

# Earth News

## December 2011/January 2012

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Photo courtesy UNEP

Delegates share a laugh at the Tunza International Children and Youth Conference on the Environment. UNEP says nearly 40 percent of the world's unemployed – over 80 million people – are between the ages of 15 and 24.

## Young People Declare Green Economy Crucial to Earth's Future

BANDUNG, Indonesia, October 1, 2011 (ENS) — Young people from 100 countries and all regions of the world today declared their commitment to fast-track a future Green Economy to heal and support the planet.

More than 1,200 delegates, ages 10-24, attended the Tunza International Children and Youth Conference on the Environment in Bandung, hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with other UN agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations and private sector partners.

The word Tunza means "to treat with care or affection" in Kiswahili. The Tunza Youth Strategy, adopted in 2003 by UNEP's Governing Council, is a long-term strategy to engage young people in environmental activities and in the work of UNEP.

"As children, we can plant trees, clean rivers and beaches but we cannot stop industries from polluting our rivers, we cannot force them to adopt a

green economy. We want policies and laws that will make industries sustainable," said Indonesian 14-year-old Adeline Tiffanie Suwana.

The event was capped by the Bandung Declaration, a document that finalizes the requests of children and youth to governments attending the Rio+20 conference in Brazil next June.

"The trends and science tell us that we cannot wait another generation (until a Rio+40) before we act ... the Green Economy is our only future," the Bandung Declaration states.

Many of the delegates to the Tunza conference expressed concern about jobs – jobs that are fulfilling, worthwhile, decent and contribute to an acceleration of sustainable development.

UNEP says nearly 40 percent of the world's unemployed – over 80 million people – are between the ages of 15 and 24.

The Bandung Declaration states, "In the next 10 years, as the world's population passes seven billion, we need to provide jobs for more than one billion

young people – employment that will both enable them to live productive and worthwhile lives and to contribute to the transition to a just Green Economy."

Young people call the Green Economy, "The only integrated framework that is truly sustainable ... placing human well-being, social equity and environmental protection on equal footing."

Daniel Isfer Zardo, a 24-year-old from Curitiba, Brazil, said access to green jobs should be at the heart of the sustainability debate.

"We have to look at our communities, our society, our environment, and realize that we cannot reduce poverty or protect the environment without green job opportunities, especially for young people. This is something that policy makers must consider if we want the Green Economy to take off," Zardo said.

UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner, who attended this week's meetings and debates, said, "Throughout the past week,

See **Young People** page 16

## Greenhouse Gases Rise by Record Amount

Climate-changing gases higher than worst-case scenario predicted by world's top scientists.

Submitted by John Conner

Associated Press via guardian.co.uk  
November 3, 2011

The global output of heat-trapping carbon dioxide has jumped by a record amount, according to the U.S. Department of Energy, a sign of how feeble the world's efforts are at slowing man-made global warming.

The figures for 2010 mean that levels of greenhouse gases are higher than the worst-case scenario outlined by climate experts just four years ago.

"The more we talk about the need to control emissions, the more they are growing," said John Reilly, the co-director of MIT's Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change.

The world pumped about 564 million more tons (512 million metric tons) of carbon into the air in 2010 than it did in 2009, an increase of 6%. That amount of extra pollution eclipses the individual emissions of all but three countries – China, the U.S. and India – the world's top producers of greenhouse gases.

It is a "monster" increase that is unheard of, said Gregg Marland, a professor of geology at Appalachian State University, who has helped calculate department of energy figures in the past.

Extra pollution in China and the U.S. account for more than half the increase in emissions last year, Marland said.

"It's a big jump," said Tom Boden, the director of the energy department's Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center at Oak Ridge National Lab. "From an emissions standpoint, the global financial crisis seems to be over."

Boden said that in 2010 people were travelling and manufacturing was back up worldwide, spurring the use of fossil fuels, the chief contributor of man-



Photo John Giles/PA

Emissions from a coal-fired power station. The output of greenhouse gases has jumped by the highest amount on record. This paper's recent focus on Marcellus Shale drilling is spurred on by the knowledge that methane (natural gas) is a potent greenhouse gas.

made climate change.

India and China are huge users of coal. Burning coal is the biggest carbon source worldwide and emissions from that jumped nearly 8% in 2010.

"The good news is that these economies are growing rapidly so everyone ought to be for that, right?" Reilly said. "Broader economic improvements in poor countries has been bringing living improvements to people. Doing it with increasing reliance on coal is imperiling the world."

In 2007, when the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued its last large report on global warming, it used different scenarios for carbon dioxide pollution and said the rate of warming would be based on the rate of pollution. Boden said the latest figures put global emissions higher than the worst-case projections from the climate panel. Those forecast global temperatures rising between four and 11 degrees Fahrenheit by the end of the century with the best estimate at 7.5 degrees.

Even though global warming skeptics have criticized the climate change panel as being too alarmist, scientists have generally found their predictions too conservative, Reilly said. He said his university worked on emissions scenarios, their likelihood and what would happen. The IPCC's worst-case scenario was only about in the middle of what MIT calculated are likely scenarios.

Chris Field of Stanford University, head of one of the IPCC's working groups, said the panel's emissions scenarios are intended to be more accurate in the long term and are less so in earlier years. He said the question now among scientists is whether the future is the panel's worst case scenario "or something more extreme."

"Really dismaying," Granger Morgan, head of the engineering and public policy department at Carnegie Mellon University, said of the new figures. "We are building up a horrible legacy for our children and grandchildren."

But Reilly and University of Victoria climate scientist Andrew Weaver found something good in recent emissions figures. The developed countries that ratified the 1997 Kyoto Protocol greenhouse gas limiting treaty have reduced their emissions overall since then and have achieved their goals of cutting emissions to about 8% below 1990 levels. The U.S. did not ratify the agreement.

In 1990, developed countries produced about 60% of the world's greenhouse gases, now it's probably less than 50%, Reilly said.

"We really need to get the developing world because if we don't, the problem is going to be running away from us," Weaver said. "And the problem is pretty close to running away from us."

## Solar Storage Units Highlight Publisher's Mini-Vacation

Dear Iona,

Thank you for reaching out to us regarding our use of solar here at Secure Self Storage, Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. We are very happy with our array and quite often people stop by to take a look and ask questions about it. We've had our solar array since 2005. I believe we were one of the first companies in Delaware to use solar... and doing so has dramatically cut our energy costs.

We save anywhere from 30 to 50% on an average month's kilowatt usage, depending on the season. We have several climate-controlled storage units, so it's only logical we employ the use of solar to help save money and to help the environment. We also contribute to the greater good by selling what we don't use back to the grid.

The number one complaint I hear from those who are interested in or curious about solar is how expensive it is to install. I'm quick to point out that, like buy-



This sight caught the publisher's eye during the summer but, since she didn't have her camera with her (vacation is vacation after all), she contacted Secure Self Storage and asked for their help with a story.

ing a house, installing a solar array must be considered a long-term investment which will pay for itself over time. If you do the math, it's easy to see that, long-term, the cost benefits far outweigh not using solar.

I also remind people the power of the sun is limitless, at least for the next five million years or so ... so why not make use of something which is free, plentiful and most of all, benefi-

cial to the entire human race? Like catching rain water in a barrel, all one need do is build an array to "catch" and harness the infinite power of the sun.

Also, implementing solar is becoming much less expensive because of the huge technological advances which have been made in the industry in the past few years. The exact same solar array which we have installed here in Rehoboth costs thou-

sands of dollars less than it did just five or six years ago, according to Clean Energy U.S.A. This alone is testament to how much more economically feasible, advanced and compact the components needed for a typical installation have become. If the current trend of making solar less expensive continues and as solar applications are researched, developed, improved and become more economical,

all three sectors – public, private and government – will become more inclined to invest in using it.

There is also great employment potential involved as solar and other energy alternatives continue to become mainstreamed and used on a wider scale. As demand increases, the production of solar components will increase and companies will hire more workers to fill orders.

As an example, solar is really starting to take off in Delaware and on the Eastern Shore of Maryland as we now have three solar companies who store their products with us here at our storage facility in Rehoboth.

**These customers tell me demand for installations are increasing rapidly and it's becoming difficult for them to keep up with demand...so they are expanding their businesses and hiring more employees.** (bold added)

It's nice to know more people are catching on to the notion of

using solar as an alternative to other more traditional energy sources. Secure Self Storage is proud to be involved with an innovative and creative alternative to "old school" energy dependency which pollutes our environment and is limited in supply.

No pun intended, but the future truly looks bright for solar!

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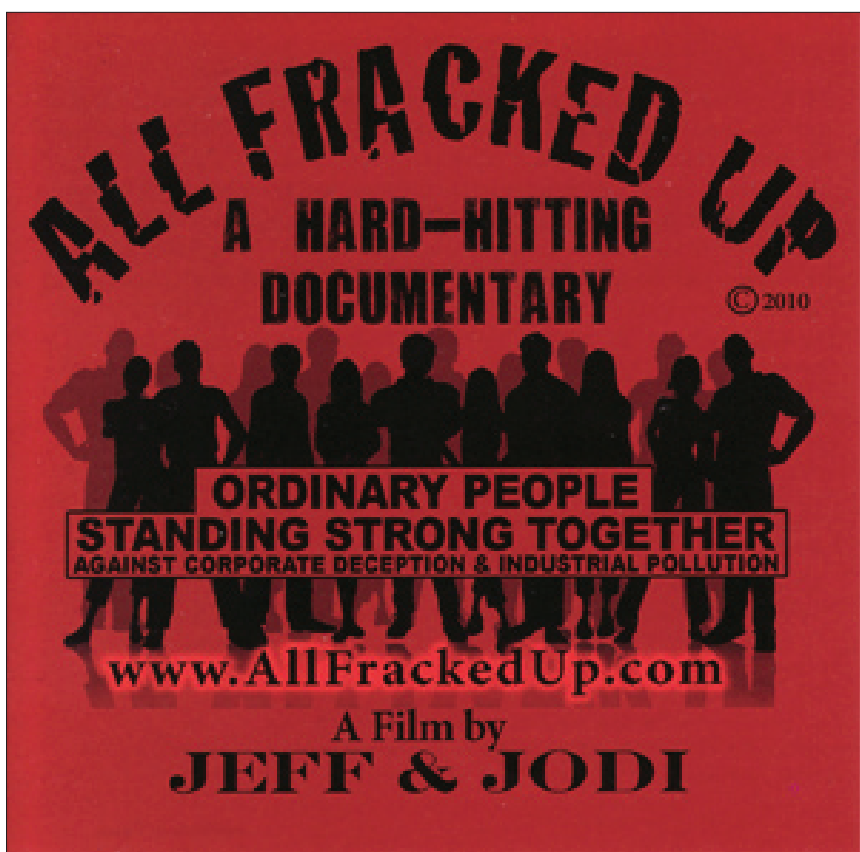
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Learn, Feel, Think and Act

A huge THANK YOU to the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds and the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies for their generous grant – the first one this newspaper has ever gotten! I am using some of this money to start offering educational kits to be used for widespread efforts to bring new people into the anti-gas-drilling, anti-fracking movement.

Educational Kits for You, Your Family, Your Neighbors and Your Community To Help Everyone Learn About Gas Drilling and Fracking And to Inspire them to Get Involved to Stop this Assault on Our Earth and Us: Here are Tools to Plan a Home Movie Night or Film Festival in Your Area



**KIT #1 (\$25 INCLUDING POSTAGE):**

A. DVD 'All Fracked Up: Ordinary People Standing Strong Together Against Corporate Deception and Industrial Pollution' by Jeff and Jodi Andrysick of New York. This film has lots of Pennsylvania information in it and is excellent. A note from the filmmakers: *Jodi and I are farmers-turned-filmmakers. We are concerned citizens who are frightened that the natural beauty of New York State – our streams, rivers, pristine lakes, aquifers, private water wells and municipal water supplies – will be irreversibly ruined by the process of hydro-fracking... We decided to make an anti-fracking documentary. The result is 'All Fracked Up,' a hard-hitting documentary which shows that hydro-fracking is an extreme technology used to obtain extreme energy with potentially extremely dire consequences.*

B. **Be the Change: How to Get What You Want in Your Community** by Thomas Linzey with Anneke Campbell. "Be the Change is a revolutionary handbook that shows everyday citizens how to stand up and take control of their local governments. This book will teach you how to achieve true self-governance and help provide ecosystems with the inalienable right to exist and flourish." From the Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund.

C. 25 Earth News newspapers.

**KIT #2 (\$35 INCLUDING POSTAGE):**

Same as above but with 50 newspapers.

**SPECIAL OFFER FOR FIRST SIX ORDERS RECEIVED**

There is a wonderful, three-minute DVD called Four Years. Go, which I recommend be shown at the end of a serious movie. It's extremely inspiring and up-beat and urges everyone to get involved. I only have six of these to offer now so place your order today!! FOUR YEARS. GO is a campaign to shift humanity's course toward a just, fulfilling and sustainable future by the end of 2014. People around the world will be invited to stand together and take courageous actions to bring about a future worth having. This is not a new organization; this is a goal for every organization, every man, woman, child, worker, student, profession, generation – everyone.

**BONUS WITH EVERY ORDER: FREE DVD 'WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION'**

Dr. Theo Colborn, founder of the Endocrine Disruption Exchange (TEDX, www.EndocrineDisruption.com), has delivered her talk ('What You Need to Know About Natural Gas Production') many times across the country. It has educated and motivated individuals nationwide to organize and address the environmental and health issues raised by natural gas operations. She calls for full public disclosure of all chemicals used during drilling and fracturing and raises the issues of ground-level ozone and air pollution that have been almost completely ignored. Now, TEDX has produced a 47-minute-long video of this lecture, complete with photos and data slides to illustrate the fact that natural gas is not the 'clean energy' that industry is touting it to be.

Thanks to all the producers of these DVDs for their generous donations to help launch this educational project.

If you have any other ideas for items to include in these kits, feel free to share them with me. Please send check or money order to: Earth News, 21431 Marlin Circle, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255 or you may use PayPal at iLoveEarthNews.com.

**Marcellus Survey of Private Well Owners, Watershed Groups and Citizens in PA**

Submitted by Judy Scriptunas  
Chesapeake Network

On Behalf Of: Oram, Brian  
Sent: October 3, 2011  
To: announcements@chesapeakenetwork.org  
Subject: [Chesapeake Network] Announcing the following outreach efforts in Pennsylvania.

**1. Pennsylvania Private Well Survey, Watershed Monitoring, Marcellus Shale Issues Source-water Protection**

This survey is part of the efforts of Brian Oram, Professional Geologist, to help educate and inform the community. The survey will not be published and all information is confidential. Part of this survey will be used to create a new, free booklet that helps educate private well owners and policy makers in our community. This survey is not

funded by any outside company or organization and solely funded by Oram. A summary of the findings will be used to update our NEW Free Private Well Owner Booklet. This survey will also be used to design a water screening program that will test at least 200 water samples for radon in water.  
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NMG6RQ3>

**2. Citizens Groundwater and Surfacewater Database**

Citizens, there are more private wells than public water supplies in Pennsylvania. In many regions, the natural gas companies have conducted baseline testing and have returned the data to you. The problem is that the industry has the data and can easily compile it but, for citizens, they are lacking an explanation of the data and are not sure what to do. I am working with Wilkes University on this effort. To learn more about this Free Program please go to <http://www.bfenvironmental.com/pawaters.php>.

**Free Booklet for Private Well Owners on Water Quality:** I wrote this while working at Wilkes University <http://www.bfenvironmental.com/pdfs/Waterbooklet070610.pdf>

**Presentations related to the Citizen Database:** Go to <http://www.water-research.net/powerpoint/index.htm>.

**3. The Water-Research Center Web site – Free Information on Water Quality and Watershed Education:** Go to <http://www.water-research.net>.

**4. Free Assistance to Watershed Organizations in PA:** Go to the C-SAW Program at <http://www.water-research.net/Watershed/watershedtraining.htm>.

