be taken for slaughter when she jumped over a five-foot gate to escape. She knocked the farmer to the ground and ran into the farmyard. Seven other cows followed, trampling over the farmer's head. He died. Later that month, about 12 English cows escaped a field after heavy flooding.

In April, about a dozen cows escaped from an overturned truck in Oklahoma. A herd of cows briefly escaped in England's County Durham, but the farmer quickly rounded them up. In Texas, a cow escaped a farm with her calf, crossing a pond to arrive at an animal sanctuary. "She swam across a pond with her baby, ran through a forest for hours, until she ended up jumping our very high fence and getting into our pasture," said a cofounder of the sanctuary. Enough money was raised to purchase the cow, so she and her child will live out their lives in safety.

These are only some of the most recent stories, and there are many more if one looks back before the Fall of 2017.

In 2010, for example, police in a northwestern Italian village tried to round up grazing cattle and send them to a slaughterhouse. Some of the cows evaded capture and have been living as a rebel herd ever since. They have adapted to the wild, learning to be agile like deer. When they eat, one cow stands guard so she can warn the rest if she sees a predator. In June 2017, there were at least six cows, possibly more, left in the herd.

Many know that industrial animal agriculture devastates human health, labor conditions and the Earth. Fewer know that the animals themselves frequently fight back. What might happen if cows' resistance and resilience became common knowledge?

### Meat *continued from previous page*

and therefore, a positive future for climate change. This can be done by sensitizing citizens on substitutes of proteins like mushrooms and soya beans milk, with almost the same nutritive value. Another way forward is to advocate for the improvement of animal diets in Cameroon, by farmers. Besides, they can also be trained on the easiest and cheapest ways of improving animal diets. Finally, the planting of trees should be encouraged especially in nomadic societies and coastal cities in Cameroon, in a bit to reduce the high levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

### Conclusion

From the statistics on meat and dairy production and consumption in Camer-

oon, and the average annual increase rate, one can imagine the tons of carbon dioxide produced in the Country every year and its short- and long-term effects on climate change.

This is a fundamental issue that needs urgent attention. I hereby urge the Government of Cameroon, national, regional and international organizations and agencies, to take immediate action. This is in a bit to reduce the cost of tackling this problem and also to reduce the threat levels that can be generated in the country in some years to come.

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# Canadian Court Halts Expansion of Trans Mountain Pipeline

Submitted by Allen Hengst  
Washington, DC, and  
Fran Staret, Philadelphia, PA

By Vanessa Romo, *excerpt*   
NPR: August 30, 2018

A Canadian court sided unanimously with environmentalist and indigenous groups on Thursday, August 30 in a decision that indefinitely halts the construction of the controversial Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion project. The ruling by the Federal Court of Appeal reverses the Canadian government's approval of the troubled multi-billion dollar project. The court said the government failed to "fulfill the duty to consult owed to Indigenous people." It also concluded that the National Energy Board – the country's energy regulator – unjustifiably excluded "marine shipping from the scope of the Project."

As a result, the true environmental effects of the project could not be assessed. In order for infrastructure company Kinder Morgan to resume construction, the court said the energy regulator and the government must comply with its orders, which could take years. Thursday's decision came as a long-awaited victory for First Nations groups, dozens of environmentalist organizations and the city of Vancouver, which filed the legal challenge together ...

"Until now our rights and our water have been disregarded by Kinder Morgan and the Government of Canada," Coldwater Indian Band Chief Lee Spahan said in a statement.

Opposition groups argue the risks of oil spills in the Salish Sea – home to already-endangered killer whales – and the potential hazards of increased petroleum tanker traffic are too high a price to pay for an economic boom.

Kelly Martin, campaign director of the Sierra Club's Beyond Dirty Fuels team, called it "a testament to the growing power of the movement to fight back against dirty, dangerous tar sands pipelines. Communities across North America will not back down until Trans Mountain – as well as Keystone XL and Enbridge's Line 3 – are canceled once and for all."

The Trans Mountain pipeline connects oil sands facilities from land-locked Edmonton, Alberta, to tank terminals in Burnaby, British Columbia, on Canada's west coast. The expansion project was supposed to extend the 715-mile pipeline and nearly triple the flow of tar oil and other petroleum products to 890,000 barrels a day. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has hailed the expansion as



a key to reducing Canada's reliance on U.S. oil and boosting exports to Asia, and said it would create up to 15,000 jobs.

Shortly after the loss in court, Canada got one step closer to purchasing the existing pipeline and expansion project, from Texas-based Kinder Morgan. The company's shareholders voted on Thursday morning to approve the \$3.5 billion (\$4.5 billion in Canadian currency) sale to the Canadian government in the Spring. Trudeau has faced mounting criticism for forging ahead with the purchase in order to guarantee the pipeline's completion. He responded to Thursday's court decision by reiterating his intention to proceed with the project ...

Canada's finance minister, Bill Morneau, echoed Trudeau's sentiments...but adding that the government had yet to decide whether it would appeal.

**Source:** <https://www.npr.org/2018/08/30/643514631/canadian-court-puts-a-stop-to-expansion-of-major-oil-pipeline-for-now>



**Photo: Bloomberg/Getty**  
*Oil tanks stand near Trans Mountain pipeline expansion site in Burnaby, British Columbia, in April.*

**Fran Staret sent these YouTube links and Allen Hengst sent the Democracy Now links:**

*Indigenous Activists Win "David vs. Goliath" Victory as Court Rejects \$4.5B Trans Mountain Pipeline:* <https://youtu.be/8SydPFbUJVo>


*original Democracy Now segment at* [https://www.democracynow.org/2018/9/4/indigenous\\_activists\\_win\\_david\\_v\\_goliath](https://www.democracynow.org/2018/9/4/indigenous_activists_win_david_v_goliath)

*Winona LaDuke & Indigenous Canadian Activist Back Campaign to Stop SLAPP Suits That Silence Protests :*

<https://youtu.be/ajFf9w8bhsE>  
[https://www.democracynow.org/2018/9/4/winona\\_laduke\\_indigenous\\_canadian\\_activist\\_back](https://www.democracynow.org/2018/9/4/winona_laduke_indigenous_canadian_activist_back)

# Judge Orders Review of Keystone XL Pipeline Route

Submitted by Allen Hengst  
Washington, DC

By Nicholas Kusnetz, *excerpt*   
Inside Climate News: August 16, 2018  
Graphic: Nebraska Public Service Commission/Paul Horn