Contact Brian Oram, Professional Geologist at [Brian.Oram@wilkes.edu](mailto:Brian.Oram@wilkes.edu).



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**IMPORTANT NOTE TO READERS ON OCTOBER 3:** THIS PAPER IS NOT FINANCIALLY SELF-SUSTAINING YET SO I WORK AT THE LOCAL SEWING FACTORY TO HELP PAY FOR IT. I AM WORKING FULL-SPEED AHEAD ON THIS DECEMBER/JANUARY ISSUE EVEN THOUGH ITS ONLY OCTOBER. I APOLOGIZE THAT SOME OF THESE ARTICLES ARE NOT EXACTLY "NEWS." RECENTLY I GOT A GENEROUS GIFT, WHICH ENABLES ME TO WORK FOUR DAYS A WEEK INSTEAD OF FIVE, EARNING \$7.25 AN HOUR, FREEING UP AN EXTRA DAY TO CREATE THIS NEWSPAPER FOR YOU.

**Global in Scope, "Down-Home" in Nature**

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**Earth News**

**Our Goal:** To provide people with news to help bring their hearts and lives back into harmony with Nature and with Most High God and his Trustworthy And True Living Spirits, Most High's Council of Elders as found below. We are also a community of activists, writers, poets and others who care about the future of the planet. We work together to nurture each other in various ways.

**Our Mission:** To inspire and encourage readers to think seriously, act intelligently and be peaceful, compassionate, courageous and creative.

**The Dream:** Humans can co-exist with Nature and, once they do, both will flourish.

**Masthead:** The photo is an evergreen after a snowfall in Shade Gap, Pennsylvania.

**Most High's Council of Elders**

- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| LOVE          | HONOR          |
| TRUTH         | FRIENDSHIP     |
| WISDOM        | GIVING         |
| COUNSEL       | RECEIVING      |
| UNDERSTANDING | RESPONSIBILITY |
| KINDNESS      | SHARING        |
| COMPASSION    | COMFORT        |
| PEACE         | HONESTY        |
| MODESTY       | THANKS         |
| HUMILITY      | TRUST          |
| INNOCENCE     | CONFIDENCE     |
| FORGIVENESS   | HOPE           |
| RIGHTEOUSNESS | SECURITY       |
| PATIENCE      | MERCY          |
| TOLERANCE     | CHIVALRY       |
| JUSTICE       | RESPECT        |
| FAIRNESS      | GENTLENESS     |
| JOY           | GOODNESS       |
| CHARITY       | CHOICE...etc.  |
| GENEROSITY    |                |

**UPCOMING DEADLINES**  
JANUARY 10, MARCH 10



Photo by Joy Blahut

Though this pumping station is in a rural area, about 40 to 50 homes were evacuated, forcing nearly 150 people to take shelter in the middle of the night.

## Gas Pumping Station Explodes in Bedford Co.; Cause Unknown

An overnight gas well explosion draws fire crews from three states.

Submitted by Angel Smith  
Clearville, Pennsylvania  
(Bedford County)

WJACTV.com: November 3, 2011

BEDFORD COUNTY, Pennsylvania — Officials are still determining what caused an overnight natural gas explosion in southern Bedford County.

The explosion happened just before 1 a.m. Thursday at a natural gas pumping station on Crooked Run Road in Mann Township, near the Maryland border. The station and pipeline are owned by Columbia Gas.

More than a dozen fire departments from Pennsylvania, Maryland and West Virginia fought the blaze and it was out before 6 a.m. Thursday.

The station was unmanned at the time and there were no

reported injuries. Mike Roberts, Columbia Gas operations manager, said the company's safety systems worked and crews were able to shut off the gas and extinguish the blaze.

Dave Cubbison with Bedford County Emergency Services said the fire could be seen from 30 miles away. Cubbison said the fire also set off some brush fires near the scene.

"No structures outside the compound were destroyed — no private homes. A lot of people were scared and rightfully so," Cubbison said.

Though the pumping station is in a rural area, about 40 to 50 homes were evacuated, forcing nearly 150 people to take shelter. As a precaution, residents were told not to return to their homes until crews were cleared.

Dispatchers say evacuees south of the location were taken to the Orleans Fire Department, while those evacuees north of it found their own shelter with friends and family. Residents were allowed to

return to their homes at daybreak.

A neighbor who first heard the explosion called 911 and emergency crews then immediately started calling other residents to evacuate quickly. Many residents in Artemas, Bedford County were also concerned for their homes when they heard the explosion. They were told to evacuate immediately and stay with family members or go to fire departments.

Sherri Snider, who lives just one mile from the pumping station and heard the explosion, said her neighbor alerted her that emergency crews wanted them to evacuate. "When you walked outside the door, the noise was so loud — kind of like an airplane right there at your house — and the sky was bright orange and it was real scary," she said.

Read the full story at <http://www.wjactv.com/news/news/gas-well-explodes-bedford-county/nFTQL/>.

## Philadelphia City Council Passes Resolution to Sue Delaware River Basin Commission

Demands Cumulative Impacts be Studied Prior to Fracking in River Basin

Press Release, Protecting Our Waters  
October 13, 2011

PHILADELPHIA, Pennsylvania — At noon today, all 17 members of Philadelphia's City Council voted in favor of a resolution which joins the City of Philadelphia as a Friend of the Court, together with lawsuits already filed by the Attorney General of the State of New York, the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and other parties, in suing the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC). Philadelphia is joining these lawsuits to require, according to the resolution passed today, "That no drilling of Marcellus Shale take place until a full environmental analysis is completed."

The resolution, sponsored by Councilman Curtis Jones and Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown, and co-sponsored by Councilwoman Maria Quinones Sanchez, passed unanimously after a physician, a rabbi, a landowner with property in "Shale Country" and two activists testified in favor. About 30 supporters inside City Hall held up signs affirming "Protect Our Water" and "Don't Drill the Delaware." Councilman O'Neill, the only councilperson not present for the vote, had cast his "aye" vote before leaving the chambers.

"Today was a great day for democracy, science and human health in Philadelphia," said alex [sic, Alex Allen], Associate Director of Protecting Our Waters, after the vote. "Our representatives in City Council chose to unanimously look out for the interests of the people while resisting the persistent lobbying of the industry."

Rabbi Mordechai Liebling, who testified at Council today, was delighted with the vote. "Shale gas drilling is a public health disaster in the making," he warned.

Dr. Walter Tsou, President of Physicians for Social Responsibility, past president of the American Public Health Association and former health commissioner of Philadelphia, also testified. "As a public health physician, I have grave concerns about public health and environmental consequences of hydraulic fracturing in the Marcellus Shale region," he said. "A cursory list of the chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing includes known carcinogens like diethyl benzene, ethyl benzene, formaldehyde, petroleum distillate (paint remover) and ethylene glycol, otherwise known as antifreeze. Add to that methane [migration into groundwater] and flowback [drilling wastewater] contaminated with radioactive isotopes.... Politicians have explicitly avoided the public health question because if they were really con-

fronted with it, they would stop hydraulic fracturing."

The resolution, which demands both a Delaware River Basin-specific, cumulative impacts study and the EPA national study of the risks high-volume hydraulic fracturing poses to drinking water, includes a clause which appears to lay the groundwork to do just that for the Delaware River Basin, which supplies Philadelphia with 100% of its drinking water (the Schuylkill River is also in the Basin):

"Whereas, if the combined results of both a national EPA study and a Delaware River Basin-specific cumulative impacts study, show the potential for catastrophic risk, potential costs and the inherent and cumulative risks to water, air, climate, farms, food, economy, fish and wildlife, human health, scenic value and the tourism base, the City of Philadelphia will determine whether it is advisable to call for the entire Delaware River Basin to be kept off limits to unconventional gas drilling techniques."

The resolution also quotes the Pennsylvania Constitution's famous clause ensuring that the people of Pennsylvania must enjoy "clean air, pure water" and more.

Julie Edgar of Gas-Truth, an advocacy group which has sprung up to oppose shale gas drilling, testified in favor. After the vote she said, "Common-sense advocates were pleased that the City Council of Philadelphia did the obvious right thing to support voices calling for the Precautionary Principle in demanding that we wait for cumulative environmental impact studies to be completed."

Aaron Birk, a resident of West Philadelphia, was more exuberant. In his testimony prior to the vote he said, "This is our chance to make history. The City of Philadelphia can stand up to an industry which wants only profit... If we stand up to the industry, we have everything to gain." After the vote, he commented, "There's a lot of excitement here, a lot of really good feelings."

Jannie Blackwell made several really moving comments; she made a prayer for the Occupiers, the sick and homeless and struggling people, and spoke in praise of the Occupy movement. She encouraged Council to "respond to their constituents who are out in the street with serious concerns."

Today, Birk said, Council did just that, standing up to the fracking industry because, he said, "Even if dollars did flow into the City, they'd dry up from public health costs and we'd be left with poisoned water."

Several Councilmembers indicated they'd been hearing a great deal from constituents in favor of passing the resolution to forbid fracking and sue the DRBC. A spokesman for Councilman Green said, "We are receiving a lot of calls in favor

and we are documenting everything." A spokesman for Councilman Rizzo said, "We've gotten a lot of calls about that... I believe he'll go that way [a yes vote]." Curtis, in Darrell Clarke's office, said he'd received "a large number of calls in favor," as did Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller.

### Background

The Delaware River Basin Commission has stated that they expect to vote on November 21<sup>st</sup> on ending the current moratorium and opening the Delaware River Basin to fracking, the controversial technique used in "tight" formations such as deep shale using large volumes of water mixed with "mystery" chemicals, which the industry is not obliged to disclose due to exemptions from federal law.

The chemicals turn fresh water into "slickwater," the industry term for water mixed with fracking chemicals, which is injected at extremely high pressure to fracture the bedrock, using lateral drilling up to two miles long and one mile deep. Fracking releases methane, a climate-warming fossil fuel the industry calls "natural gas," along with other gas byproducts which are used to create single-use plastics, which are choking the oceans and killing marine life — and nitrogen-based fertilizer, the runoff from which is creating huge dead zones in the Chesapeake Bay and Atlantic Ocean.

The DRBC estimates about 20,000 gas wells would be approved. At the average rate of about five million gallons of "slickwater" injected per well, that would mean over 100 billion gallons of toxic fracking fluid would be injected through the aquifers of the Delaware River Basin, deep underground. Cement casing failure rate is about 12% immediately, 50% within 30 years and 100% within 100 years, according to Professor Anthony Ingraffea, fracturing mechanics expert at Cornell University.

The current rate of environmental violations at Marcellus Shale drilling sites, including spills of industrial liquids such as frack fluid, is 11 violations as day.

In 2009, 17 cows died bellowing in agony within an hour after drinking fracking fluid which spilled from a valve left open. That fluid, according to Chesapeake Energy, which was responsible for the incident, was 99% water and only 1% fracking fluid. The necropsies (autopsies done on animals) showed lesions on major organs consistent to exposure to fracking chemicals used by Schlumberger, the company subcontracted by Chesapeake for that fracking operation, which was in Louisiana. Farmers in Pennsylvania have reported many deaths of cattle which they believe was caused by fracking contaminants in water, as well as stillborn calves, puppies and other animals.



## Charred Plant Blended Fracking Chemicals

Submitted by Dick Martin of PaForestCoalition.org with this note: *We hope that Pennsylvania has better enforcement of regulations than Texas.*

Firefighters Escape Chemical Fire, Lose Truck; No Risk Management Plan Filed with Texas Authorities

By Brett Shipp  
WFAA.com: October 4, 2011

Edited for length by Dick Martin. See the original 800-word article at: <http://www.wfaa.com/news/investigates/Charred-chemical-plant-used-mainly-to-blend-fracking-chemicals-131113703.html>.

WAXAHACHIE, Texas — As Texans watched fire burn the Magnablend plant in Waxahachie, EPA officials said no harmful chemicals had been detected in the air. But News 8 has learned the plant operations may have been more dangerous than its management has let on.

About all Scott Pendery, the owner of Magnablend Inc., was telling the public was that this particular facility produced agriculture and oil and gas products.

The only specific chemicals being mentioned were mostly harmless or marginally volatile.

But when pressed, the owner began telling another story.

Most of what the plant was producing was a dangerous cocktail of chemicals blended specifically to be used in hydraulic fracturing (or "fracking") fluids.

As rivers of flammable product flushed out of the Magnablend plant on Monday, all that mattered was that the workers and firefighters escaped with their lives.

Later, local, state and federal officials began investigating what started the fire — and what all was burning.

And, while plant owner Pendery told a news conference that he thinks an electrical spark may have touched off the inferno, he was less specific about what exactly was going on inside at the time.

As for all the explosions and the river of fire, News 8 asked Pendery if combustible petroleum products were involved.

"We have mineral oil in that plant, yes we do; there's mineral oil at that facility," Pendery said. "Mineral oil, choline chloride, various products like that."

The only signs that much more volatile chemicals might have been involved are affixed to the sides of eight railroad tanker cars that were parked next to the

charred facility.

According to the hazardous materials placards on seven of the eight tankers, each was filled at one time with materials frequently found in chemicals commonly used in the fracking industry:

- Chemical 1814: Potassium Hydroxide,
- Chemical 1268: Petroleum distillates, and
- Chemical 1760: a highly corrosive liquid such as hydrochloric acid.

When pressed, Pendery confirmed this particular facility was producing fracking compounds used in natural gas drilling.

Later, when we tried to ask Pendery about specific chemicals parked in the tanker cars next to his facility, he ignored our questions and got back into his car without comment.

Waxahachie Fire-Rescue Chief David Hudgins told News 8 he was not aware that 80 percent of what Magnablend produces is fracking chemicals.

EPA officials said they had no idea what Magnablend was producing at the plant.

While it's legal to blend fracking chemicals, federal law states that, if enough dangerous chemicals are being stored on-site, then the company must file a Risk Management Plan.

No such Plan has been filed for this facility.



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# My Visit to Occupy Baltimore

By Iona Conner

On the Scene in Baltimore: November 6, 2011

"Why are you here?" I asked the first man I met, 54-year-old Chris Davis of Altoona, Pennsylvania (of all places)!

"I've got six kids and three grandchildren. That's why I'm here; I'm trying to make life better for them," Davis answered. He has been at the encampment on the corner of Pratt and Light Streets near the Inner Harbor in Baltimore since Day One, October 2, 2011. He's here for the long haul and said that when he worked for the government in the Department of Justice's Special Operations, Special Services he did a lot of work outside so he's not intimidated by the prospect of snow. "I'm from Altoona; I'm used to snow."

Davis's favorite part of the protest is the evening General Assemblies where people discuss what's going on throughout the country and at other Occupy sites. Six people left today (Sunday, November 6) to go to the Washington, D.C. Occupy location "to give our support down there" he said.

Timothy Chin, a 24-year-old man from Baltimore, was busy talking with passers-by during the time I was there – passionately and with great comprehension of the larger issues. He knows the people who started Occupy Baltimore and, while he wasn't present at the beginning, he came as a reporter to do a one-day story for DMVjams.com, a major blog in the D.C./Maryland area. His story got picked up by *The Baltimore Sun* and he was offered a contract to do a five-piece article about the event, which was submitted two days ago.

During the five days while writing the story, Chin was at the Occupy site from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.. Then he'd go to work from 2 to 5 p.m. and return to the site from 5 p.m. to 2 a.m. By the end of the stint, "I became engulfed in the movement and stayed two nights. Just like the people in Baltimore, I was oblivious. When I took the time to talk with people and go to the General Assemblies, I understood the issues."

Now he is dedicated. "I had no choice but to support it because I AM the 99%," Chin said emphatically.

Timothy B. A. McClary, Sr. knows the problems intimately as a displaced, homeless person. "The 1% (who have most of the wealth) don't work; they get others to work for them. Anyone in the 99% who think they are part of the 1% are sadly delusional," he explained. McClary picked up skills which help the movement in the U.S. Army. He provides logistical and safety expertise to the encampment. He is also currently working on a project to assist other residents in Baltimore to end homelessness.

The Occupy Baltimore site is located in an area previously (and still) with many homeless people living there. It is also perfectly located in the midst of buildings representing major banks and great wealth – a visual statement of the contrast between those at the top and those at the bottom, financially speaking. Some of the homeless near that intersection decided to stay and join the Occupation. They are being housed and fed in one of two huge and recently-donated Army tents. The second tent is for administration purposes and first-aid.

As a mere visitor to this particular corner of Baltimore, I was unaware of



Photos by Iona Conner

*Publisher Iona Conner stands with the three people she interviewed for this story. (left to right) Timothy B. A. McClary, Sr. (48 years old, from Baltimore, homeless and working to end homelessness); Iona; Timothy Chin (24-year-old from Baltimore, a blogging reporter with two Bachelor's degrees) and Chris Davis (a 54-year man from Altoona, Pennsylvania who's been there since Day One – October 2, 2011 – retired after 33 years with the Department of Justice, Special Operations, Special Services). Iona autographed copies of Earth News for all three men who asked her to do that. She hopes to return to spend at least one night there before it gets too cold.*

the buildings surrounding us until Davis pointed them out to me. YIKES! There they were in glistening high-rises – major banks: PNC, M&T, Bank of America, B&T, TransAmerica (trading) and the World Trade Center, where stocks are traded.

"That's why this spot was picked – because we're right smack in the middle of the business district – of all of it, all the big branches," Davis said. Pointing to a modern office building across the street, he added, "That man there owns a lot of property and we're trying to make an eyesore for him [when he looks out the window]; we have a right to be heard as long as it's peaceful," he explained.

## Response of the Locals

"We've got a lot of backing," Davis said, adding, "The citizens of Baltimore drop off food, water, tents – whatever we need. People have been good."

The Fraternal Order of Police, the firemen's union, hotel workers union, City Department of Public Works, have all shown support. "The teachers' union is backing us; they spoke yesterday and the postal workers union is coming next Saturday," Davis continued. "The Mayor here, she's not happy with this but she hasn't spoken out against it," he explained. "Parks and Rec are not happy, we don't have a permit yet, we're still working on it. We cleaned the place up, put up Army tents, we're not trying to disgrace the City."

Even Davis's 77-year-old mother moved her money from a large bank to a credit union in support of the movement.

"We don't condone violence; this is completely nonviolent," Davis said. "Of course we've got a couple of warriors



*Entrance to the Occupy Baltimore site on the corner of Pratt and Light Streets. Very clean and organized place. Very peaceful. The protesters talked with passers-by about the issues facing them and the world.*

here but we try to put a hold on them." It was certainly very peaceful the day I was there. I know this is a major tenet of the entire Occupy movement.

Chin, an articulate voice for Occupy Baltimore (but not a "leader" as there are no leaders) has two Bachelor's degrees and, before he got his job as a reporter, was working for a staffing agency helping ex-convicts and others find jobs. He liked the fact that in that position, he was able to give so many people a sec-

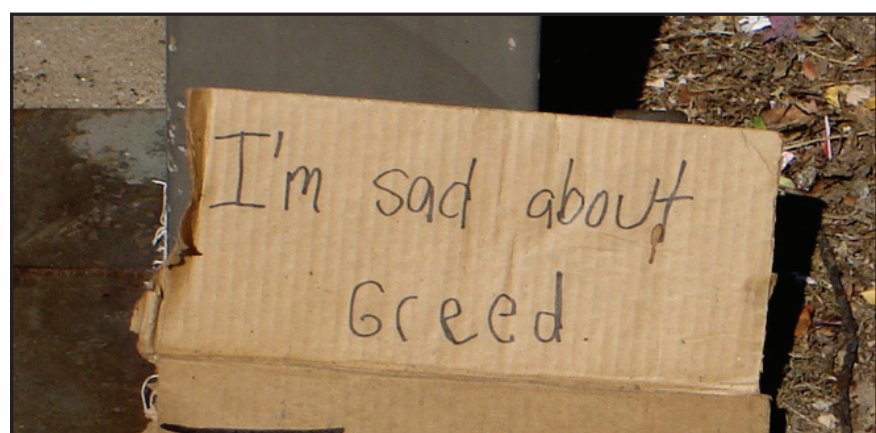
ond chance. "If someone makes a bad choice, it doesn't make them a bad person; you can actually change," he said. "Our nation deserves a second chance as a people to try all over again – again until it's right!"

Chin's sign says, "I've got a job" because passers-by sometimes shout, "Get a job!" So he wanted them to know he has one, a good one at that.

These three men were happy to see my newspaper and even asked me to

autograph their copies – a first for me, which I did gladly. I also left a pile of papers for others to take and told them I'd try to get back and bring my sleeping bag if I get a chance to spend the night there.

I was relieved when they said I could sleep in one of the Army tents – maybe even on a cot! I felt right at home with my new Occupy Baltimore friends and hope this story inspires you to participate in Occupy Something near you.



*This humble sign placed carefully at the bottom of a light post was the first sign Iona saw as she walked from the Hyatt Hotel (where she got her "stuff" organized) to the Occupy Baltimore location. The valet at the ritzy hotel gave her the "thumbs up" sign when he learned her destination.*



## Oil Executive: Military-Style 'Psy Ops' Experience Applied

*This is an excerpt from a story running on CNBC and CNBC.com. To read the full article, go to <http://www.cnbc.com/id/45208498>. For more information, contact: Bill Walker, 510-759-9911.*

By Eamon Javers

CNBC Washington: November 8, 2011

Last week's oil industry conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Houston was supposed to be an industry confab just like any other – a series of panel discussions, light refreshments and an exchange of ideas.

It was a gathering of professionals to discuss "media and stakeholder relations" in the hydraulic fracturing industry – companies using the often-controversial oil and gas extraction technique known as "fracking."

But things took an unexpected twist.

CNBC has obtained audiotapes of the event, on which one presenter can be heard recommending

that his colleagues download a copy of the Army and Marine Corps counterinsurgency manual. "That's because," he said, "the opposition facing the industry is an 'insurgency.'"

**Another told attendees that his company has several former military psychological operations, or "psy ops" specialists on staff, applying their skills in Pennsylvania.** (bold added)

The comments were recorded by an environmental activist, who passed along audio files to CNBC. The activist, Sharon Wilson, is the director of the Oil & Gas Accountability Project for the nonprofit environmental group Earthworks. She said she paid full price to attend the two-day event, and wore a nametag identifying her organization as she recorded the conference.

In a session entitled "Designing a Media Relations Strategy To Overcome Concerns Surrounding Hydraulic Fracturing," Range Resources communications director Matt Pitzarella spoke about "overcoming stakeholder concerns" about the

fracking process.

"We have several former psy ops folks that work for us at Range because they're very comfortable in dealing with localized issues and local governments," Pitzarella said. "Really all they do is spend most of their time helping folks develop local ordinances and things like that. But very much having that understanding of psy ops in the Army and in the Middle East has applied very helpfully here for us in Pennsylvania."

At another session, Matt Carmichael, the manager of external affairs for Anadarko Petroleum, spoke on the topic of "Understanding How Unconventional Oil & Gas Operators are Developing a Comprehensive Media Relations Strategy to Engage Stakeholders and Educate the Public."

He said he had several recommendations for the oil industry media professionals at the event, one of which, he said, involved the military.

"Download the U.S. Army-slash-Marine Corps Counterinsurgency Manual, because we are deal-

ing with an insurgency," Carmichael said. "There's a lot of good lessons in there and coming from a military background, I found the insight in that extremely remarkable."

Wilson, who recorded the remarks, said the comments reveal what the fracking industry thinks about people in the communities that are impacted by the industry.

"What's clear to me is that they are having to use some very extreme measures in our neighborhoods," she said. "And it seems like they view it as an occupation." She said she was surprised such military-style techniques would be discussed in an open forum.

"This was crossing a line – they considered it was on the American people, sort of like they are going in and occupying our land – which is what they are doing," Wilson said.

## Gas Drilling News

# Gas-Drilling Briefs

### PA DEP Clamps Down on Air Pollution Rules for Gas Drilling

By Jim Willis  
Marcellus Drilling News: October 13, 2011

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), which oversees oil and gas drilling in the state, has issued new guidelines for evaluating air pollution sources from oil and gas operations. Specifically, the new guidelines clarify when operations should be considered a single source and when operations will be considered separately, thereby facing stricter permit requirements. The move tightens controls over potential sources of air pollution from drilling and related operations.

The Department's new guidelines for "single source" or "air aggregation" decisions reflect a narrowing of the federal government's common reading of the rule, which holds that sources of air pollution from oil and gas operations should be considered together when they are "interdependent," or linked by pipelines or other infrastructure.

DEP Secretary Michael Krancer said in a statement Wednesday that Pennsylvania will apply instead a "common-sense" reading of the rule, which requires that separate sources must meet three tests to be aggregated: belong to the same industrial grouping, be located on one or more contiguous or adjacent properties and be under the control of the same person.

"Over time, there was a tendency by some regulators to morph the meaning of 'contiguous' or 'adjacent' properties to mean only that operations on the properties be 'interdependent,'" Krancer said, adding that, "This view has been expressed in various federal Environmental Protection Agency recommendation letters or policy statements in recent years. ... That interpretation is not supported" by the language of the regulations and case law, he said.

The Department's new interpretation will treat oil and gas pollution sources a quarter-mile or less apart to be "contiguous" or "adjacent" and sources farther apart will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Other states, including West Virginia and Texas, have adopted a similar policy, Krancer said.

The new guidelines go into effect immediately but they are considered interim guidelines and were open for public comment until November 21.\*

\*Wilkes-Barre *The Citizens' Voice* (October 13, 2011) – DEP Updates air pollution guidelines for oil, gas sites

### EPA Releases Final Plan for Study of Fracking

Submitted by Dick Martin, Coordinator www.PaForestCoalition.org

The EPA plans to study the full "lifecycle" of the fracturing process that occurs as part of drilling and completing an oil or gas well. That means the study will look at the effects from the moment companies pull the water from streams or elsewhere to the point at which it returns to streams or underground storage.

Fracturing uses millions of gallons of chemical-laced water – exponentially more than is used in conventional wells – injected at much higher pressure. That has increased concerns about contamination of groundwater.

The EPA study will focus on five key areas:

- **Water acquisition.** What are the potential impacts of large volume water withdrawals from ground and surface waters on drinking water resources?
- **Chemical mixing.** What are the possible impacts of surface spills on or near well pads of hydraulic fracturing fluids on drinking water resources?
- **Well injection.** What are the possible impacts of the injection and fracturing process on drinking water resources?
- **Flowback and produced water.** What are the possible impacts of surface spills on or near well pads of flowback and produced water on drinking water resources?
- **Wastewater treatment and waste disposal.** What are the possible impacts of inadequate treatment of hydraulic fracturing wastewaters on drinking water resources?

EPA's plan follows the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board recommendations on steps to support the safe development of natural gas resources. The EPA will release initial findings next year. The final report is due by 2014. The details of the study are not yet online. If you wish to read the 190-page plan, write to Coalition-Secretary@aol.com.

### Columbus Township, PA Ban on Injection Wells Rescinded

By Jim Willis  
Marcellus Drilling News: October 13, 2011

Under threat of a lawsuit, supervisors in Columbus Township (Warren County, Pennsylvania) reversed their previous ban on the disposal of fracking fluids in two injection wells in the township.

Injection wells are deep wells used to dispose of fracking fluid from those drillers who do not recycle all of the fracking fluid used in their drilling operations. The fluid is pumped into the wells under high pressure, forcing it deep into the ground. Ohio has hundreds of such injection wells due to a better underground geography. However, Pennsylvania currently has only a relative handful of injection wells (fewer than a dozen), including the two in Columbus Township.

Approval by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is all that stands between Bear Lake Properties' operation of two liquid disposal wells in Columbus Township. Bear Lake Properties President Karl Kimmich said casing on the first disposal well has been replaced and the mechanical integrity test was approved by the federal Environmental Protection Agency on September 28.

The same casing will be replaced in the second well to "give us an extra layer of confidence," according to Kimmich. The EPA will have to conduct a mechanical integrity test on that well, too. The final erosion and sediment control plan, which Kimmich said details the construction and shows where the equipment will be set, will have to be approved by DEP. Kimmich estimated that in three to five years, there would be "dozens of this type of well across the state."

"I can assure you there are other people working on the same thing," he said.\*

\*Warren, PA *The Times Observer* (October 12, 2011) – Columbus Repeats Repeal of Well Rule

### Chesapeake First Customer for Ethane Pipeline to Gulf Coast

By Jim Willis  
Marcellus Drilling News: November 4, 2011

Looks like Enterprise Products' plan to build an ethane pipeline from the Marcellus and Utica Shales to the Gulf Coast is already paying off. Chesapeake Energy is the first company to commit to using the pipeline, which is due to be completed and in service by 2014. Chesapeake Energy Corp. said it will anchor Enterprise Products Partners LP's proposed ethane pipeline from northeastern states to the Gulf Coast.

The companies did not disclose financial details of their long-term contract. The pipeline would have an initial capacity to carry 125,000 barrels per day and could be expanded, the companies said. Shippers who commit to use the pipeline would pay between 14.5 cents and 15.5 cents per gallon. The companies said the pipeline would deliver ethane produced in the Marcellus and Utica shale formations of Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio about 1,230 miles to their storage complex for natural gas liquids in Mont Belvieu, Texas.\*

\*R&D Magazine (November 2, 2011) – Chesapeake, Enterprise to Run Ethane Pipeline

### Drilling Boom Brings Surge in Crime to Small Towns

By Mark Levy, *excerpt*  
Associated Press via *Daily News*, Huntingdon: October 26, 2011

TOWANDA, Pennsylvania — In a modern-day echo of the raucous Old West, small towns enjoying a boom in oil and gas drilling are seeing a sharp increase in drunken driving, bar fights and other hell-raising, blamed largely on an influx of young men who find themselves with lots of money in their pockets and nothing to do after they get off work . . .

### U.S. Government Confirms Link Between Earthquakes and Fracking

Submitted by Jan Burkness  
By John Daly, *excerpt*  
OilPrice.com: November 8, 2011, *excerpt*

On November 5, 2011 an earthquake measuring 5.6 rattled Oklahoma and was felt as far away as Illinois. Until two years ago Oklahoma typically had about 50 earthquakes a year but in 2010, 1,047 quakes shook the state.

Why?  
In Lincoln County, where most of this past weekend's seismic incidents were centered, there are 181 injection wells, according to Matt Skinner, an official from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, the agency which oversees oil and gas production in the state.

Cause and effect?  
The practice of injecting water into deep rock formations causes earthquakes, both the U.S. Army and the U.S. Geological Survey have concluded. The U.S. natural gas industry pumps a mixture of water and assorted chemicals deep underground to shatter sediment layers containing natural gas, a process called hydraulic fracturing, known more informally as "fracking." While environmental groups have primarily focused on fracking's capacity to pollute underground water, a more ominous by-product emerges from U.S. government studies – that forcing fluids under high pressure deep underground produces increased regional seismic activity.

As the U.S. natural gas industry mounts an unprecedented and expensive advertising campaign to convince the public that such practices are environmentally benign, U.S. government agencies have determined otherwise. According to the U.S. Army's Rocky Mountain Arsenal (RMA) Web site, the RMA drilled a deep well for disposing of the site's liquid waste after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency "concluded that this procedure is effective and protective of the environment . . ."

Read the full article at <http://oilprice.com/Energy/Natural-Gas/US-Government-Confirms-Link-Between-Earthquakes-and-Hydraulic-Fracturing.html>.



Photo by William Derrick/StateCollege.com  
Brittany Allaband, left, a senior at Penn State, and Je'laya Hassan, a sophomore, work on signs for Occupy Penn State.

## Occupy Penn State Wants Drilling Ban

"I am here because it seems so hard to make change. And it seems like something is finally happening." The first General Assembly meeting of Occupy Penn State started with a discussion of why each person was there. Frustration with the current political, social and economic climate was a recurring theme, as was a desire to unify people, creating a movement of solidarity.