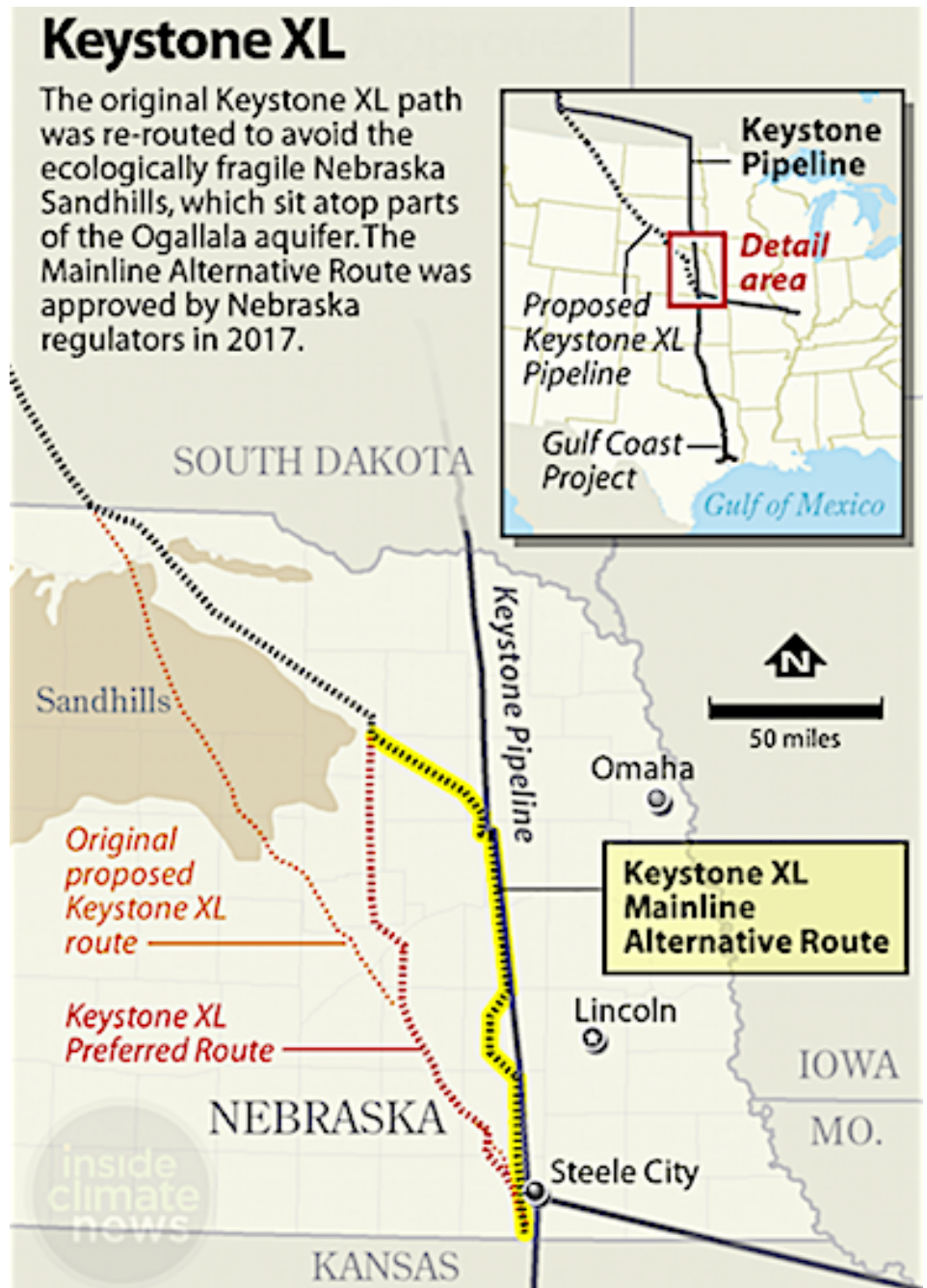
The embattled Keystone XL oil pipeline faces yet another delay after a federal judge ordered the Trump administration to conduct a new environmental review of the project. U.S. District Judge Brian Morris of Montana issued a sharp rebuke to the federal government, which had argued it need not produce an extensive new environmental impact statement for the pipeline after regulators in Nebraska ordered its builder to follow a new route.

In his ruling Wednesday, Morris said the alternative route would cross five different counties and different water bodies, would be longer than the original path and would require an additional pump station with supporting power line infrastructure. As a result, he wrote, federal agencies “cannot escape their responsibility” to evaluate the alternative under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The decision is likely to further delay the project and casts another layer of uncertainty over when, or whether, it will be completed. Unless a new review is completed in less than a year, it would not be possible to start construction in time for the 2019 building season. The pipeline, first proposed by TransCanada Corp. a decade ago, is intended to carry tar sands oil from Alberta toward refineries on the Gulf Coast. Its southern leg has been completed, but its northern section has been stymied by fierce resistance from landowners, Native Americans and environmental groups.

After detailed and hotly-contested environmental impact statements overseen by the State Department, former President Barack Obama decided that it was not in the national interest to issue a permit, a requirement for international pipelines. Interventions since then by Congress and President Donald Trump to approve the permit and fast track the project have not managed to speed it up.

“This is a huge step to once again shut down this zombie pipeline that threatens water, our homelands and our treaty territory,” said Joye Braun, an organizer with the Indigenous Environmental Network, one of the plaintiffs who sought a new environmental impact statement. “No route is acceptable for Keystone XL and I believe a full environmental review of this alternative



route will highlight the extraordinary risks this pipeline poses to us all” ...

Last November, when Nebraska’s Public Service Commission approved the pipeline project, it rejected TransCanada’s preferred route and ordered it to use an alternative route instead. When the federal government declined to launch a new environmental impact statement covering that new route, indigenous groups and landowners sued. The federal government did conduct a less-thorough review known as an envi-

ronmental assessment. In its draft of that assessment, released for public comment in late July, it said the pipeline would have “minor to moderate” effects on water and wildlife.

But in his ruling, Morris said the federal government is obligated under NEPA to produce a full environmental impact statement for the alternative route. The Endangered Species Act also “requires agencies to evaluate which species or critical habitats

**Keystone XL** *continued on next page*




Photo: Steve Liptay/Climate Direct Action

*A new breed of environmental activist is risking jail time to stop an existential threat to us all.*

## Courage & Bolt Cutters: Meet the Next Generation of Climate Activists

Submitted by Allen Hengst  
Washington, DC

By Eric Holthaus, *excerpt*   
Grist: August 22, 2018

My generation, the millennials, will never know a time when climate change wasn't a grave threat. Back in 1988, carbon dioxide in the atmosphere crossed the 350 parts per million level when I was still watching Sesame Street and digging up worms in the backyard. Scientists consider that mark the maximum threshold compatible with a stable climate and suitable for human life on Earth. That same year, NASA researcher James Hansen told the U.S. Senate he was 99 percent confident global warming was already taking place. The public started tak-

ing notice, but little was done to address the accelerating crisis.

Earlier this year, scientists in Hawaii and California confirmed that our planet's level of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> had surpassed 411 ppm. It's at the highest concentration in human history — not just over the past 100 years or so of modern recordkeeping, or since the Industrial Revolution, or since the invention of agriculture around 9000 B.C. There's more of the planet's main greenhouse gas in the atmosphere since before our species evolved from our distant primate cousins millions of years ago ...

For years, environmental activists have told us that we could make progress by tinkering with the status quo, that a big part of halting warming is buying the right car, clothes and moisturizer; avoiding the dirty

products; and reforming the way consumer goods are made. And still, the world's emissions keep climbing ...

A new breed of environmental activist is risking jail time to stop an existential threat to us all. And young people are finding their voices and embracing new versions of old ideas to try to shake the world from its collective stupor. A livable world achieved through incremental changes may have been possible in the 1980s, but it's a fantasy now. Getting people to understand the scope of this staggering problem requires a balancing act. Too much doom, and you promote hopelessness. Too rosy, and you risk glossing over the urgency of the situation.

The best approach elicits not hope but

**New Activists** *continued on next page*

**Keystone XL** *continued from previous page*

are present in the 'action area,' he wrote, "which includes 'all areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the Federal action.'" He wrote that the court would consider the government's obligations under the Endangered Species Act in a future order.

Allies of the fossil fuel industries have long viewed both NEPA and the Endangered Species Act as impediments to energy development, and the Trump administration and Republicans in Congress have be-

gun efforts to overhaul both laws.

Anthony Swift, director of the Canada project at the Natural Resources Defense Council, said the case and the ongoing debate over the pipeline highlight the importance of NEPA. "This is the reason why we have NEPA, which is to ensure that we don't build dangerous projects through resources that we can't afford to have contaminated," he said ... That law requires the government to examine not only direct environmental im-

pact of spills and construction, but also the greenhouse gas implications of the pipeline, which would carry crude oil from Canada's tar sands, the most carbon-intensive source of oil. Canada's development of its tar sands resources has recently been constrained by a lack of pipeline capacity.