The Occupy Penn State movement's headquarters are located in the HUB, where a number of students have set up camp. The area they've occupied is complete with a food share, a small library and a number of banners, signs and posters. Around 50 people showed up to the meeting, held in the HUB at 7 p.m. last night. A livestream can be found at <http://www.livestream.com/occupypennstate>.

The group stated that it intends to formulate a local plan centered around the University and State College communities, as well as a global plan. The latter will focus on global political and financial systems and will be discussed at the General Assembly tonight. One member also mentioned that a main focus should be on education and informing people about Occupy Wall

Street's objectives. Objectives, I might add, which haven't always been crystal clear. The movement has undergone significant criticism for what many call its lack of direction. So what exactly is Occupy Wall Street? One student summed it up: "Our voices are not being heard. And it's time for us to change that."

Poignant and ideologically appealing but still a little vague. The rest of the meeting, however, focused on rendering the idea concrete. Community goals included the following:

- More affordable tuition;
- Greater UPUA representation;
- Transparency on Penn State's part;
- Sustainable curriculum in all fields, with a focus on learning through experience rather than solely in the classroom; and
- Getting PSU to support the local community more by buying local foods, etc.

Although it's only in its nascent stage, OccupyPennState seems poised to create a significant presence on campus. Check back to Onward State for more coverage in the coming days!

### Gas Drilling Ban

Several local groups joined forces October 21<sup>st</sup> for a political

rally on the Old Main Lawn. The event was to spotlight Occupy Penn State – a local outgrowth of the Occupy Wall Street movement – and an upcoming State College borough referendum.

The referendum, which was to appear on the November 8<sup>th</sup> ballot, centers partly on a proposed local bill of environmental rights. It also will ask voters to decide on a proposed gas-drilling ban in the borough.

Friday's rally is formally dubbed "The 99 Percent for Community Rights and Fracking Ban Rally." Its hosts are Groundswell, the political group behind the borough referendum; the Sierra Club Moshannon Group; Eco-Action and Occupy Penn State.

The rally was expected to take shape on the Old Main Lawn's southern end, closest to East College Avenue.

Occupy Penn State, an emerging activist voice on economic-equity issues, has maintained an "occupation" in the university's HUB-Robeson Center all week.

Read more at <http://www.statecollege.com/news/local-news/photos-occupy-wall-street-movement-reaches-penn-state-904971/>.

# Research Re: Jobs Something for Activists to Consider

October 6, 2011

### Hello All,

**Fracking Jobs:** I heard an NPR report about the employment opportunities which fracking is bringing to communities. One example is Williston, North Dakota. North Dakota now has a 3% unemployment rate. The NPR story focused on the economic picture of fracking. Folks are driving more than 1,000 miles to get a fracking job in Williston. People cannot find housing in Williston and are buying/renting trailers and paying as much as \$1,000 per month to park the trailer.

The following is a *USA Today* story about jobs: <http://www.usatoday.com/money/economy/story/2011-08-27/Unemployed-Go-to-North-Dakota/50136572/1>.

So, it seems to me that, as people spend more time unemployed, it will become important for the anti-fracking folks to address the employment aspects of fracking.

**The Unemployment Rate:** Our country has, as you know, more than a 9% unemployment rate. "Persons are classified as unemployed if they do not have a job, have actively

looked for work in the prior four weeks and are currently available for work." (See [http://www.bls.gov/cps/cps\\_htgm.htm#unemployed](http://www.bls.gov/cps/cps_htgm.htm#unemployed).) According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, people are counted as unemployed if they are actively looking for work. This means they in the past week:

- 1 Have actually contacted an employer directly or are having a job interview, have contacted a public or private employment agency, have contacted friends or relatives for help finding a job, have used a school or university employment center;
- 2 Are sending out resumes or filling out applications;
- 3 Are checking union or professional registers; and/or
- 4 Are using some other means of conducting an active job search.

If a person has had any work at all during the survey week, they are counted as employed. Thus, if a person took a one-day job in the past week, they are listed as employed. On the other hand, if a person is discouraged and has stopped looking, they are not counted as unemployed.

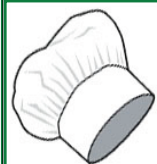
**Implications:** So, we can see that to be counted as unem-

ployed one must meet some specific criteria. To me this means that the official 9+% unemployment rate is certainly less than the percentage of people who actually do not have jobs and need the help of others to support their families. There are 116,716,292 households in our country (2010 Demographic Profile, U.S. Census). If 10% of them are looking for jobs to support their families, then 11+ million households need jobs. That's a lot of social pressure to live with any negative environmental impact.

It seems the fracking jobs pay well enough and last long enough to justify folks moving in order to get those jobs.

Thus, I suggest the anti-fracking folks acknowledge the employment aspects of fracking. For some communities, the choice may be between short-term survival of the household by taking a job fracking gas or the longer-term survival by preserving water quality and health. This is a very difficult choice especially with such a high unemployment rate.

*Madalene Ransom*  
North Carolina



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# Fracking Contractor Pleads Guilty to Criminal Acid Discharge

HOUSTON, Texas, October 13, 2011 (ENS) — A Houston-based natural gas and oil drilling contractor pleaded guilty Tuesday to a negligent violation of the Clean Water Act in federal court in Muskogee, Oklahoma.

In entering the plea, Integrated Production Services (IPS) has agreed to pay a \$140,000 criminal fine and to make a community service payment of \$22,000 to the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation for ecological studies and remediation of Boggy Creek, located in eastern Oklahoma.

IPS will serve a two-year period of probation, during which it will be required to implement and perform an Environmental Compliance Program (at a cost of \$38,000) to train IPS employees regarding proper hazardous waste handling and spill response procedures.

In May 2007, IPS was performing drilling operations at the Pettigrew natural gas well site in Atoka County, Oklahoma. The company's operations included hydraulic fracturing, which entails the use of drills and hydrochloric acid to penetrate through bedrock and strata in order to access natural gas reserves.

On May 24, 2007, a tank at the site leaked hydrochloric acid onto the bermed surface of the well, which also was flooded due to recent heavy rainfall.

Rather than taking the necessary steps to properly remove the rainwater from the site, Gabriel Henson, an IPS supervisor, drove a company pickup truck through the earthen berm. This caused the discharge of the rainwater and an estimated 400 to 700 gallons of hydrochloric acid into Dry Creek, a tributary of Boggy Creek. A tributary of the Red River, Boggy Creek is a water of the United States under the Clean Water Act.

Environmental damage to the creek was minimized by spill response crews that responded to the site.

On July 20, 2011, Henson pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor violation of the Clean Water Act. Henson is awaiting sentencing. He faces up to one year



Photo courtesy Integrated Production Services Integrated Production Services drilling crew at work.

in prison and a \$100,000 fine.

"As hydraulic fracturing occurs with increasing frequency across the country, companies and individuals involved in those operations must adhere to the laws that protect human health and the environment and level the playing field for responsible businesses," said Assistant Attorney General Ignacio Moreno. "We recognize the critical importance of developing domestic sources of energy responsibly and will continue to vigorously prosecute illegal conduct."

"This was a case of a corporate employee making a careless decision that caused the release of dangerous hydrochloric acid into our waters," said Mark Green, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Oklahoma.

"Whether to expedite oil production or to save corporate expense, these types of actions cannot be justified nor can they be tolerated," said Green. "This office will pursue all legal remedies necessary to prevent and/or punish such actions."

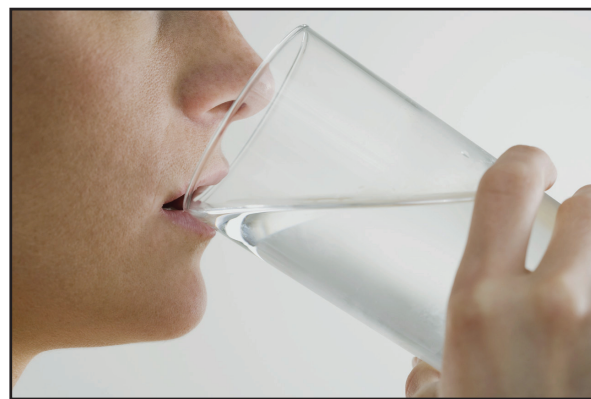
"Hydrochloric acid is a highly corrosive substance. Its release into a tributary of Boggy

Creek was a serious threat to the environment," said Ivan Vikin, special agent-in-charge of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's criminal enforcement program in Oklahoma. "Today's guilty plea demonstrates that companies will be held responsible for environmental crimes."

"The defendant's discharge of hydrochloric acid waste into a tributary of Boggy Creek threatened public health and the environment and required a costly emergency response to minimize harm," said Vikin.

One of the nation's largest independent service providers to the oil and gas industry, IPS facilities are located throughout the U.S. Mid-Continent, Rocky Mountains and Texas.

This case was investigated by the U.S. EPA Criminal Investigation Division and the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office of Inspector General. The case is a joint prosecution between the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Oklahoma and the Environmental Crimes Section of the U.S. Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources Division.



## Two Points of View on Marcellus Water Testing

Subject: Marcellus shale drilling and water quality, October 27, 2011

From: Douglas S. Glazier  
Department of Biology  
Juniata College  
Huntingdon, Pennsylvania

Telephone: 814-641-3584  
E-mail: glazier@juniata.edu  
Web site: <http://faculty.juniata.edu/glazier/>

### Study Looks at Water Quality in Private Wells near Marcellus Drilling

- A study of more than 200 drinking-water wells near Marcellus Shale natural-gas wells in 20 counties did not find statistically significant evidence of contamination from hydraulic fracturing – a process used by gas drillers to release natural gas using a high-pressure mixture of water, sand and chemical additives. The study was conducted by researchers and extension educators in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.
- Read the full story on Live: <http://live.psu.edu/story/55987#nw1>.

### Reply from Deborah J. Nardone, Director Natural Gas Reform Campaign The Sierra Club

Telephone: 814-308-9767  
Email: [deb.nardone@sierraclub.org](mailto:deb.nardone@sierraclub.org)

The Duke study shows something a little different... No contamination of water wells from hydrofracking chemicals but 85% of wells were found to have measurable amounts of methane. Wells located within a kilometer (.621 mile) of active hydrofracked sties had methane levels 17 times higher on average (<http://www.nicholas.duke.edu/cgc/pnas2011.pdf>).

**For anyone living in Gasland:** Anyone living near a potential well site should have baseline methane samples taken prior to drilling.

- Absence of any water test data before drilling makes it very difficult to prove damage has been done.
- If your water supply is greater than 1,000 feet from the gas well site, it is unlikely that any testing will be done for you by the company.
- Arrange for your own test (even if you live within 1,000 feet of well and company tests your water) to confirm results collected by the gas company.
- Test your well within a year before drilling.
- Use a state-accredited water lab.
- Third-party collection of water samples is critical.
- Always test UNTREATED water.
- A good list of what you should sample is at [http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Land/mining/marcellus/Documents/gas\\_well\\_water\\_testing1.pdf](http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Land/mining/marcellus/Documents/gas_well_water_testing1.pdf).

## District Ignores Parents, Approves Exxon Mobil Fracking at School

Submitted by Tom Klein  
Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

By Jonathan Benson  
NaturalNews.com: September 26, 2011

Not a single parent of a student attending a South Butler County School District (SBCSD) school has expressed support for the district's plan to allow Phillips Exxon Mobil (PEM) Corp. to build oil and natural gas drilling wells on school property. But this did not stop the Pennsylvania school district's board members from approving, in a 6 to 2 decision, a lease permitting PEM to build the wells as close as 500 feet from classrooms.

Pennsylvania has become a hotbed of natural gas drilling operations in recent years due to its proximity right over the Marcellus and Utica shale formations, both of which contain large amounts of lucrative natural gas fuel. As a result, formerly-unspoiled land, private property and now public schools, are all becoming infested with drilling machinery and wells, which are a serious threat to environmental and human health ([http://www.naturalnews.com/032358\\_f...](http://www.naturalnews.com/032358_f...)).

"I have concerns that the safety of our children may be compromised," said Heather Rickenbrode, a Penn Township resident and parent of a SBCSD-enrolled child, to Pittsburg Live. "I am personally not willing to gamble my child's health for an education."

At a recent public hearing on the issue, which was not widely announced, a group of local residents expressed serious concerns about allowing "fracking" (hydraulic fracturing) wells to be built so closely to facilities where young children spend much of their time throughout the school year. Since fracking involves the injection of many tons of water and chemicals into the ground – and many accidents have already occurred, resulting in poisoned groundwater and other environmental contamination – it has no place on school property, they say.

SBCSD also has a water well on site that it uses to water the school football field, which represents another problematic factor in the equation. Though the well is not used for drinking water, its possible contamination by fracking chemicals could have devastating effects on the student athletes that use the field for practice and games.

Nevertheless, despite a complete dearth of support from local residents or parents for the project, district officials have approved the fracking lease anyway. If and when drilling wells are built, SBCSD will receive \$3,750 from PEM per acre used, plus an 18 percent royalty fee, according to Pittsburg Live. PEM will also pay SBCSD a \$15,000 fee for every well that it builds.

Sources for this story include <http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/live>.

# 10 Ways to Support the Occupy Movement

By Sarah van Gelder  
YES! Magazine: October 23, 2011

The Occupy Wall Street movement continues to spread with more than 2,000 sites. More and more people are speaking up for a society that works for the 99 percent, not just the 1 percent.

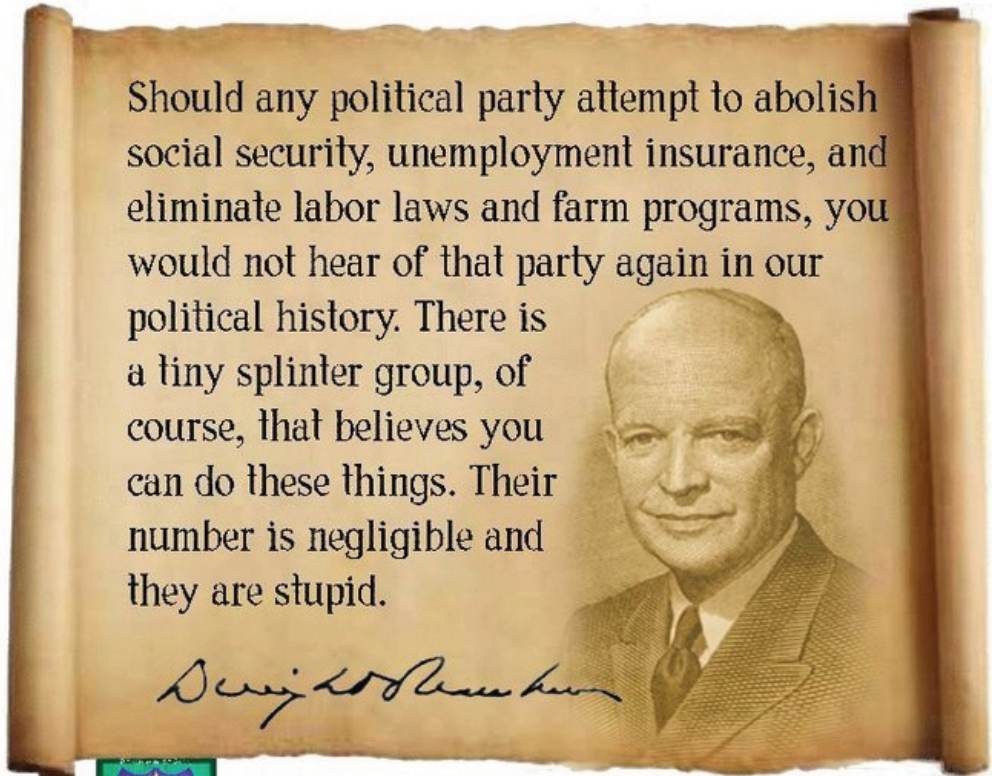
Here are 10 recommendations from the YES! Magazine staff for ways to build the power and momentum of this movement. Only two of them involve sleeping outside.