**Source:** <https://insideclimatenews.org/news/16082018/keystone-xl-oil-pipeline-map-new-route-environmental-impact-statement-nepa-transcanada-tar-sands>

### New Activists *continued from previous page*

courage, says Kate Marvel, a climate scientist and fellow millennial. “We are inevitably sending our children to live on an unfamiliar planet,” she wrote in a recent essay for the website of the On Being Project. “Courage is the resolve to do well without the assurance of a happy ending.”

In the final days of the 2016 presidential campaign, Emily Johnston traveled from her home in Seattle to northern Minnesota. There, she turned the emergency shut-off valve at the Canadian border on the Enbridge Energy tar-sands oil pipeline, one of North America’s largest. After she was arrested, she presented a novel legal defense: Johnston claimed that her turning the valve was a “necessity” in response to a climate emergency ...

The way she sees it, her actions are like those of citizens who enlist in the military when their country is attacked. She sees it as putting her life on the line for a cause she believes in. Taking direct action like this might appear destructive on the surface. But it’s in the service of preventing a much larger threat ...

That same sense of pent-up urgency, that overwhelming need to act right now, is what led to the birth of modern, radical environmentalism nearly 40 years ago. In 1980, a group of friends at the end of a backpacking trip across the Rockies formed a radical eco-movement known as Earth First! In their first statement of principals, they laid out a straightforward goal: “We do not wish to merely preserve what’s left, we want to re-create wilderness.” The group caught the public’s attention because it wrecked things. Earth First! burned billboards advertising new subdivisions, occupied forests marked for destruction and sabotaged ski lifts in posh mountain towns. Their peer and mentor Edward Abbey, the author and essayist, called these actions “monkeywrenching.” It was all done in the name of restoring nature.

Earth First! began tree sitting to protest the cutting of old-growth forests in the Pa-

cific Northwest. In 1995, members forced the temporary closure of a golf course and ski resort in Colorado. The FBI labeled them terrorists [sic] in 2001 ...

Fed up activists around the world have continued the legacy of direct action, with pipeline protests and blockades. Activists in India delayed the clear-cutting of several forests that were to be turned into housing developments. And America’s tree-sitting movement lives on. But there’s a budding realization that even these bold protests aren’t nearly up to the task. In the nine years that activists have spent opposing the Keystone XL pipeline, for instance, the oil industry invented an entirely new oil-by-rail transport industry.

Meanwhile, the mainstream environmental movement continues to focus on “green” consumerism and incremental change. Got an SUV? Trade it in for an electric car. Don’t use that plastic straw, use this compostable one instead. At best, those actions delay the widespread transformation we need by lulling us into a false sense of security ... Incremental change is not going to help on a planet that’s accelerating toward a carbon-fueled nightmare within our lifetimes.

It’s not about “saving the planet,” as it was in the days of Earth First! It’s about saving all of us. In recent years, young people have realized that it’s their future — and that of the generations after them — at stake. And they’ve adopted the climate cause increasingly audacious ways, from suing the federal government to planning mass nationwide rallies. Observers are anticipating shifts in public opinion to translate into escalating action as millennials and the oldest members of Generation Z begin to exercise their growing power ...

Some are pushing for a new political movement that prioritizes collective action. For Sydney Ghazarian, a millennial activist in Los Angeles, that means socialism. Ghazarian is a founding member of the Democratic Socialists of America’s Climate & Environmental Justice Working Group,

with dozens of local branches around the country. She considers climate change to be part of a web of problems. “It’s not just that the oceans are acidifying,” she explains. “It’s also a crisis of racism. It’s a crisis of labor.” To her, all these result from a free market system that’s operating with few political constraints ...

Democratic socialists like Ghazarian believe that there’s a natural connection between distributed energy generation from wind and solar power and decentralized political power. She envisions a future of community-owned electrical generation, more walkable neighborhoods and governments that prioritize public health. Ghazarian applauds efforts to block pipelines and tree-sitting protests but thinks there are simply too many pipelines to fight and too many forests to protect. Her focus is on rallying people to start building a better world so that there will no longer be a need for so many targeted, isolated protests ... She says: “Pipeline resistance holds space for our future, a future for energy democracy, public banks, localized agriculture, public and democratic ownership of water and resources, and whatever else is part of our cooperative reimagining of society” ...

The science on climate change is brutal and unforgiving. Returning the Earth’s atmosphere to 350 ppm of carbon dioxide, perhaps feasible with current technology, isn’t the right goal. The aim of climate activism isn’t to erase the sins of the previous generations; it’s to ensure that future generations are handed a world that isn’t at the threshold of going to hell.

That won’t happen in my lifetime without a truly radical remaking of the global economy. And if it doesn’t happen in my lifetime, then it’s very likely future generations won’t get another chance.

**Source:** <https://grist.org/article/courage-and-bolt-cutters-meet-the-next-generation-of-climate-activists/>

**“You develop an instant global consciousness, a people orientation, an intense dissatisfaction with the state of the world, and a compulsion to do something about it. From out there on the moon, international politics look so petty. You want to grab a politician by the scruff of the neck and drag him a quarter of a million miles out and say, ‘Look at that, you son of a bitch.’”**

**- Edgar Mitchell, United States Astronaut -**

## Nancy Drew-Type Sleuth Tracks Residual Waste Brine Trucks Through Her Community

By Sharon Malhotra, Monroeville, PA

**Note from the Editor:** *I was amazed when I saw this and wanted to share it with everyone to show you an example of a citizen in action. It's unedited so you can see the flow of this on-site investigation as it appeared on Facebook August 17, 2018.*

Very interesting day driving yesterday. Started out with an attempted visit to my mom's home in West Deer, but when I approached Millerstown Road from Bull Creek Road, two large "Residual Waste brine" trucks were traveling the road, and I was directly behind them. I thought they were coming from the Bello well pad at 7209 State Route 908 and wondered where they were traveling to while heading into West Deer, since the Rt. 28 was in the opposite direction. Both trucks, numbered 12 and 14 from RES Water, 119 Old19, Mt. Pleasant PA 15666, continued on to Little Deer Creek Road, bearing right and across the old bridge over and into Culmerville where both made a left onto Saxonburg Boulevard and continued through the extremely winding road through Curtisville where houses and small businesses are packed quite tightly very near the road. These trucks continued past Curtisville Primary Center School on Saxonburg Boulevard until both made a left onto East Union Road passing Deer Lakes Middle School, East Union Intermediate Center School, passing the West Deer Police Department and Municipal Building. They then negotiated the extremely dangerous curve (those of us from the area are quite familiar with) and passed yet another school, Deer Lakes Senior High School. Both trucks continued and made a left onto Starr Road, down into Russellton, where they both turned left at the bottom of the steep hill, and then made a right onto Creighton Russellton Road, continuing up the hill past Deer Lakes Park, and again negotiating very circuitous and steep territory. Both trucks then made a right turn from Creighton Russellton Road onto again, the very steep Russellton Road passing Rock Airport and continued until the stop sign at the intersection with Crawford Run Road where both trucks turned left onto Crawford Run Road and continued through the dangerous turns and narrow road to the intersection with Freeport Road in Creighton. Both trucks then made a left onto Freeport Road, continued alongside a freight train, passed the PGW (yes, where there is an underground coal fire) on the right in Creighton and traveled directly through the small town of Taren-

tum and up to the traffic signal at Gattos. Both trucks then made the left up the very steep Ross Street and continued onto Bull Creek Road where they finally exited onto Rt. 28 heading North. I wondered why these residual wastewater brine trucks traveled through all of these extremely narrow roads through very small towns with homes aligning the roadways, and past \*four\* schools only to circle back onto Rt. 28 north when all they needed to do to get to that destination was to travel Millerstown Road - Rt. 908 in the opposite direction where they would have easily arrived at the Rt. 28 N on-ramp much more quickly while avoiding the small towns of Culmerville, Curtisville, Russellton, Creighton and Tarentum. I grabbed some pics when I could and set up my camera to mpeg while I drove (will upload the mpegs to a private youtube and some jpegs are below). But I continued on to my mom's house once again, hoping to get the fresh donuts I had to her! Again, I traveled Bull Creek Road to make the left onto Millerstown Road. I was \*stunned\* to witness these very same two trucks yet again traveling Millerstown Road! They were the very same numbers - 12 and 14 - and continued the same route again and had apparently exited Rt. 28 only to continue onto Rt. 908 to Millerstown Road yet again. This time I pulled over and shoved my camera into my dash and the mpegs are shaky, but this made no sense. Why were the two same residual waste brine trucks again driving the same roads so quickly after having taken the Rt 28 N on-ramp? Again, both trucks maneuvered the extreme curves of Saxonburg Boulevard through Curtisville, passing the Curtisville Primary Center School yet again. The trucks continued, this time remaining on Saxonburg Boulevard, passing Deer Lakes Middle School again and continued on Saxonburg Boulevard for miles until the intersection with Route 910 in Dorseyville, where both made a left turn on to Cove Run Road toward Emmerling Park in Indiana Township. A bit beyond Emmerling Park, both trucks finally pulled over on the side of the road where a silver Chevrolet pickup truck marked "RES" was parked. I stopped. All exited their vehicles - three elderly white men, gray hair, beards waved me on. If I were not alone, I would have approached them and asked if they were lost. But clearly, they were on their way to the Miller well pad at 136 Cover Run Road with the address of Cheswick, PA - Indiana Township. So what was the purpose of this "ride around" for probably an hour and a

half, on the back roads and past the schools in Deer Lakes School District, Highlands School District, Fox Chapel School District, as well as Russellton, Culmerville, Curtisville, Creighton, East Deer, Cheswick, Dorseyville, Indiana Township and Tarentum? And that is what I'm planning to learn. Do West Deer, Creighton, East Deer, Cheswick and Tarentum officials know this is occurring? And why the circling around a rather significant distance? Here is a link to the RES Residual website: <http://reswater.com/> where it clearly states the following: "Our Promise is Simple. RES Water has multiple facilities to treat, recycle, and reuse large volumes of waste water (sp) from the oil and gas industry. We do this environmentally friendly - with zero discharge and 100% of treated water returned to the field. Our facilities safely and environmentally provide the overall water demands for hydraulic fracturing, and fulfill client's 24/7 disposal, recycle, and freshwater needs."

If this company is "environmentally friendly," what is the cause of their huge carbon footprint wasting time and endangering these small communities, traveling roads not intended to accommodate large trucks, and taking the "very long way around?" Let's find out. Some jpegs are below. Several mpegs are too large to upload directly and will have to upload to private Youtube. Will post link. Just incredible. Never made it to my mom's. But with these trucks all over the place, it was interesting to see the routes they take and how close they are to someone's bedroom in traveling these roads.

### Conversations followed on Facebook

- What is going on with these two RES RESIDUAL WASTE BRINE TRUCKS traveling through Fawn, West Deer including Culmerville, Curtisville, Cheswick, Russellton, Creighton, East Deer, Tarentum, Dorseyville, and Indiana Township? Why this tremendously circuitous route?
- They weren't spraying the roads with their waste were they? I'm sure you would have mentioned that, but I read about these trucks disposing of their brine water this way especially when the disposal places are overloaded.
- I seen a Ingraffea video where he explained that he followed these trucks heading toward Ohio and they were releasing waste to pay less for disposal. The oily residue was getting on his window on a sunny day which alarmed him.
- With the 3rd wheel down in one picture looking heavy and the next with the 3rd

**Sleuth** continued on next page



Photos by Sharon Malhotra

Go from left to right and top to bottom for the correct sequence of Sharon's investigation. Sorry there wasn't enough room to make these larger but you get the idea.



**Sleuth** continued from previous page

wheel up looking light seems very alarming.

• I know, Shirley. They went right past my aunt and uncle's house, Maria Peiranunzi Norris's house, and Cindy Logsdon's parent's house - not to mention all of our old friend's and classmates homes on Crawford Run Road and in Creighton and along Sax-onburg Boulevard. And all of the creeks, and streams - and it had rained a lot with puddles everywhere.

**Follow-up emails from Sharon**

• We cannot get the media to cover these things. Way back, I was Pesticide Chair of the Pennsylvania Sierra Club and on the local Excom, VP of GROW (now defunct), testified before Congress after the GAO

released a report on lawn chemicals back in 1990, was appointed by the PA Pesticide Advisory Board to a 14 member task force to implement regulations related to mandatory notification of the application of pesticides, and also wrote the first bill introduced in PA to stop the use of toxic pesticides in schools while children were inside. I've been around the enviro world and don't have quite as many qualms as some of the newer people might have. So it is fine to use my information. I just want to get the mpegs out, because they are more telling of this circuitous and "curious" route the trucks took.

• I'm attaching the jpegs but still have many mpegs uploading into private YouTube channel, since they won't upload to Face-

book. Thank you for offering to bring attention to this! My uncle was a supervisor in one of the communities and he and my aunt live alongside one of the roads these trucks traveled. In fact, one of my friends was out getting her mail while they passed (I was wearing dark glasses and she did not recognize my car, but I waved). She was waiting to cross back over to her house, which is very near the road. I know these old roads because I grew up in the area, so I was astounded to see just where these trucks were traveling, knowing firsthand how dangerous some of the roads are, not to mention passing all of the public schools within Deer Lakes School District - where I graduated HS. Just crazy.

## GBC Member Wins Award for Her Book

### *The Green Amendment* Wins GOLD in the 2018 Living Now Awards

Delaware Riverkeeper Press Release  
August 29, 2018

TRAVERSE CITY, Michigan and BRISTOL, Pennsylvania – *The Green Amendment: Securing our Right to a Healthy Environment*, authored by Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network, was selected as the 2018 Living Now Evergreen Awards GOLD Winner in the Nature Conservation category. The Living Now Evergreen Book Medals were founded to “commemorate world-changing books.”

“It is an amazing honor to receive such a prestigious recognition. I wrote *The Green Amendment* in the hopes of inspiring a much needed change in how we recognize and protect environmental rights. I’m so grateful for both this Gold Medal recognition and the opportunity it presents for helping to spread the good word,” said Maya van Rossum, author of the book.

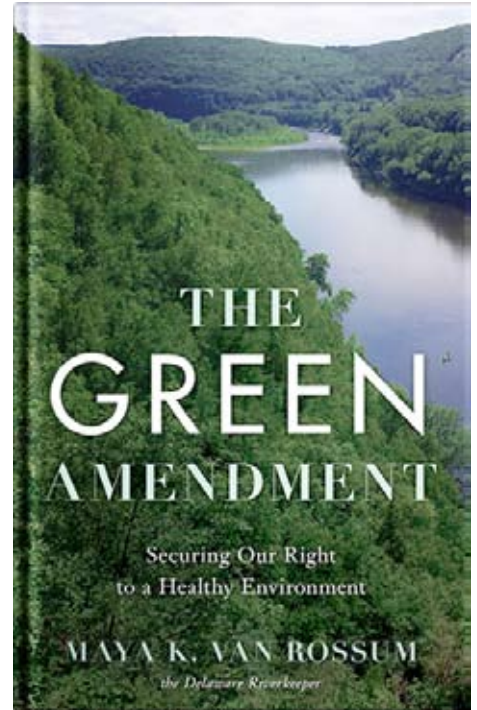
In 2013, van Rossum and her Delaware

Riverkeeper Network team won a watershed legal victory that not only protected Pennsylvania communities from ruthless frackers, but breathed legal life into the constitutional right of people in the state to a clean and healthy environment.