### 1. Show up at the occupied space near you.

Use <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2011/10/04/1022722/-Occupy-Wall-Street:-List-and-map-of-over-200-US-solidarity-events> and Facebook pages to find the Facebook page of an occupation near you. If you can, bring a tent or tarp and sleeping bag and stay. Or just come for a few hours. Talk to people, participate in a General Assembly, hold a sign, help serve food. Learn about the new world being created in the occupied spaces.

### 2. Start your own occupation.

Use this Meetup site: <http://www.meetup.com/occupytogether/>. Or call together friends, members of your faith group, school or community group. Reach out to people from parts of your community you don't normally work with. Unexpected alliances keep the movement from getting labeled as partisan or representing only some people.



### 3. Support those who are occupying.

Most sites need food, warm clothes, blankets, tarps, sleeping bags, communications gear and money. Many need people to do loads of laundry, to help with medical care, to provide legal support, to serve food and to spread the word. Some people call in pizza orders from nearby vendors. Support the folks at Liberty Square in New York by going to <http://www.nycga.net/how-to-help/> or check in with your local occupiers to see what they need.

### 4. Speak out. Get into the debates and teach-ins.

Many Occupation sites have workshops and discussions on critical issues of our time. Get into the discussion. Bring your expertise and reading materials to share. YES! Magazine is offering free copies of the current New Livelihood issue to occupied sites (request them by emailing [JobsIssue@yesmagazine.org](mailto:JobsIssue@yesmagazine.org)). Bring the discussions to other groups you are part of. Listen to perspectives you haven't heard before. This process represents a critical but under-reported side of the movement: People are shifting from

being passive, frustrated observers of politics to active, powerful players. Instead of waiting for our leaders to do the right thing, people from all walks of life are becoming leaders. It makes us unstoppable.

### 5. Share your story.

Post how you're part of the 99 percent on Facebook, Twitter, blogs or in print. Through this movement, people are discovering others who are also losing jobs and homes, who are overwhelmed by debt or working a dead-end job. Through this sharing, humiliation turns into

compassion and self-respect. And it builds understanding of the sources and the impacts of our crisis: A Wall Street system that funnels wealth to the top 1 percent is leaving the rest of us behind. Community plus insight makes us powerful.

### 6. Be the media.

Show up with your video recorder, camera phone or laptop and share the stories of the occupation. You can download a selection of posters donated by graphic designers and spread them around. Highlight the human dimension of the protests. It is harder for critics to disparage a movement when people see the faces of those involved.

### 7. Name the meaning of this moment.

What will make the world better for the 99 percent? How has the power of the 1 percent gotten in the way of your hopes and dreams? Make a sign, write a blog, update your Facebook page or speak out on the issue that means the most to you. Include the phrase, "I am the 99 percent."

### 8. Insist that officials treat occupations with respect.

The eviction of the Liberty Square occupation on Wall Street was averted by massive public resistance from those in the square and from others. Other occupations also need support. The 99 percent don't have the money, political access and media empires of the 1 percent; the occupations are one of the few ways we are building power. Ask your local officials to respect people's right to assembly.

### 9. Study and teach nonviolent techniques.

There are many examples of outside provocateurs who spark violent incidents that can discredit nonviolent movements such as this. The corporate media is hungry for violent images. (There's already been an example of an admitted provocateur from the right-wing "American Spectator" who provoked pepper spraying at the National Air & Space Museum.) Learn how to lovingly and firmly interrupt and contain violence and teach what you know. Here is one resource: <http://usdayofrage.org/resources-for-non-violent-civil-disobedience-menu/non-violent-civil-disobedience-training-talks.html>.

### 10. Be resilient.

This movement is here for the long term. Some efforts may fade because of cold weather or harsh police responses. Others may self-destruct through faulty process or violent outbreaks. The movement may be idealistic but it won't be ideal. Don't get disillusioned; the demand for a society that serves the 99 percent won't go away. The movement may morph but it has become unstoppable. Help it evolve.

The genie is out of the bottle. People will no longer accept the systematic transfer of wealth and power from We the People to the 1 percent. In this remarkable, leaderless movement, each one of the 99 percent who gets involved helps shape history.

Sarah van Gelder is Executive Editor of YES! Magazine where you can read her blog.

## Gas Drilling Case Study

# A Very Peaceful Existence Until Drillers Came to Town

By Tammy Marie Rose  
Maysel, West Virginia

"We lived a very peaceful existence until this drilling came along," Rose Baker, of the Wetzel County (West Virginia) Action Group, which documents drilling and fracking-related problems in that county states, "I had a very serene life."

Four years ago Marcellus Shale drilling began near her home; now Rose can no longer drink the water from her well. Rose and her neighbors have to keep their taps turned off, as their wells are full of methane and a long list of hazardous chemicals.

Back in November 2008, Baker's neighbor, Bonnie Hall, noticed her water had turned gray and started to smell oddly after a second gas well was drilled near her home. They had the water tested and the results were positive for methane and the toxic chemicals benzene and toluene. Chesapeake Energy and the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection both said the cause was spilled gasoline from her neighbor's property over a mile away. Baker and Hall blame the pollution on the gas well being drilled through their aquifer.

There are 38 well pads within a five-mile radius of Rose Baker's property. There are also three compressor stations and pipelines. Wetzel County sits atop the second largest natural gas deposit in the world.

"We didn't have a problem until they started drilling here," Baker says.

The gas industry disputes the claims of Baker, Hall and others.

The emotional impact of this drilling operation is hard to grasp if you do not live in an area



Gas drilling site in Wetzel County, West Virginia.

Photo by Paul Sands

where drilling is taking place. Rose and Ed Baker have witnessed the destruction of their home, the place where they grew up, the place where they once dreamed of raising their children in the safe and beautiful valleys of Wetzel County.

Another aspect of Marcellus Shale drilling that very few look at is how difficult it becomes to sell property where drilling is taking place. Most West Virginia brokers will turn down the

opportunity to sell land that is being drilled for Marcellus Shale. It is also a difficult task to get lending institutions to talk to you about the specifics of their policies when it comes to approving home loans on property where drilling is taking place.

Rules are on the books for FHA-insured mortgages. They state, "No existing dwelling may be located closer than 300 feet from an active or planned drilling site." Note that this applies to

the site boundary, not to the actual well site.

Another major issue Rose Baker and her family deal with is the large trucks traveling small windy roads that pose a significant threat to citizens and the area has seen numerous accidents. The main reason there have not been any fatalities yet is that the road damage from drilling equipment and trucks is so extensive that people have to drive extremely slowly to keep

from tearing up their vehicles.

Rose and the rest of the Wetzel County Action Group have carefully documented safety concerns by clocking traffic with radar guns. They also use scanners so they can go and take pictures of accidents along the roadways. Though very little has been done to improve roadway conditions, Chesapeake Energy, one of the companies drilling in the area, says they are listening to residents' concerns.

Mike John, Vice President of Corporate Development, told local media that the company created a community advisory panel to address issues. Chesapeake says it has placed more escort vehicles in front of its tankers and trucks and has also increased communication with school bus drivers.

"We have been able to institute piloting of large trucks and school buses and will have spent likely up to \$1.8 million repairing two roads. If we impact the roads we will put them back in a condition that is at least as good or even better than the condition of the road that we found," Johns told local media.

Everyday more residents are registering complaints about property damage, wells tainted by chemicals, noise, bad roads and more. The industry promotes only the few benefits West Virginia gets from Marcellus Shale drilling. Brave people like Rose Baker are bringing forward the consequences far too many are suffering when drilling moves into their area.

The best advice is simple: Know your rights. If you do not know them, then research them. Do not sign any type of contract without having an attorney review it first to ensure your rights and property are protected. The only one who is going to look out for you in the end is you.

**Mission: The Wetzel County Action Group will support economic development for the county and state and work to insure that economic development does not negatively impact the safety, economic interests and quality of life of the Citizens of Wetzel County. Their Web site is <http://www.wcag-wv.org>.**



(left) Anthony Crane blocks road for hours on Route 89 on December 23, 2010. Photo from Wetzel County Action Group. (right) Road in Wetzel County damaged by gas drilling trucks. Photo by Paul Sands



## Alternative to Above: Solar Projects Get Funding

By Joe Stephens and Carol D. Leonnig, excerpt  
Washington Post: September 30, 2011

The Energy Department defied Republican critics by announcing that it had committed an additional \$4.7 billion in loan guarantees toward four big-dollar clean technology projects just hours before the program's funding expired . . .

The Department of Energy closed four deals Friday worth \$4.7 billion as the clock ticked down to a midnight deadline to finalize loans in a controversial pro-

gram causing political problems for the White House. They were:

① A \$1.2 billion loan guarantee for SunPower to build its California Valley Solar Ranch, a utility-scale solar project that will use single-axis trackers controlled by wireless devices to tilt modules to absorb the most sunlight.

② A \$1.4 billion loan guarantee for Project Amp, a rooftop solar-generation project that will support the installation of about 752 megawatts of photovoltaic

solar panels across approximately 750 rooftops owned and managed by Prologis. NRG Energy is the lead investor for the first phase of installations.

③ A \$646 million loan guarantee to Antelope Valley Solar Ranch 1 in Los Angeles County, a thin-film solar-generation project recently acquired by Exelon. The project will feature inverters with voltage regulation and monitoring technologies that are new to the U.S. market. The inverters increase reliability of large-scale solar-power plants. Antelope Valley gets support from a power-purchase agreement to sell the power it

will generate to Pacific Gas & Electric.

④ \$1.5 billion in partial guarantee to support two phases of the Desert Sunlight project, which is slated to be one of the world's largest solar photovoltaic plants and will be located on federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in Riverside County, California. Phase I will generate 300 megawatts of power, which will be sold to Pacific Gas & Electric; Phase II will generate 250 megawatts of power, which will be sold to Southern California Edison.



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Photo by Sky Truth/Resource Media  
Network of roads and well pads in the Jonah natural gas field, 35 miles south of the town of Pinedale, Wyoming.

## U.S. Supreme Court Ends Bush-Era Grazing Regulations

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 3, 2011 (ENS) — The U.S. Supreme Court today denied consideration of an appeal by the Public Lands Council of previous federal court decisions overturning Bureau of Land Management (BLM) grazing regulations promulgated during the George W. Bush administration.

The decision affects over 160 million acres of public land in 11 Western states.

The Public Lands Council, which represents livestock ranchers who use public lands, was an intervenor in successful litigation brought by Western Watersheds Project, an Idaho-based conservation organization.

Western Watersheds Project had filed the litigation that overturned the Bush BLM livestock grazing regulations in federal District Court in Idaho in 2006.

On September 1, 2010 the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously upheld the Idaho District Court's decision overturning the Bush era grazing regulations as violating the National Environmental Policy Act and the Endangered Species Act.

With this ruling, the appellate court affirmed the 1995 BLM livestock grazing regulations created by the Clinton administration and then-Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt.

The Bureau of Land Management did not appeal the prior court decisions supporting Western Watersheds Project legal position.

"This decision by the Supreme Court stops forever the Bush administration's attempt to roll back the conservation-based livestock grazing regulations of the Clinton administration," said Jon Marvel, executive director of Western Watersheds Project (WWP).

"Perhaps now the BLM will embrace the conservation intent of the 1995 grazing regulations," Marvel said.

The overturned BLM livestock grazing regulations would have greatly reduced public involvement in the administra-

tion of livestock production on Western public lands, while creating new property rights for ranchers for water rights and range installations.

This has been a good week for Western Watersheds Project in the courts.

In Idaho federal district court on September 28<sup>th</sup>, Chief Judge B. Lynn Winmill issued an order overturning the Bureau of Land Management's Resource Management Plans for the Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve in Idaho and the Pinedale Field Office in Wyoming. These two plans affect management on more than 2.5 million acres of public land.

The two Resource Management Plans are test cases for all 16 Resource Management Plans (RMPs) being challenged by Western Watersheds Project.

Judge Winmill ruled that the BLM did not fulfill the agency's legal obligations to properly consider the negative environmental impacts of oil and gas development and livestock grazing on wildlife in the two management areas, particularly the greater sage grouse.

The BLM has designated the greater sage-grouse as a "sensitive" species under the agency's 2001 Special Status Species Policy. This policy requires that sensitive species be afforded, at a minimum, the same protections as candidate species for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

In his ruling concerning the Pinedale Field Office, Judge Winmill notes that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), "... issued a decision on January 6, 2005, deciding not to list the sage grouse under the ESA. Following a challenge by WWP, this Court held that the FWS failed to rely on the best science and was influenced by a political appointee who intimidated the scientists in an attempt to block listing." That ruling came in the 2007 case of WWP v. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

In his ruling, the judge pointed to oil and gas development as

well as grazing as factors in the steep decline of sage grouse populations in the Pinedale RMP area.

Quoting the BLM's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Pinedale, the ruling states, "By 2004, about 61 percent of the federal mineral estate in the Pinedale Field Office was covered by oil and gas leases."

"The Pinedale Anticline Project Area saw an increase in natural gas production of 94% between 2001 and 2006. In another area of the Pinedale Field Office, where the Jonah Infill Project was approved, the BLM authorized in 2006 the drilling of about 3,100 new wells at a rate of approximately 250 wells per year for 12 years," the judge quoted.

To illustrate the dangers of grazing on Craters of the Moon National Monument, Judge Winmill quotes a 2006 Environmental Impact Statement approved by the BLM and the National Park Service. "The EIS succinctly captured the relationship between fire, weeds and grazing: fire creates ideal conditions for cheatgrass establishment and cheatgrass is highly flammable. The spread of cheatgrass is exacerbated when the native perennial grass and forb community is weakened as a result of heavy livestock grazing," he wrote.

"The EIS noted a 36% decrease in active leks [male sage grouse mating groups] in the last 25 years in the Monument and a 64% decrease in the last 60 years. The EIS concluded that a "major contributing factor in the decline of sage grouse numbers is livestock grazing," the judge wrote.

"This case will resonate in many ways including, in particular, the failure of the BLM to consider overall cumulative effects of all permitted activities and all impacts on greater sage grouse," said the Western Watersheds Project in a statement. "The Order also strongly addresses failure of the BLM to comply with its own sensitive species policy and its national sage grouse conservation policy."

# Gas-Drilling Resources

## Food & Water Watch: Ban-Fracking Toolkit

A nationwide effort to ban fracking has been launched by Food & Water Watch. Download a free toolkit for grassroots activism at [www.foodandwaterwatch.org](http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org). The kit includes Ban Fracking petitions and directions on how to use them; half-sheet, colored Ban Fracking flyers with persuasive facts; two booklets called "How to Get Your Resolution Passed to Ban Fracking" and "Not So Fast, Natural Gas: Why Accelerating Risky Drilling Threatens America's Water."

Contact: Katy Kieffer, Outreach Organizer; Phone: 202-683-4939 Email: [kkieffer@fwwatch.org](mailto:kkieffer@fwwatch.org)  
Address: 1616 P Street NW, #300, Washington D.C. 20036.

## Responsible Drilling Alliance (RDA)

RDA is a grassroots, all-volunteer group of dedicated citizens who have formed an alliance and welcome members with the widest possible concerns, interests and ideologies. RDA membership includes parents and grandparents, students, business people, hunters, fishermen, farmers, hikers, teachers, truckers, those who have leased their land to a gas company and those who refused.

Email: [info@responsibledrillingalliance.org](mailto:info@responsibledrillingalliance.org) Web site: <http://www.responsibledrillingalliance.org>  
Address: Responsible Drilling Alliance, Box 502, Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17703

## Protecting Our Waters (POW)

Protecting Our Waters is a Philadelphia-based grassroots alliance committed to protecting the Delaware River Basin, the state of Pennsylvania and our region from unconventional gas drilling and other threats to our drinking water, environment and public health. A fund has been created enabling landowners to perform baseline testing of private water wells.

We call for a MORATORIUM on shale gas drilling in Pennsylvania at least until:

- New Pennsylvania wastewater treatment requirements for shale-gas-drilling waste are in place and enforced;
- An Environmental Impact Statement has been completed for Pennsylvania;
- All federal exemptions for hydraulic fracturing are lifted: Safe Drinking Water Act, Clean Water Act and Clean Air Act; and
- The Environmental Protection Agency study is complete.