Inspired by this victory, van Rossum inaugurated the Green Amendment movement, dedicated to empowering every American community to mobilize for constitutional change. The Green Amendment movement seeks to secure constitutional provisions in every state, and ultimately at the federal level, to protect environmental rights as inalienable rights with the same level of protection we give other fundamental rights, such as the right to free speech and freedom of religion.

Since launching the For The Generations initiative focused on inspiring and supporting passage of Green Amendments, van Rossum and her team have helped secure proposals advancing in New York, New Jersey and Maryland.

Learn more at <http://forthegenerations.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/PR-Green-Amendment-wins-Living-Now-Book-Award-2018-08-29.pdf>.



Contact Molly Atz, Assistant to the Delaware Riverkeeper, at 215-369-1188 ext. 108. *The Delaware Riverkeeper Network: Because a River can't defend itself.*



**The Earth is a living thing.  
Mountains speak,  
trees sing,  
lakes can think,  
pebbles have a soul,  
rocks have power.**

– Henry Crow Dog –

<https://twitter.com/TheSunMagazine/statuses/986979190087004160>

Submitted by C.B., Blairs Mills, PA

Photo by Fran Staret, Philadelphia, PA



Photos by Nick McGowan-Lowe

*A car passes the small wind turbine at the side of the main road near Dundee, Scotland.*

## Winds of Change: Turbine Turns Traffic Into Energy

By Sarah Kempe  
Shell.com

A young entrepreneur has invented a roadside wind turbine that could help harness energy from traffic.

On the side of a busy main road leading into Dundee, on the east coast of Scotland, a small wind turbine spins in the wind of passing cars and trucks. As it rotates, it charges a battery that is below the ground.

This is the prototype of an invention by Sanwal Muneer, a young entrepreneur from Pakistan, which has received funding from Shell and won an award from the United Nations.

Muneer was inspired to create the turbine as he stood on the side of a Malaysian racetrack four years ago. “At first, the breeze from the cars was just a welcome relief from the humidity,” he says. “Then I started to think about how we could use that energy.”

The turbine stands two-and-a-half meters tall (about eight feet). Made of recyclable carbon fiber, it weighs just nine kilograms (about 20 pounds), making it easy to transport and install. The fully-charged battery can hold a kilowatt of electricity, enough to run two lamps and a fan for around 40 hours. The idea is that this could be a source of electricity for rural communities in developing countries or could power traffic lights or road signs in urban areas.

Dundee City Council is the first local authority to allow Muneer’s company, Capture Mobility, to test the turbine beside its roads. “Reusing our energy is so important,” says Neil Gellatly, head of roads and transportation for Dundee City Council. “We want to help engineers create something inventive which is also beneficial for the city.”

Capture Mobility moved to Scotland from Pakistan in 2015 under the global entrepreneur program of the government body, UK Trade and Investment. The Scottish government is investing in cleaner-energy technologies. Wind is also strong and plentiful all year round. This made it a good location for Muneer’s company.

The Capture Mobility team consists of Asad Liaquat (a friend of Muneer’s since university days in Islamabad, Pakistan, when they were both studying electrical engineering) and Muneer’s sister, Sidra, who has a Masters of Business Administration.

Production costs remain the company’s biggest challenge. The turbines must be affordable in developing countries but achieving this will depend on reaching commercial scale. Capture Mobility is now working with academics from the University of Edinburgh to analyze data from the turbine.

Later this year, the company plans to send the next stage of the design to the manufacturers who built the prototype. “I am pas-



**Sanwal Muneer**

sionate about engineering,” Muneer says. “But engineering is only a success if it improves lives.”

Capture Mobility was a 2015 winner in the Shell LiveWIRE program, which awards start-up grants for innovative ideas for sustainable living.

The company was also named as one of the top 20 global innovative businesses by Falling Walls Foundation in Berlin, which recognizes breakthroughs in science and society. Capture Mobility’s turbine won the UN Clean Energy Award in 2014.

**Source:** <https://www.shell.com/inside-energy/turbine-turns-traffic-into-energy.html>



Photos Eco Wave Power handout

*Eco Wave Power's wave energy technology is shown working (left) as it is attached to a jetty in Gibraltar (right).*

## Harvesting Energy from Waves Has Lagged Behind Solar and Wind - But the Technology is Gaining Ground

By Sophie Hares  
Thomson Reuters Foundation: August 30, 2018

TEPIC, Mexico - Energy from the ocean breakers that pound Mexico's Pacific Coast could soon be turned into electricity as an Israeli joint venture finalizes permits and financing for the country's first wave energy plant.

Wave power development has long lagged behind renewable rivals such as solar, but Eco Wave Power says it could prove an effective way to deliver power to coastal communities in countries such as Ghana or Kenya that have little access to electricity.

"The ocean is the biggest renewable resource that we have and it's completely untapped, and it has to change," said Inna Braverman, co-founder of Tel Aviv-based Eco Wave Power. "At the moment we're a comparable price to solar, but the advantage on top of solar is the availability of the resource... It keeps working 24/7," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

After scanning the coast for optimal wave conditions, the company decided to set up its first Mexican plant near Manzanillo, the country's busiest cargo port some 845 kilometres (525 miles) west of Mexico City.

Situated close to the shore, hundreds of floating buoys connected by arms to a jetty would move with the waves to generate clean electricity at the 4.8-megawatt plant.

The power then would be fed into a substation controlled by the state-owned electricity company, said Ernesto Delarue Rodriguez, chief executive of joint venture partner Eco Wave Power Mexico. The plant would be able to power about 2,000 homes, he said.

In the event of storms, Eco Wave Power's

system could lift its buoys or submerge them until high waves pass, the company said on its website.

### WANTED: KILLER APP

Aside from wave energy, companies around the world are looking to tap the vast potential of the oceans by creating energy from tides, currents and temperature differences - but commercial breakthroughs have so far been limited, experts say.

"Ocean energy has not yet reached the commodity phase of development. If you want solar, go buy some solar panels. If you want wind energy, go buy a wind turbine," said Mark Horenstein, professor of electrical engineering at Boston University. "In the case of ocean energy, no one company or entity has come up with the killer application that's going to be the definitive method for ocean energy." Any ocean technology also has to be able to survive a "100-year storm" - the worst storm expected over a century - and such events could become increasingly more likely with a changing climate, he said.

The patchy history of large-scale wave energy projects has made some investors cautious about sinking their money into ocean projects, said Braverman, whose company is considering a stock-market listing to help raise capital.

The Manzanillo project, which expects to receive final permits in the coming weeks, will cost around \$15 million. A chunk of the financing will come from the Israeli company but much of it will be raised by the Mexican venture partner.

Delarue, who is also working on a wave energy project in the Bahamas, said construction should start this year once financing and per-

mits fall into place, though admitted that, in some cases, "Mexican investors... are not used to investing in start-up projects."

Aside from Mexico, Braverman said her company was waiting to start work on a five-megawatt wave power plant in Gibraltar that could provide 15 percent of the enclave's electricity, and has orders in countries including China and Britain.

Born 200 miles from Chernobyl, just two weeks before the 1986 nuclear power plant disaster, Braverman said her experience of the devastating impact of contamination helped spur her interest in clean power. "There's many people saying yes, we need to fight pollution in the future, yes, we need to recycle, we need to invest more in renewable energy, but they don't actually understand the meaning behind it," she said.

"I experienced first-hand the negative impact of pollution and I got a second chance in life," she said.

(Reporting by Sophie Hares. Editing by Robert Carmichael and Laurie Goering. The Thomson Reuters Foundation, the charitable arm of Thomson Reuters, covers humanitarian news, climate change, resilience, women's rights, trafficking and property rights. Visit <http://news.trust.org/>)

The Thomson Reuters Foundation is reporting on resilience as part of its work on [zilent.org](http://zilent.org), an online platform building a global network of people interested in resilience, in partnership with The Rockefeller Foundation.

Source: <http://news.trust.org/item/20180830104340-2i5hy>

# ‘Guilty on All Counts!’: In Historic Victory, Monsanto Ordered to Pay \$289 Million in Roundup Cancer Lawsuit

Submitted by John Conner, Shade Gap, PA and C.B., Blairs Mills, PA

“This is a company that has always put profits ahead of public safety, and today, Monsanto has finally been held accountable.”

By Common Dreams staff: August 10, 2018

A California jury on Friday found Monsanto liable in a lawsuit filed by a man who alleged the company’s glyphosate-based weed killers, including Roundup, caused him cancer and ordered the company to pay \$289 million in damages.

In an historic victory for those who have long sought to see agrochemical giant Monsanto held to account for the powerful company’s toxic and deadly legacy, a court in California on Friday found the corporation liable for damages suffered by a cancer patient who alleged his sickness was directly caused by exposure to the glyphosate-based herbicides, including the widely used weed killer Roundup.

As Reuters reports: “The case of school groundskeeper Dwayne Johnson was the first lawsuit alleging glyphosate causes cancer to go to trial.”

“Monsanto, a unit of Bayer AG following a \$62.5 billion acquisition by the German conglomerate, faces more than 5,000 similar lawsuits across the United States.

“The jury at San Francisco’s Superior Court of California deliberated for three days before finding that Monsanto had failed to warn Johnson and other consumers of the cancer risks posed by its weed killers. It awarded \$39 million in compensatory and \$250 million in punitive damages.”

As Robert F. Kennedy Jr., a lawyer representing Johnson in the case, declared on Twitter, the court “awarded 200 million in punitive damages against Monsanto for ‘acting with malice and oppression.’”

The Organic Consumers Association (OCA), an advocacy group and longtime critic of Monsanto — which has already vowed to appeal — celebrated the verdict:

“This verdict proves that when ordinary citizens, in this case a jury of 12, hear the facts about Monsanto’s products, and the lengths to which this company has gone to buy off scientists, deceive the public and influence government regulatory agencies, there is no confu-

sion,” said Ronnie Cummins, OCA’s international director. “This is a company that has always put profits ahead of public safety, and today, Monsanto has finally been held accountable,” he added. “We hope that this is just the first of many defeats for Monsanto, and that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will pull this product off the market immediately.”

Carey Gillam, a journalist and public interest researcher for the nonprofit U.S. Right to Know, said in a statement after the ruling that, “Monsanto and its chemical industry allies have spent decades actively working to confuse and deceive consumers, farmers, regulators and lawmakers about the risks associated with glyphosate-based herbicides.”

“The evidence that has come to light from Monsanto’s own internal documents, combined with data and documents from regulatory agencies, could not be more clear: It is time for public officials across the globe to act to protect public health and not corporate profits,” Gillam concluded.

In the meantime, Cummins said his group — which also charges that Monsanto has long misled consumers about the safety of Roundup for humans and pets — looks forward to the next steps in its own lawsuit against the company. “We are grateful to Mr. Johnson,” he said, “for bravely facing down the ‘most evil corporation’ in the world.”

Journalist Tom Philpott put the ruling in context, noting that even while the Trump administration is doing its best to lift restrictions on toxic pesticides and the chemical industry, the courts appear to be coming around to the unique and far-reaching dangers posed by insecticides, herbicides, and other powerful



Top Photo: London Permaculture/cc/flickr)

Bottom Photo: <https://www.organicconsumers.org>

Bottles like these (above) caused cancer like this (below)



compounds:

As Common Dreams reported, “The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit on Thursday ruled the Trump administration illegally blocked a ban on chlorpyrifos — a pesticide linked to brain development delays in children and nervous systems issues for all people and animals exposed to it — and ordered that it be outlawed within 60 days.”

*This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 License.*

Source: <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2018/08/10/guilty-all-counts-historic-victory-monsanto-ordered-pay-289-million-roundup-cancer>

“If you know you’re dying, it gives you that extra push. You can’t just die for nothing.” Those words were spoken by Dwayne “Lee” Johnson in a recent TV interview with CBS News. Johnson was interviewed after a jury in San Francisco found that Monsanto’s Roundup weed-killer caused his cancer.

## Nearly Four Million People, Mostly Women and Girls, Die Every Year from Effects of Dirty Cooking Fuels, WHO Says. New Cleaner Stoves helping.

By Eromo Egbejule

Thomson Reuters Foundation: August 23, 2018

JENGRE, Nigeria – For Rhoda Tanko, preparing dishes of okra or egusi soup in her small shack was a daily ordeal spent battling the dizzying, toxic black fumes spewed out by her charcoal stove.

“Every time I had to cook for my family, I knew I had to deal with smoke that made my head feel heavy and my eyes swim,” Tanko, a 38-year-old mother of four, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in the central Nigerian town of Jengre.

Her home’s energy needs were costly too: oil-rich Nigeria’s unreliable power supply meant she had little choice but to spend a large part of the family’s income on firewood, charcoal and kerosene.

But that changed earlier this year when, with help from her local cooperative, Tanko bought a new, cleaner-burning stove. The stove, which cost 10,500 naira (\$34), was provided by Solar Sister, a non-profit that operates in Nigeria as well as in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

The charity helps women entrepreneurs sell clean-energy consumer products such as solar lamps and a stove that minimizes emissions by trapping most of the smoke fumes within its aluminum combustion chamber.

A more efficient stove means fewer trees are felled for firewood, said Hanatu Onogu, Solar Sister’s business development manager in northern Nigeria. “Because people use less charcoal and firewood for more cooking, it saves resources. In the long run, it reduces the rate of deforestation and conserves energy,” Onogu said.

Over the past two years, about 4,500 of these stoves have been sold in Nigeria alone, according to Solar Sister.

Tanko, who is one of several hundred women in her area testing out the stove, said it had made a big difference. “It cooks food faster and it doesn’t consume much charcoal. Before, a bag of charcoal would not last one month, but now it’s been four months and this bag is not finished yet,” she said, pointing at a half-empty sack.

Worldwide, more than three billion people use traditional, solid fuels like charcoal, firewood and dung to cook, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

And each year nearly four million people,



Photo: Thomson Reuters Foundation/Eromo Egbejule

*Social worker Lydia Suleiman sits beside a clean stove in her home in Jengre, Plateau State, Nigeria on July 18, 2018.*

most of them women and girls, die from the effects of these dirty, climate-changing cooking fuels, the WHO says, in part due to inefficient stoves and poorly-ventilated homes.

A lack of access to cleaner energy supplies is a problem in Nigeria too – despite the fact that the country of 180 million people is Africa’s biggest oil producer.

Fuel shortages are common, with its 445,000-barrel-per-day refining system operating well below capacity due to mismanagement and lack of investment, forcing the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation to import most of its gasoline.

The country has set a target of expanding electricity access to 75 percent of the population by 2020 and 90 percent by 2030.

Meantime, the supply remains unreliable – January saw six power outages in eight days as the national grid repeatedly collapsed, plunging most of the country into darkness.

That burden falls harder on Nigerians in rural areas, where just one in four people are connected to the national grid, according to campaign group Power for All, which promotes decentralized, renewable energy, and which funds Solar Sister.

Moving from fossil fuels to cleaner energy for cooking – and solar energy for lighting – has gained momentum in parts of northern Nigeria through groups like Solar Sister.

The non-profit assists low-income families like Tanko’s to switch by offering the option

to pay in instalments. It also provides customer support and raises awareness about the benefits of clean energy.

### LIGHTS ON

A lack of access to a reliable supply of electricity means many families in Nigeria – and across Africa – use kerosene for lighting, a fuel that experts say is polluting, dirty and bad for human health.