Email: [protectingourwaters@gmail.com](mailto:protectingourwaters@gmail.com) Web site: [protectingourwaters.wordpress.com](http://protectingourwaters.wordpress.com)

Address: 4808 Windsor Avenue Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19143 Phone: 215-840-6489

## EARTHWORKS

EARTHWORKS is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting communities and the environment from the destructive impacts of mineral development in the U.S. and worldwide. We work with communities and grassroots groups to reform government policies, improve corporate practices, influence investment decisions and encourage responsible materials sourcing and consumption.

Email: [info@earthworksaction.org](mailto:info@earthworksaction.org) Web site: [earthworksaction.org](http://earthworksaction.org)  
Address: 1612 K St., NW, Suite 808, Washington, D.C. 20006 Phone: 202-887-1872

## The Endocrine Disruption Exchange (TEDX)

(Information about fracking chemicals and free DVD called "What You Need to Know About Natural Gas Drilling")

The TEDX List of Potential Endocrine Disruptors is at [www.endocrinedisruption.org](http://www.endocrinedisruption.org). Every chemical on the TEDX List has one or more verified citations to published, accessible, primary scientific research demonstrating effects on the endocrine system. To download the TEDX list go to <http://www.endocrinedisruption.com/endocrine.TEDXList.overview.php>

Web site: [www.endocrinedisruption.com](http://www.endocrinedisruption.com) Address: P.O. Box 1407, Paonia, Colorado 81428  
Phone: 970-527-4082

## Fracking Chemicals Disclosure Registry

FracFocus.org is the hydraulic fracturing chemical registry Web site, a joint project of the Ground Water Protection Council and the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission. On this site you can search for information about the chemicals used in the hydraulic fracturing of oil and gas wells. You will also find educational materials designed to help you put this information in perspective.

## Marcellus Drilling News

Jim Willis creates this news wire. He is not opposed to drilling but he has very good daily reports: [marcellusdrilling.com](http://marcellusdrilling.com).

## Fractracker-Post Gazette Collaboration

An exciting collaboration between FracTracker and the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (PG) called 'Pipeline' helps inform the PG's readership about the issues surrounding natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale region. For this project, FracTracker's DataTool provides a platform for data collection and map creation. You will find blog articles, raw data and thematic maps related to the Marcellus Shale gas extraction industry in Pennsylvania organized into the following categories: **Industry Violations, Farming and Agriculture, Vulnerable Populations and Wastewater Management.**

The Pittsburgh Post Gazette (PG) and Fractracker blog and data tools are linked. The PG site <http://shale.sites.post-gazette.com/> is running and the Center for Healthy Environments and Communities of the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh is running a mirror end on their blog-data site at <http://www.fractracker.org/p/pg-pipeline.html>. You will see permits and violations, too.

## MarcellusProtest.org

Excellent Web site. Especially good (but terrifying) to see are the Pipeline Explosions videos. Also the Fraccidents Map prepared by EarthJustice. Go to Resources and scroll down to Frac Accidents Map. Along with the gas rush have come troubling reports of poisoned drinking water, polluted air, mysterious animal deaths, industrial disasters and explosions. We call them "Fraccidents."

**Water Resources at Stake: Delaware, Monongahela and Susquehanna Rivers**

Governor Tom Corbett (Pennsylvania) accepted nearly \$1 million from oil and gas companies during his political campaigns and, since assuming office in 2011, promptly began repaying his benefactors by cutting down on environmental enforcement and oversight of gas drilling activities. As of September 14, 2011, the map had 70 locations with details about fracking accidents across the country. Click on "View Fraccidents Map" and a sidebar will pop up on your left listing many communities in Pennsylvania and elsewhere. Click on the town/accident you want to learn about and a description of the accident will be visible.

## Money Influencing Fracking Policy

Common Cause/NY released its report (Deep Drilling, Deep Pockets: Lobbying Expenditures) to shed some light on the amount of money the natural gas industry is spending to influence public policy in New York State. Read the report at: <http://www.commoncause.org/site/pp.asp?c=dkLNK1MQIwG&b=6721533>.

Contact: Deanna Bitetti, Associate Director  
Address: Common Cause/New York, 74 Trinity Place, #901, New York, New York 10006  
Phone: 212-691-6421 Ext. 203 Blackberry: 917-751-2342 Fax: 212-807-1809

## www.PAForestCoalition.org

Excellent email updates and analyses of current drilling issues. Also has link to Republicans for Environmental Protection at <http://www.repamerica.org>.

## List of Gas Drilling/Fracking Bans and Moratoria Globally

Created and maintained by Joe Hoff, Keuka Citizens Against Hydrofracking. To get on this long and impressive list, email Joe at [jhoffefact@aol.com](mailto:jhoffefact@aol.com).

## Testing Drinking Water Supplies Near Gas Drilling Activity

Comprehensive four-page report on what people need to know about testing their drinking water before drilling. Published by the School of Forest Resources at Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences Cooperative Extension. Contact <http://extension.psu.edu/water> to get the most recent version.

## Fracking Foes Unite! Database

Earth News publisher, Iona Conner, is creating a database of people who are opposed to fracking. You will receive occasional notices of the most important events or news stories but you will not be hammered with trivia. If you or your group would like to be on this e-list, please contact Iona at [ionaconner@pa.net](mailto:ionaconner@pa.net), 814-259-3680 or 21431 Marlin Circle, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255.



## Masters of the Universe, Unite!

Cartoon by Khalil Bendib



## PACIFIC ISLAND NATIONS DECLARE DROUGHT EMERGENCY

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, October 5, 2011 (ENS) — A joint New Zealand and United States operation is underway to provide emergency water supplies to the drought-stricken Pacific islands of Tokelau, a New Zealand territory with 1,500 inhabitants. Surrounded by rising seas due to climate change and entirely dependent on rain for drinking water, a severe La Niña weather pattern in the Pacific region has resulted in very low rainfall on many islands. On the weekend, the Tokelau government joined the island nation of Tuvalu in declaring a state of drought emergency.

“Tokelau is entirely reliant on rainwater collection and is therefore severely impacted when drought conditions occur. Current information suggests there’s less than a week’s supply,” New Zealand Foreign Affairs Minister Murray McCully said today.

An aircraft will leave Royal New Zealand Air Force Base Ohakea early tomorrow carrying supplies and personnel to Pago Pago, American Samoa. The supplies being flown up include 12 large, empty military water storage containers.

In Pago Pago, the New Zealand team will rendezvous with the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Walnut. It has an on-board water desalination plant, which has filled its water tanks providing approximately 35,930 gallons of water.

The Coast Guard vessel will travel to Tokelau’s three main atolls to deliver the water. New Zealand estimates that this, plus current stocks, will be a sufficient supply in the short term. “The situation in Tokelau is very serious and this immediate action is required to ensure the safe supply of drinking water for the 1,500 residents – all of whom are New Zealand citizens,” said McCully.

Tokelau consists of three tiny coral atolls located about 300 miles north of Samoa. Each atoll, lying three to five meters (10 to 16 feet) above sea level, is made up of a number of reef-bound islets encircling a lagoon – a total of 127 islets in all. Each atoll contains one village spread across one or two islets. Remote Tokelau has no airport; visitors must fly to Apia, Samoa and then travel by boat to Tokelau.

The Apia-based general manager for the Tokelau government, Jo Suveinakama, told Radio New Zealand that there is only about a

week’s supply of drinking water on the three atolls.

Suveinakama said freight deliveries from Samoa have brought bottled water and some supplies to top up community water tanks, enough to last a week. Schools are still operating though pupils have to use toilets in private homes because of the lack of water, he said – most government services are on hold.

McCully said, “We thank our American friends for their willingness to assist and the speed at which the Walnut is able to be deployed. This operation demonstrates the importance of New Zealand and U.S. cooperation in the Pacific region.”

New Zealand also is responding to the ongoing water shortage emergency in Tuvalu, a New Zealand-administered territory with fewer than 11,000 residents. “Repairs are underway to the main desalination plant on Funafuti and a desalination plant and Red Cross personnel arrived on the worst affected island of Nukulaelae this morning,” said McCully today.

Two days ago Nukulaelae had just 60 liters (16 gallons) of drinking water left for 330 people. “Early this morning the Tuvalu naval vessel landed the Red Cross and their desalination plant and they were up and running and providing water to the people in the most desperate need,” said Gareth Smith, New Zealand High Commissioner to Tuvalu. New Zealand is considering more aid to Nukulaelae as the island is also experiencing a food shortage.

In Samoa, officials at the Samoa Water Authority said last week that streams and rivers across the country have dried up and serious problems will arise if the drought in Samoa continues.

Samoaans are advised to conserve water until the situation returns to normal but the drought could mean the disruption of activities on plantations and cattle ranches. Most of the islands’ water catchments are less than a quarter full and rationing is now part of daily life. In August, the government in Samoa began drilling new boreholes for drinking water while trucking bottled water to thirsty villages.

McCully said, “New Zealand continues to monitor the Pacific drought situation closely and stands ready to provide further assistance if required.”



Photo courtesy Alfred-Wegener-Institut, Germany

This aerial photograph shows the research icebreaker Polarstern at the North Pole, where Arctic sea ice is getting thinner.

## Arctic Sea Ice Getting Thinner

Research voyage yields solid data on Arctic sea ice loss.

By Bob Berwyn

Summit Voice: October 9, 2011

SUMMIT COUNTY, Colorado — Old, thick sea ice that helps sustain a long-term ice cover in the Arctic is disappearing, according to researchers with the Alfred Wegener Institute who recently sailed more than 12,000 miles through Arctic seas aboard the Polarstern to investigate ice loss and related issues. In the central Arctic, the ice cover now largely consists of thin, one-year-old floes.

As part of their research, the team of 130 scientists aboard the research ship wanted to determine whether the Arctic sea ice melted to a greater or lesser extent than in previous years.

“The ice has not recovered. This summer it appears to have melted to exactly the same degree as in 2007 ... it is exactly as thin as in the record year,” said Stefan

Hendricks.

Measuring the extent of the sea ice is relatively simple using satellite images but gaining a clear picture of ice thickness and total mass is more challenging. During this summer’s research, the scientists used a helicopter to deploy a probe that measured ice thickness by electromagnetic induction.

The sea ice physicists concluded that, at sites where the sea ice was mainly composed of old, thicker ice floes in the past decades, there is now primarily one-year-old ice with an average thickness of just 90 centimeters (35 inches). The scientists found old, thick ice in only two areas: The Canadian Basin and near the Severnaya Zemlya island group in northern Siberia. As a rule, the old ice is between two and five meters thick (six-and-a-half feet to 16 feet).

The researchers detected significant differences in places where ice was lacking this summer – in the Laptev Sea, for example.

“On our expedition in 2007

we encountered thin, newly-formed ice in the Laptev Sea in September. This time, however, there was no sign of ice formation anywhere. The water temperature at a depth of ten meters (32 feet) was three degrees Celsius – that is how much the sun had heated the ice-free water surface,” said Prof. Dr. Ursula Schauer, scientific head of the leg through the central Arctic. However, this warming is restricted only to the top layers. In the depths of the Arctic Ocean colder water from the Atlantic currently provides for falling water temperatures.

The sea-ice physicists also made big strides in answering questions about how much sunlight penetrates the Arctic ice. Changes in sea-ice thickness and extent also have direct consequences for the ecosystem of the Arctic Ocean. The reason is that the edges of the ice sheets create a biological hotspot, where algae thrives. It’s not clear yet whether the Arctic Ocean will become more productive because of the decline in ice and the related increase in light.

Scientists like Dr. Ilka Peeken therefore investigated the biology of the algae not only in the sea ice but also in the melt ponds and in the water column under the ice. The initial results point to regional differences – in the Atlantic part of the central Arctic, the algae biomass and carbon intake (both in the ice and in the melt ponds and water column) were significantly higher than in the Pacific section.

This also applies similarly to the climate-relevant trace gas methane, which may form during algal bloom. Measurements by the biogeochemists headed by Dr. Ellen Damm showed that the formation and release of the greenhouse gas are influenced by which region of the Arctic Ocean is seasonally ice-free. In addition, the researchers succeeded for the first time in verifying how much methane is oxidized to carbon dioxide in the ice.

**Summit County Citizens Voice** ([www.summitvoice.org](http://www.summitvoice.org)) is an independent source for environmental news in Colorado and the Rocky Mountains.

## New Film About Canada’s Tar Sands Oil: 'White Water, Black Gold'



Canada is the number one foreign supplier of oil to the United States, a fact little known in America. Most of the oil imported comes from the Tar Sands of Northern Alberta, the second largest known oil reserve in the world outside of Saudi Arabia.

But this is not a traditional oil field. The oil must be extracted and processed from the sands at a significant environmental cost – requiring huge quantities of a diminishing fresh water supply and large amounts of energy that contribute to global warming.

“White Water, Black Gold” follows David Lavallee on his three-year journey across Western Canada in search of the truth about the impact of

the world’s thirstiest oil industry. This is a journey of jarring contrasts, from the pristine mountain ice fields that are the source of the industry’s water, to the Tar Sands tailing ponds, where thousands of migrating birds have unwittingly landed and died.

Both government and industry spokespeople deny any cause for concern but, in the course of his journey, Lavallee, backed by university scientists, makes a number of discoveries that challenge that assessment and raise serious concerns for Canada and the United States.

Native peoples living downstream are contracting unusual cancers, new science shows that water resources in

an era of climate change will be increasingly scarce, the proposed upgrading of the oilfields could endanger multiple river systems across Canada that make up about half of its water supply and a planned oil pipeline across British Columbia brings fresh threats to rivers, salmon and the Pacific Ocean.

“White Water, Black Gold” is a sober look at the untold costs associated with developing this major oil deposit and raises important questions about how much environmental damage we’re willing to tolerate to feed our oil appetite.

**Running Time:** 64 minutes. Grades 7-Adult. “Highlights the indescribable beauty

of the region and how it is being threatened by industry and carelessness.” (*Earth Times*)

Winner 2011 John Muir Award, Yosemite Film Festival; Official Selection Projecting Change Film Festival; Tipping Man Film Festival; Planet in Focus Film Festival; World Community Film Festival.

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## Bombshell: State Department Outsources Tar Sands Pipeline Environmental Impact Study to 'Major' TransCanada Contractor

Game Rigged – Environmental Impact Statement should be invalidated.

By Joe Romm

Climate Progress: October 10, 2011

The State Department assigned an important environmental impact study of the proposed Keystone XL pipeline to a company with financial ties to the pipeline operator, flouting the intent of a federal law meant to ensure an impartial environmental analysis of major projects.

The Department allowed TransCanada, the company seeking permission to build the 1,700-mile pipeline from the oil sands of northern Alberta to the Gulf Coast in Texas, to solicit and screen bids for the environmental study. At TransCanada’s rec-

ommendation, the department hired Cardno Entrix, an environmental contractor based in Houston, even though it had previously worked on projects with TransCanada and describes the pipeline company as a “major client” in its marketing materials.

While it is common for federal agencies to farm out Environmental Impact Studies, legal experts said they were surprised the State Department was not more circumspect about the potential for real and perceived conflicts of interest on such a large and controversial project.

John D. Echeverria, an expert on environmental law, referred to the process as “outsourcing government responsibility.”

The subsequent study, released at the end of August, found that the massive pipeline would have “limited adverse environmental impacts” if operated according to regulations. That positive assess-

ment removed one of the last hurdles for approval of the proposed pipeline.

That’s from a stunning *New York Times* story today, “Pipeline Review Is Faced With Question of Conflict.”

Bill McKibben, of Tar Sands Action, tells me, “This is a crime still in progress. The surveillance camera has caught a clear image of the thieves and now we’ll see if the sheriff does anything about it or looks the other way.”