It is also relatively expensive: switching to solar could cut the amount that families in Africa spend on lighting to just 2 percent of their household income – down from 9 percent – according to a 2016 report by the Overseas Development Institute, a think-tank based in the United Kingdom.

Using a solar-powered lamp means 28-year-old Nafisa Abubakar can avoid the dangers of kerosene and the inconvenience of blackouts. Sitting in her small shack, she flicked a switch and a solar lamp lit up her home.

Abubakar could not have done that with confidence six years ago, even though her home was connected to the national utility, known then as NEPA. “Our light was very inconsistent. Sometimes for two months straight the light would not even turn on,” Abubakar said in Hausa via a translator. “We were using NEPA light. Then one day the transformer blew up and it was not repaired until a year later. So we have been using the (Solar Sister) lamp for five years now,” she said.

As day turned to night, Abubakar and her husband watched television while their two sons finished their homework under the radiant light of the solar lamp. “We are happy for this light that we have,” she said.

Solar Sister says nearly 48,000 solar products have been sold in Nigeria since 2015 – be they phone-charging units, household lights or lamps. And for Abubakar, the lamp has become more than a household convenience: these days she sells solar lights for a living.

Power for All, the campaign group, said the products allowed people to live safer, healthier lives and to save money. “We are even happier for the women who use them and have built sustainable micro-enterprises selling them, as it has brightened the chances of ending energy poverty,” said the group’s Nigerian spokesman Mark Amaza.

Source: <https://www.zilient.org/article/fed-dirty-fuels-nigerians-switch-cleaner-alternatives>

# With Sensors and Apps, Young African Coders Compete to Curb Hunger

By Thin Lei Win

Thomson Reuters Foundation: August 21, 2018

KIGALI, Rwanda – From an app to diagnose disease on Zambian farms to Tinder-style matchmaking for Senegalese land owners and young farmers, young coders have been finding solutions to hunger in the first Africa-wide hackathon on the issue.

Eight teams competed in the hackathon, organized by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and a Rwandan trade organization in the country's capital Kigali this week.

Experts say keeping young people in farming is key to alleviating hunger in Africa, which has 65 percent of the world's uncultivated arable land but spends \$35 billion a year on importing food for its growing population.

"In our families, agriculture is no longer a good business. They don't get the return," said Rwandan Ndayisaba Wilson, 24, whose team proposed a \$400 solar-powered device that can optimize water and fertilizer use. "We believe that if the technology is good and farmers can see the benefits, they will adopt it."

Among the proposed solutions were an app that links aspiring farmers with land owners in Senegal and a Nigerian mobile platform that uses blockchain to help farmers demonstrate their creditworthiness to lenders.

The winner was AgriPredict, an app already operating in Zambia that can help farmers identify diseases and pests – including the voracious fall armyworm, which eats crops and has wreaked havoc in much of sub-Saharan Africa.

Farmers can access it directly from their phones or via Facebook. CEO Mwila Kangwa,

31, said the initiative came out of the twin disasters that hit Zambian farmers in 2016 – *tuta absoluta*, a tomato disease, and the fall armyworm. "We noticed there were no tools whatsoever that will help farmers mitigate or prevent or even counter these diseases so we came up with this idea of creating a software to help farmers," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

As winners, the Zambian team will receive coaching from the FAO to refine their product and an opportunity to meet potential funders and partners.

"What they brought was a technically-sound solution ... and the ability to convey the message to young people by using, for example, Facebook," said Henry van Burgsteden, IT officer for digital innovation at the FAO and one of the judges.

The hackathon was held during a conference in Kigali on ways to attract more young people to agriculture through information and communication technology tools.

High unemployment and the challenges of rural life mean many young people des-

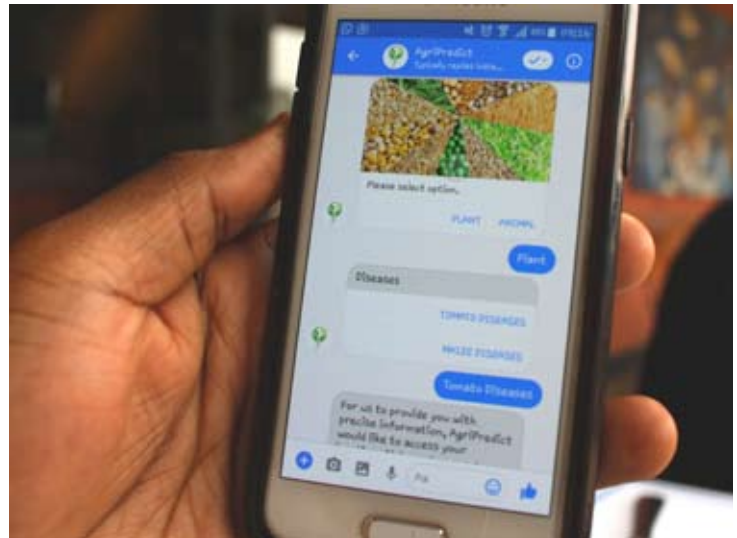


Photo: Thomson Reuters Foundation/Thin Lei Win

*A demonstration of how Zambia-based application AgriPredict can help identify pests and diseases through Facebook, in Kigali on Aug 21, 2018. The app also works with basic phones and won the the first Africa-wide hackathon aimed at curbing hunger levels.*

ert farming for the city, while ageing farmers struggle with climate change, poverty and poor infrastructure.

(Reporting by Thin Lei Win, editing by Claire Cozens. Please credit the Thomson Reuters Foundation, the charitable arm of Thomson Reuters, that covers humanitarian news, women's rights, trafficking, property rights, climate change and resilience. Visit <http://news.trust.org>)

Source: <http://news.trust.org/item/20180821164546-jq8da/>

## New Jersey Makes National Regulatory History

Delaware Riverkeeper Press Release  
September 4, 2018, *excerpt*

### Public Demanded Safe Water, Persevered and Won

As the storm of controversy rages nationally where toxic Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) have been found in drinking water, New Jersey is the first state to address the water crisis by the adoption of regulations that requires drinking water suppliers to remove a PFAS compound. A safe drinking water standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), has been established for one of the most toxic perfluorinated compounds (PFCs): perfluoro-

nonanoic acid (PFNA). Read the NJDEP rule and comment document here: [https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/g\\_reg.html](https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/g_reg.html)

Unregulated at the federal level and found in New Jersey's drinking water at concentrations higher than other states, particularly in the Delaware River Watershed in and around Gloucester County, it became clear that the state had to step out on its own to protect public health and the environment here by establishing a mandatory safe drinking water standard or MCL.

"New Jersey has the responsibility to assure that the water people drink is safe and won't make them or their families sick. Today the state has met the challenge to pro-

tect people from exposure to PFNA, one of the most toxic perfluorinated compounds known. This historic moment has been a long time coming, and at times looked impossible, but communities persevered in their demand for clean water and New Jersey provided the deep scientific research and analysis needed, culminating in this essential rulemaking that mandates a safe drinking water standard, the first in the nation for any PFAS," said Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network....

Source: <https://www.wateronline.com/doc/new-jersey-makes-national-regulatory-history-safe-drinking-water-standard-adopted-for-pfna-0001>

## GBC Member in Action: New Report Spotlights Economic Benefits of Riparian Buffers

Delaware Riverkeeper Press Release  
September 5, 2018

BRISTOL, Pennsylvania – The Delaware Riverkeeper Network (DRN) released a study titled “The Economic Value of Riparian Buffers in the Delaware River Basin” about the benefits riparian buffers provide to communities. The study, prepared by ECONorthwest, highlights the economic value of riparian buffers, which are undeveloped strips of land by rivers, streams, ponds and other bodies of water. Riparian buffers are already known to have significant ecological benefits, from controlling flooding to preventing erosion, to water purification. The new report highlights the monetized value of the many benefits of riparian benefits.