I think this is such a grotesque violation of due diligence that the entire Environmental Impact Statement should be invalidated and the process should begin anew. That’s particularly the case here because as *The New York Times* reports:

**THE BOTTOM LINE IS THAT, IF THE STATE DEPARTMENT DOESN’T WITHDRAW THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, THEY CAN, SHOULD AND NO DOUBT WILL BE SUED.**

“The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which took effect in 1970, allows for agencies to hire outside contractors to perform its required Environmental Impact Studies but advises that contractors be chosen “solely by the lead agency” and should “execute a disclosure statement” specifying that they “have no financial or other interest in the outcome of the project.”

Obviously Cardno Entrix has financial or other interest in making sure that TransCanada gets its pipeline.

Oliver A. Houck, a law professor at Tulane University and an expert on NEPA, said Cardno Entrix should never have been selected to perform the environmental study on Keystone XL because of its relationship with

TransCanada and the potential to garner more work involving the pipeline. The company provides a wide range of services, including assisting in oil spill response.

Cardno Entrix had a “financial interest in the outcome of the project,” Mr. Houck said, adding, “Their primary loyalty is getting this project through, in the way the client wants.”

This isn’t the first such charge leveled at the State Department.

The State Department has also faced charges of political conflict of interest over its handling of the Keystone XL application because TransCanada’s chief Washington lobbyist, Paul Elliott, was a top official in Hillary Rodham Clinton’s 2008 presidential campaign.

Cardno Entrix officials referred all questions about its participation to the State Department. Cardno Entrix did submit a disclosure statement acknowledging that it was paid \$2.9 mil-

lion to handle the environmental review of an earlier pipeline in the Keystone network. It did not mention another project it had done for TransCanada, consulting on a natural gas pipeline that runs through Wyoming, Montana and North Dakota.

The bottom line is that, if the State Department doesn’t withdraw the Environmental Impact Statement, they can, should and no doubt will be sued.

“Generally,” Houck said, “lead agencies are very cautious about finding someone who is going to give them good, reliable, information because they are the ones that are going to get sued.”

And at the very least that could hold up the pipeline for a while, until we have a president who understands the urgent need to stop building huge amounts of infrastructure that lock us into ever-rising greenhouse gases.

## Federal Judge Wants to Scrap Oregon Logging Plan

PORTLAND, Oregon, September 30, 2011 (ENS) — A federal judge Thursday recommended vacating a plan that would have opened up federal public lands in western Oregon to clear-cut logging.

The Bush-era plan, called the Western Oregon Plan Revisions — known as WOPR and pronounced 'whopper' — would have increased logging on about 2.6 million acres of forests in Oregon managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

The ruling came in a lawsuit filed by public interest law firms Earthjustice and Western Environmental Law Center on behalf of eight conservation and commercial fishing organizations.

"The judge confirmed what everyone's been saying for years — that BLM took an illegal shortcut to avoid scientific scrutiny of its plan," said Kristen Boyles, an attorney with Earthjustice.

"This decision will finally clear the decks of the flawed WOPR process, return these public forests to scientifically-sound management and let us move forward with both timber harvest and environmental protection," said Boyles.

The ruling by U.S. Magistrate Judge Dennis Hubel found that WOPR was finalized without the required evaluation of federal fish and wildlife scientists on its impacts on threatened and endangered species. Judge Hubel recommended that WOPR be vacated, a ruling that would reinstate the standards and requirements of the Northwest Forest Plan, adopted in April 1994.

Judge Hubel's decision is not final; there will be a brief period of time for the parties to raise any objections before a separate, reviewing district court judge.

WOPR covers the Western Oregon BLM Districts of Salem, Eugene, Roseburg, Coos Bay and Medford, and the Klamath Falls Resource Area of the Lakeview District.

Present in the WOPR area are species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act, including northern spotted owls, marbled murrelets and salmon and steelhead populations.

"Protecting these forests is key to recovering Oregon salmon and steelhead," said Chris Frissell, director of science and conservation for Pacific Rivers Council, one of the plaintiff groups. "BLM's original decision to issue WOPR was a legal and scientific mistake that we've finally been able to undo."

"This should be the final chapter in the WOPR saga and open the door to balanced forest management," said Joseph Vaile of Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center. "These public forests protect our climate, pro-

duce clean water and sustain world-class salmon runs and recreational opportunities that contribute to Oregon's diverse economy."

WOPR has been controversial since 2003, when the Bush administration settled a long-dormant timber industry lawsuit with the promise to issue a new plan that increased logging. WOPR was issued in late December 2008.

The plan revision was administratively withdrawn in 2009 by the Obama administration but several timber industry organizations, including Douglas Timber Operators and the Carpenters Industrial Council, filed suit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to challenge BLM's withdrawal.

Earlier this year, the D.C. court ruled that the withdrawal was invalid — a decision that reinstated the original Western Oregon Plan Revisions. The timber industry plaintiffs then called on the Bureau of Land Management to begin selling the 500 million board feet of timber each year that WOPR allows. They said Oregon lumber mills had to curtail production for shortage of logs, throwing people out of work.

But in the Portland court before Judge Hubel, lawyers for BLM admitted that the logging plan illegally ignored requirements designed to protect endangered species and their forest habitats.

While loggers and millworkers may be out of work, Judge Hubel's recommendation is good for the fishing industry, said Glen Spain of Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, one of the plaintiff groups.

"It's a good day for commercial fishing families and all the businesses up and down the Oregon coast that depend on our salmon, clean water and fresh air," said Spain. "WOPR was always a bad idea and would have been disastrous for our industry and our jobs."

"Old growth forests with clean, healthy streams drive Oregon's economic engine and prosperity," said Doug Heiken of Oregon Wild, a plaintiff group. "With WOPR and its flawed premises out of the way, we can fully commit to restoration thinning of these forests in a way that is supported by sound science and that protects the water, air, fish and wildlife."

Plaintiffs in the case include: Pacific Rivers Council, Oregon Wild, Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center, The Wilderness Society, Cascadia Wildlands, Center for Biological Diversity, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, Institute for Fisheries Resources and Umpqua Watersheds.



Photo by Theresa Darling  
The Allegheny NATIONAL Forest (above) belongs to all of us yet gas drillers are going to ruin it for us all. Photographer Terry Darling was one of the first people to educate the publisher of this newspaper about the harmful effects of gas drilling in the forest four years ago.

## Decision Upheld to Fast-Track Drilling in Allegheny Forest

By Dee Fulton  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette  
September 26, 2011

The 3<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled to uphold the 2009 District court decision to block the U.S. Forest Service's attempt to enact conservative policy on permitting drilling in the Allegheny National Forest. The Forest Service enacted a policy that called for a multiyear environmental review to assess impacts prior to allowing drilling in the forest. The *Post Gazette* reported that, "Mineral rights owners, joined by oil and gas companies, filed suit and won an injunction that ordered the Forest Service to return to its previous policy of managing drilling in a 'cooperative process' that allowed mineral rights owners to give the agency 60 days' notice of drilling plans."

It was the opinion of Judge Jane Roth that the forest service had overstepped its authority by essentially creating a permitting process and that the forest service policy disadvantaged the owners of mineral rights tied to forest land because of the way Pennsylvania oil and gas law is structured. In Pennsylvania, the "rule of capture" allows for the draining of gas from adjacent land when the reservoir being tapped spans property lines. In

other words, this rule creates a competitive race to see who can get to the gas first.

Read more: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/11269/1177018-499-0.stm?cmpid=newspanel4#ixzzLZ7a3IPQX>.

### Energy Exploration in Pennsylvania Emerges Victorious

Mountain States Legal Foundation  
Press Release: September 20, 2011

DENVER, Colorado — Energy operators in Pennsylvania celebrated today's decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in Philadelphia that affirmed a ruling by a Pennsylvania federal district court. In December 2009, the federal district court barred the U.S. Forest Service from implementing a settlement agreement with three environmental groups, prohibited the agency from conducting studies on the use of privately owned oil, gas and mineral rights beneath the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) and lifted a moratorium by the agency on oil and gas drilling in the ANF.

Minard Run Oil Company and the Pennsylvania Independent Oil and Gas Association won the ruling after the June 2009 filing of a lawsuit, a three-

day hearing in Erie, Pennsylvania in August and post-hearing briefs. Both are represented by a legal team of Mountain States Legal Foundation (MSLF), the Washington, D.C. law firm of Crowell and Moring and the Wolford Law Firm of Erie. They argued that the settlement agreement, following a 2008 lawsuit, to do National Environmental Policy Act studies, is illegal.

"We are pleased with the ruling by the three-judge panel; the judges understand that the illegal sweetheart deal we overturned upset thirty years of legal precedent," said William Perry Pendley, MSLF president.

The ANF, which covers 500,000 acres in Elk, Forest, McKean and Warren Counties in northwestern Pennsylvania, comprises lands that were once privately owned and were purchased under the 1911 Weeks Act during the 1920s. Because the United States bought only the surface estate, most of the mineral rights in the ANF are privately owned. Thus, there is no contractual basis for any federal government regulatory authority over outstanding oil, gas and mineral (OGM) rights in the ANF.

Although, under Pennsylvania law, owners of OGM estates have the right to go onto the surface to access their property and

to use as much of the surface as necessary to remove it, the law provides for accommodation; therefore, OGM rights must be exercised with "due regard" for the interests of surface owners.

That the United States owns the surface does not change the law. In accordance with the Forest Service Manual, the Forest Service has only limited rights as to the use of OGM rights within the ANF. This was recognized by a Pennsylvania federal district court in a 1980 ruling.

For decades, the Forest Service adhered to the law and its policy and responded to an operator's 60-day notice of its plans with consultations and a notice to proceed. A notice to proceed, however, is not a decision to allow oil and gas development because the Forest Service has no regulatory power over OGM rights. In 2007, the Forest Service began to reverse this policy.

Mountain States Legal Foundation, founded in 1977, is a nonprofit, public-interest legal foundation dedicated to individual liberty, the right to own and use property, limited and ethical government and the free enterprise system. Its offices are in suburban Denver, Colorado.

Citation: Minard Run Oil Company v. United States Forest Service, No. 10-1265 (3rd Cir.)

## Rwanda Wins Gold for Forest Conservation Blueprint

By Stephen Leahy, excerpt

UXBRIDGE, Canada, September 26, 2011 (IPS) — Government policies are seldom lauded, yet Rwanda's forest policy has resulted in a 37-percent increase in forest cover on a continent better known for deforestation and desertification.

Rwanda's National Forest Policy has also resulted in reduced erosion, improved local water supplies and livelihoods, while helping ensure peace in a country still recovering from the 1994 genocide.

Now Rwanda can also be known as the winner of the prestigious Future Policy Award for 2011.

"Rwanda has sought not only to make its forests a national priority but has also used them as a platform to revolutionize its stances on women's rights and creating a healthy environment," said Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and founder of the Green Belt Movement.

She issued a statement for the award ceremony in New York City last week just days before her death from cancer in Nairobi at the age of 71. "Rwanda has been a very divided country since the 1994 genocide but this policy is helping to bring peace and value to the people," said Alexandra Wandel, director of the World Future Council, which administers the Future Policy Awards.



Credit: Ted Buracas/public domain

The World Future Council is an international policy research organization based in Hamburg, Germany that provides decision-makers with effective policy solutions.

"Our aim is to inspire other countries to adapt these successful policies to their individual needs," Wandel told IPS. This year's award celebrates the UN Year of the Forest and highlights the critical importance of forests around the world — and especially for the 1.6 billion people who directly depend on

them, she said.

Some 20 forest-related policies were submitted this year. Rwanda's National Forest Policy was awarded the gold while The Gambia's Community Forest Policy and the U.S. Lacey Act and 2008 amendment received the Silver Awards. An international panel of experts selected the winners based on policies that were the most effective in the conservation and sustainable development of forests for the benefit of current and future generations.

The evaluation criteria for the best forest policies are wide-ranging, including delivering essential benefits to local people now and in the long term, said Jan McAlpine, director of the UN Forum on Forests Secretariat and one of the judges.

"The panel (of experts) receives a detailed analysis of the effectiveness of the policies that has been 'peer-reviewed' by Non-Governmental Organizations and others," McAlpine told IPS. "It's rare that a coun-

try gets complimented for doing something good."

The biggest threats to forests are oil palm, cattle and agriculture such as soy production, she said. Forest policies in most countries need to be changed, usually because they are focussed on timber production or on conservation and don't consider forests as key parts of the ecological, social and economic landscape, she said.

There is "huge interest in looking at good policies that are replicable," she said. "It is very impressive what the World Future Council is doing." This year, Rwanda's forest policy was the hands-down winner. "It's quite stunning what they've accomplished," said McAlpine.

Despite enormous land pressures from a growing population, Rwanda was able to increase forest cover 37 percent since 1990. Massive reforestation and planting activities that promoted indigenous species and involved the local population were undertaken and new measures such as agro-forestry and education about forest management.

Rwanda's forest policy has brought a range of benefits, including a better water supply, reduction in erosion, improved livelihoods and better quality of life overall. The goal is to cover 30 percent of the country in forest by 2020.

"There was a strong consensus in selecting Rwanda's Na-

tional Forest Policy in a continent where the prospects for forests are generally bad," said Wandel. "The jury was also impressed by Rwanda's land tenure reforms, including giving women equal rights to inherit land." Rwanda's success gives hope for other countries, she said.

Africa's The Gambia won silver for its innovative policy of handing control of forests to the communities that use them. Despite being one of the world's poorest countries, Gambia's Community Forest Policy has reduced illegal logging and resulted in a net 8.5 percent more forest cover while reducing poverty.

"The policy has led to the development of new markets for dead branch wood and other forest products which benefit women and rural populations economically," Wandel said.

The other silver went to the U.S. for its criminally-enforceable ban on importation of illegal timber, called the Lacey Act. The U.S. is the first country to address the major global problem of illegal logging that results in corruption and environmental damage and costs producer countries billions of dollars in lost revenue.

The Lacey Act and its 2008 amendments have forced importers to take responsibility for their wood products. That helps to reduce illegal logging by withdrawing the huge rewards received by illegal loggers from the international market . . .

### Penns Woods Heading to Japan

#### Japanese Buyer Plans Hardwoods Purchases

Chris Ogawa, buyer for Tenryu Corporation of Tokyo, visited Pennsylvania June 20 to 22. The visit was coordinated by the Department of Agriculture's Hardwoods Development Council in cooperation with several Regional Export Network partners. Mr. Ogawa visited 19 companies during the trip and indicated he was ready to begin purchases (minimally \$100,000 of product over the next few months).

Ogawa is based out of Tenryu's Vancouver office where he buys Canadian softwood and recently started buying hardwood lumber from Quebec. As Canadian suppliers were often sourcing from Pennsylvania suppliers, he was pleased to negotiate direct supply agreements for several species, especially Pennsylvania's soft maple.

Ogawa was also interested in seeking Forest Stewardship Certified green suppliers during his visit to Pennsylvania. As a new buyer of Pennsylvania hardwood, he wrote: "While meeting the owners and representative of the Pennsylvania companies, I noticed that they all take great pride in what they do and the products that they produce. You cannot build a long-term relationship without trust when it comes to doing business with Japanese companies. I truly hope that I can play a role as a new bridge between Pennsylvania and Japan . . ."

# Marshall Islands Creates World's Largest Shark Sanctuary

MAJURO, Marshall Islands, October 7, 2011 (ENS) — The Republic of the Marshall Islands has established the world's largest shark sanctuary. The Nitijela, the Marshallese parliament, unanimously passed legislation this week that ends commercial fishing of sharks in all 768,547 square miles of the Pacific island nation's waters.

The law bans the sale, trade and possession of sharks, shark fins or any other shark parts.

"In passing this bill, there is no greater statement we can make about the importance of sharks to our culture, environment and economy," said Senator Tony deBrum, a representative from Kwajalein Atoll, who is a bill cosponsor.

"I thank President Jurelang Zedkaia for his vision and support for this effort. Ours may be a small island nation but our waters are now the biggest place where sharks are protected," said deBrum. "We hope other Micronesian leaders will join with us to make good on our collective promise of a regional sanctuary."