Specifically, the report looks at the value riparian buffers provide in the areas of water quality, carbon storage, air quality, flood prevention, property values, wildlife habitat and outdoor recreation. The report shows the economic value provided by riparian buffers far exceeds the cost of protecting and restoring these buffers. According to the report, “Translated to a single acre, buffers provide over \$10,000 per acre per year in monetized benefits, with additional non-monetized benefits expected to increase this total.”

“Beyond their amazing environmental benefits, this analysis shows that each protected acre of riparian buffer yields more than \$10,000 every year in ecosystem services for our economy. Most reports and discussions regarding buffers preservations focuses on the health, safety and environmental benefits; this report shows the incredible economic value riparian buffers provide as well – both in making money and saving money for communities. Clearly, protecting and restoring these waterway corridors results in huge benefits to society,” said Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper and leader of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network. “Combined with the ecological benefits from protected riparian zones, strengthening buffers is one of the most important efforts we can make in every community and watershed to simultaneously strengthen our economies while protecting and restoring our cherished aquatic ecosystems. This report also solidifies how incredibly foolish efforts to minimize buffers protection at the local and state government level are – we should be increasing protections, not reducing them.”

With 17 million people relying on the Delaware River watershed for drinking water, it is important to protect and implement riparian buffers. The report notes, “Almost half of the

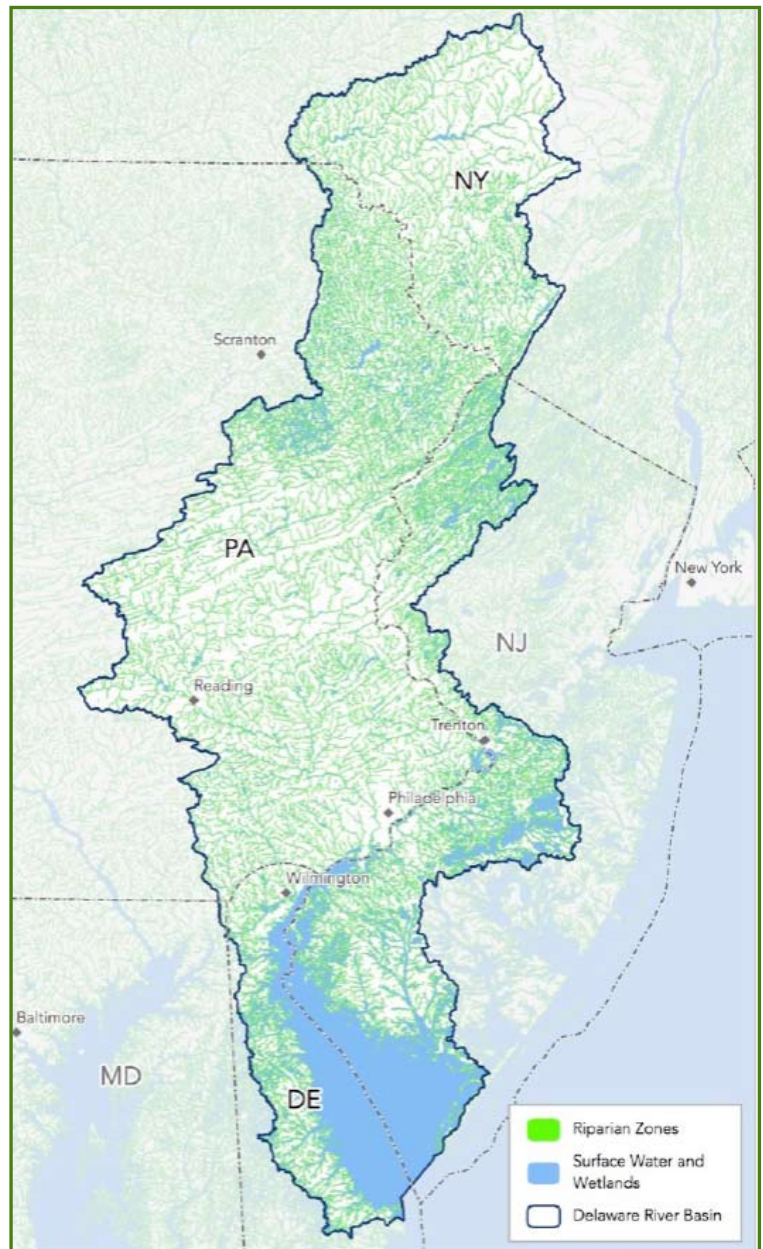
Basin’s historic riparian cover has been lost to agriculture, shopping malls, housing developments and highways.” The report highlights how investing in watershed protections can save money. For example, New York City invests \$1.5 billion into watershed protection, thereby eliminating the costs associated with a water filtration plant, which could cost as much as \$8 billion initially with an additional \$300 million per year to operate.

Protecting buffers benefits both the environment as well as the economy, and failure to do so could result in the loss of millions of dollars. The report states, “Without more effective protection for riparian buffers, we estimate an annualized loss of approximately \$981 thousand to \$2.5 million in the value of monetized ecosystem services.”

Read the full report here: <http://www.delaweriverkeeper.org/sites/default/files/Riparian%20Benefits%20ECONW%200818.pdf>

Contact: Maya van Rossum, the Delaware Riverkeeper, 215-369-1188 x 102

The Delaware Riverkeeper Network is a nonprofit membership organization working throughout the four states of the Delaware River Watershed including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and New



**Photo: Graphic from report, courtesy Delaware Riverkeeper**  
**Figure 4.** 350-foot riparian buffer zones in the Delaware River Basin. Source: ECONorthwest with data from the USEPA’s Watershed Index Online

York. DRN provides effective environmental advocacy, volunteer monitoring programs, stream restoration projects, public education and legal enforcement of environmental protection laws.

**Source:** [https://www.capemaycountyherald.com/news/environment/article\\_6922a50e-b148-11e8-b815-aff-47bee8623.html](https://www.capemaycountyherald.com/news/environment/article_6922a50e-b148-11e8-b815-aff-47bee8623.html)





*Remember your dreams.*

## *Letters and Emails from our Members*



**Dearest Readers,**

I was ecstatic when I received this email letting me know that Gbujie had told his entire TEAM 54 Project about our newspaper! This has been the most exciting two weeks of my life. Now we're connected to a global family and many of my new sisters and

brothers are submitting wonderful stories, which I'll be sharing with you from now on. I'm meeting Gbujie September 20. Can't wait! Please do as he did and share Groundswell News with your friends. Thank you for helping us grow.  
For the Earth Always, *Iona*

### **Team 54 Project**

9:29pm Sep 4

Team 54 Project is pleased to let our members across the world know that they can write their environmental related article and get published.

On Groundswell newspaper based in the US. It's is currently run by one of us, Ms. Iona Conner the publisher.

Their Goal is to provide inspiring, uplifting stories of people working to protect our planet from the destructive forces of corporate and government greed with a primary focus on global warming/climate change backed by current scientific reports. Our CEO will feature shortly on the monthly newspaper.

I have been told to special inform everyone and for us to share the news to our networks. But the following people are to take note. One of the wonderful writers we have among us Ms. Yafi Adeline from Cameroon, Mr. Roberto Santi from Liberia who is an Op-Ed writer himself, and our own national coordinator for Zambia who herself is an outstanding young journalist Ms. Beatrice C Phiri that they are to contact our CEO concerning this post.

Click on the website to find out more:

<http://www.gobackclub.org/>

Iona Conner, Keep up the great work of informing mankind of how to make Earth Green Again.

All members and other nonmembers can be part of this.

Best wishes,  
Tiffany Clumbs  
For CEO

**THE GO-BACK CLUB: A SIMPLE-LIVING/ACTION BRIGADE**