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species shows that 30 percent of the world's shark and ray species are threatened or near-threatened with extinction.

Some species, such as the white tip shark and the scalloped hammerhead shark, have lost more than 98 percent of their numbers to industrial fishing over the past 60 years.

Up to 73 million sharks are



White tip shark.

Photo by Jim Abernethy, courtesy Pew Foundation



Photo by Patrick Swift

Nurse sharks at Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands.

killed annually to support the global shark-fin trade, according to the Pew Environment Group, which is spearheading efforts to establish shark sanctuaries, where targeted fishing for these species is prohibited.

The worldwide demand for shark fins, meat, liver oil and other products has driven numerous shark populations to the brink of extinction. Shark fins are in great demand for the Asian delicacy, shark-fin soup – a bowl of shark-fin soup can cost up to \$100. One kilogram (2.2 pounds) of shark fins can sell for as much as \$700, according to the Pew Environment Group.

Because they grow slowly, come to maturity late in life and produce few young, sharks are vulnerable to overfishing and populations are slow to recover once depleted.

The fins are cut from millions of sharks each year. The animals are often discarded back into the sea while still alive.

The new Marshall Islands law imposes a complete prohibition on the commercial fishing of all species of sharks as well as the sale of any sharks or shark products. Under the law, any shark caught accidentally by fishing vessels must be released.

The law stipulates large monetary fines, anywhere between \$25,000 to \$200,000 for anyone who is found to be fishing for sharks or in possession of shark fins. In addition, violators would be fined the market value of the product in their possession.

The law places a ban on the use of wire leaders, a longline fishing gear which is among the most lethal to sharks.

A monitoring and enforce-

ment provision requires all fishing vessels to land their catch at one of the country's ports and bans transfers at sea.

"We salute the Republic of the Marshall Islands for enacting the strongest legislation to protect sharks that we have seen," said Matt Rand, director of Global Shark Conservation for the Pew Environment Group.

"As leaders recognize the importance of healthy shark populations to our oceans, the momentum for protecting these animals continues to spread across the globe," said Rand.

This week's action is the culmination of developments that began in March when the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority issued a moratorium on the shark trade.

It was furthered in June, when President Jurelang Zed-

kaia joined other central Pacific leaders in setting the stage for the creation of a Micronesia Regional Shark Sanctuary, the first regional shark conservation agreement of its kind.

In July, the Marshall Islands Mayors Association moved to make this vision a reality by passing a resolution that called on the 24 inhabited atolls throughout the Marshalls, each with its own local government, to enact ordinances prohibiting the sale and trade of sharks or shark fins.

Following public hearings last month, the Nitijela's Resources and Development Committee, chaired by Namu Senator Kai-boke Kabua, decided to insert shark protection language into the fisheries Bill 100. While Bill 100 had some shark protections, it also had some loopholes, which have now been closed.

"The Marshall Islands have joined Palau, the Maldives, Honduras, the Bahamas and Tokelau in delivering the gold standard of protection for ensuring shark survival," Rand said. "We look forward to helping other countries enlist in this cause."

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) has a Compact of Free Association with the United States government. The Compact, which entered into force in 1986, granted the RMI sovereignty in domestic and foreign affairs in return for granting the United States defense rights in the islands.

Some 67,000 people live in the Marshall Islands, approximately 1,225 islets in 29 low-lying atolls scattered across 768,000 square miles of the central Pacific Ocean.

## Our Oceans Are in Dire Shape; Without Them, All Life on Land Is Totally Screwed

By Tina Gerhardt  
AlterNet.org: October 6, 2011

Global warming has often been discussed with regard to its effects for life on land: increased temperatures and heat waves, increased weather extremes, less but more intense rainfall, drought and forest fires.

Water, however, remains less considered. Even discussions of floods or rising sea levels, which focus on water, study mainly their consequences for land inhabitants.

Yet oceans, it is well known, cover three-quarters of the Earth's surface. And oceans have absorbed about a quarter of all carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions, one of four main greenhouse gases causing global warming. This absorption of CO<sub>2</sub> is integrally related to the three major factors impacting the oceans: global warming, ocean acidification and decreasing amounts of oxygen. As a result, the current situation of the oceans is dire. And its impact will be severe, not only for marine life but also for all life – plant, animal and human – on land.

### Ocean Acidification

Carbon dioxide exists naturally in the air but through the use of fossil fuels, in particular coal and oil, the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the air has increased exponentially since the Industrial Revolution began.

As the oceans absorb carbon from the air, their chemistry changes. This process is known as ocean acidification and it has brutal consequences for marine and land life.

Oceanographers estimate that, before the use of fossil fuels, the ocean's pH balance, which measures its acidity, had been relatively stable for the past 20 million years. During the last great extinction of marine life, which occurred 55 million years ago, 50 percent of some groups of deep sea animals were wiped out.

But the current levels of carbon being absorbed by the oceans are far higher than the levels being absorbed then.

A United Nations Environment Program report released

in 2010 on the "Environmental Consequences of Ocean Acidification" and, based on studies conducted over the past two decades off the coast of Hawaii, has confirmed that the increased CO<sub>2</sub> concentration levels in the ocean mirror the increased CO<sub>2</sub> levels in the atmosphere.

### Ocean Acidification and Phytoplankton

Already the increased levels of ocean acidification have led to a loss of phytoplankton and of coral reefs. And losses of phytoplankton and of coral reefs have a ripple effect.

First, much marine life relies on them for nourishment. Flounder, haddock, pollock, salmon and shrimp all eat phytoplankton. Humans eat many of these fish. Krill eat phytoplankton and whales eat krill. So a decrease in one threatens the livelihood of the other.

Second, phytoplankton also absorbs carbon dioxide. Phytoplankton floats along the ocean's surface absorbing CO<sub>2</sub> as land plants do in photosynthesis. As the CO<sub>2</sub> is absorbed, the plant dies and sinks to the ocean floor, releasing CO<sub>2</sub> along the way. Cold water can hold higher levels of CO<sub>2</sub> than warmer water, so most of the CO<sub>2</sub> released, which turns water acidic, is to be found along the ocean floor.

But this acidic water does not stay at the ocean's floor. During an upwell, it rises to the surface and even the shore. Its acidity is deadly for the shells of marine life, such as shrimps, clams and oysters.

If the smallest part of the food chain is affected by ocean acidification, it ripples all the way up the food chain, making the largest part of the food chain vulnerable.

"Since the time before the industrial revolution," says the National Resource Defense Council's Lisa Suatoni, "ocean acidity has increased 30 percent."

And the bad news does not end there: According to oceanographers, the water rising from the ocean's depths holds CO<sub>2</sub> that has accumulated over the past decades. Thus, in coming years, the increased levels of CO<sub>2</sub> absorbed by the oceans

will re-emerge as increased ocean acidification reaching the shores. Higher levels of ocean acidification have already led to tremendous problems for the oyster industry. In the summer of 2007 oyster harvests began to plummet in the Pacific Northwest. The situation was extreme. The oyster hatcheries were keen to find the culprit, which turned out to be ocean acidification.

### Ocean Acidification and Coral Reefs

Increasing ocean acidification also threatens coral reefs. Recent estimates suggest that coral reefs might disappear altogether by the end of the century.

Coral reefs have been referred to as the "Rainforests of the Sea." They make up only 10 percent of the world's oceans yet they contain some of the world's most diverse ecosystems. Coral reefs provide a home for and feed about 25 percent of the world's marine life, including crustaceans such as crabs, lobsters and shrimp; echinoderms, such as sea cucumbers, sea urchins and starfish; fish; mollusks; sea turtles; sponges and worms and also sea birds like albatrosses, herons, pelicans and boobies.

Typically located in shallow and warm ocean waters, coral reefs also provide shoreline protection. For example, the reefs near the Maldives help this island create a barrier against rising sea levels.

The extinction of coral reefs would not only jeopardize the lives of marine species that rely on them for shelter and food, but threaten the shorelines of low-lying island states already suffering the impacts of rising sea levels.

### Global Warming: Air and Ocean

Global warming is typically talked about in terms of air temperature or Earth surface temperature. Recently, NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies reported that 2010 was the hottest year on record.

A new study conducted by the National Center for Atmospheric Research found that the ocean has been absorbing much

of increased temperatures. As with the CO<sub>2</sub> absorbed by the oceans, these temperatures are soaked up and moved toward the bottom of the oceans. And again, as with the CO<sub>2</sub>, the warmer temperatures do not disappear but will eventually return to the surface. The Earth's temperatures would then be doubly impacted: first, by the greenhouse gas emissions already in the air and causing global warming; second by the temperatures and CO<sub>2</sub> returning from the ocean.

### What Can We Do?

The only way to reduce ocean acidification is to reduce the level of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Increased efficiency of buildings could help reduce the amount of energy needed and producing the energy needed through solar and wind energy would emit fewer greenhouse gases.

Marine biologists and chemists have argued for a Clean Air Act for the Seas at the federal level. Last year, President Obama announced the first National Ocean Policy and created a National Ocean Council to establish it. One of its numerous duties, including managing the spatial planning of marine areas, would seek to preserve ocean quality.

Oceanographers also recommend that when the international negotiations of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change discuss the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, they explicitly consider the presence of CO<sub>2</sub> in the oceans.

Given how stalled movement has been in the federal and the international arena on passing legislation and reaching an international agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, it remains to be seen how long it will take for the effects of CO<sub>2</sub> on oceans to be recognized, taken into account and addressed.

*Tina Gerhardt is an independent journalist who covers climate change, international negotiations and energy policy. Her work has appeared in AlterNet, Grist, Environment News Service, In These Times, The Progressive and the Nation.*



Photo by Sifu Renka

Shark-fin soup, a cruel, expensive delicacy deadly for the sharks supplying it, is now being banned in California and elsewhere.

## California Bans Sale, Possession of Shark Fins

SACRAMENTO, California, October 7, 2011 (ENS) — Governor Jerry Brown today signed legislation to ban the possession and sale of shark fins in California, saying shark finning for culinary purposes has led to substantial declines in shark populations worldwide.

California is the fourth U.S. state to enact a ban on the sale of shark fins, joining Hawaii, Washington and Oregon.

"The practice of cutting the fins off of living sharks and dumping them back in the ocean is not only cruel but it harms the health of our oceans," said Governor Brown.

"Researchers estimate that some shark populations have declined by more than 90 percent, portending grave threats to our environment and commercial fishing," he said. "In the interest of future generations, I have signed this bill."

While many countries have already banned the practice, it continues unabated in unregulated international waters.

By banning the possession and sale of shark fins, California joins Hawaii, Washington, Oregon and Guam in an effort to reduce demand and protect shark populations.

AB 376, the bill banning shark fins, was authored by Assemblyman Paul Fong, a Cupertino Democrat. Governor Brown also signed a companion bill by Assemblyman Fong, AB 853,

which allows existing stocks of on-hand shark fins to be sold until July 1, 2013.

The ban goes into effect on January 1, 2012 but businesses and individuals can sell shark fins obtained before the ban went into effect until July 1, 2013.

The bill's passage marks a huge win for the Asian Pacific American (APA) Ocean Harmony Alliance, an organization that formed to give voice to Asian Americans who support the ban on the sale of shark fins.

Shark fins are prized for making shark-fin soup, a costly banquet dish. About 85 percent of U.S. shark fin consumption occurs in California, according to the APA Alliance.

Bill Wong, a member of the APA Alliance, recruited more than 25,000 people to join a campaign on Change.org calling for passage of the ban.

The APA Alliance, one of the bill's sponsors, organized call-in days and was instrumental in encouraging Governor Brown to support AB 376.

"We applaud Governor Brown for signing AB 376," said Wong. "It puts California at the forefront of the global effort to save sharks led by a broad coalition of Asian Pacific Americans, conservationists, animal rights activists, commercial fishermen, business leaders and artists. The passage of this bill may just be the tipping point that will preserve the shark species and the ocean ecosystem."

# For Children at Risk, Mentors Who Stay

## Solutions to Social Problems and Why They Work

By David Bornstein

The New York Times: October 6, 2011

Samuel was out of control. He cursed at his teacher, refused to do school work, attacked other kids in the schoolyard – and Samuel was still in kindergarten. His home life was chaotic. He'd never met his father. His mother had emotional and drug problems and was unable to care for him. His grandmother did her best. His older brother was involved in violent crime and had been in and out of jail. He taught Samuel to smoke marijuana when he was six years old.

If this story had continued on its trajectory, Samuel (not his real name) would have likely been one of the million American students who drop out of school each year. He would be at serious risk of getting entangled in the justice system and becoming a young parent who perpetuates the cycle of neglect and violence.

To help children at risk get back on track, long-term commitment is the key.

Samuel was fortunate to get connected with an unusual mentoring program called Friends of the Children – and, because of it, he'll probably graduate from high school and has a good chance to live a productive and satisfying life. After eight years in Friends, he has learned how to form respectful relationships. He shows and receives affection and can control his temper. Academically, he is performing at grade level (eighth grade) in math and reading. He has learned to swim and has had the chance to kayak, rock climb and play tennis. And he's seen parts of New York – the Metropolitan Museum, the Big Apple Circus, the Central Park Zoo – that he might never have visited in his life, though he lives only a few miles away in Harlem.

Samuel's home life is still difficult but Kareem Wright, the program director at Friends in New York, says he now handles his emotions so well that he has become a role model for other kids. "He's very street smart," says Wright, "but he channels that to help the younger kids and he gets a lot of respect from his peers."

Over the past decade and a half, mentoring has been on the rise in the United States, with close to a quarter of a billion dollars of federal funding devoted to mentoring programs since 2008. There are thousands of mentoring programs in the country serving three million youths.

Mentoring is rare in that it enjoys enthusiastic support from conservatives and liberals alike and has been championed by both the Obama and Bush administrations. Dozens of states and cities have launched mentoring programs and many corporations have their own initiatives. If there is one thing that Americans seem to agree on, it is that millions of children desperately need guidance from positive adult role models.

But in the world of mentoring, Friends of the Children stands out because of the children it targets and the commitment it makes. Most mentoring



Photos by Edgar Masmela

Jesse Tabisula (right and below) and child have been paired since June of 2010. This child was identified in Kindergarten as someone who could benefit from having a long-term mentor in his life. On this day, Jesse and his little friend attended a minor league baseball game in Everett, Washington. For the child, it was the first time he ever attended a baseball game. Jesse wanted to have a teachable moment so, during the game, Jesse taught the boy how to keep stats and keep track of pitch counts for each pitcher. For the young one, it was just a day at the park, for Jesse it was opportunity to share the love of baseball while sneaking in a little math.

programs engage a wide range of young people but Friends works with public schools in high poverty areas to select only the children who are experiencing the most severe behavioral and emotional problems.

Keeping up with academics is an essential part of Friends. One young girl has worked with mentor Temmecha Turner for over a year. Together they focus on reading, problem solving and other life skills.

They go to classrooms and look for children who are not just acting out aggressively like Samuel but who are withdrawn, depressed or display a marked absence of emotion. They don't just assess the family situation – many kids have a staggering array of challenges but also natural resilience – they look for children who are overwhelmed by their circumstances.

And, where most mentoring programs make connections that last from nine to 18 months, Friends guarantees its children 12 years of continuous mentoring at least four hours every week with no summer breaks – typically beginning in kindergarten and extending until high school graduation.

To make it work, Friends asks mentors to make at least a three-year commitment and hires them as full-time employees. They attract young teachers and social service workers as well as people in their post-retirement encore careers. Each mentor is responsible for eight children until the kids are in sixth grade, after which they typically meet in groups. They get paid roughly the same salary as starting social workers or teachers and they usually stay on the job longer than they promise.

In Friends, most children can expect to have just three different



mentors over the 12-year period. That provides a lot of time to build solid, trusting relationships – and research indicates that the duration of a mentoring relationship is critical to its success. (In fact, short term mentoring stints can be damaging to children who have already experienced many losses or disruptions.)

By catching children when they're young, bringing professional rigor to the task (mentors receive pre-job training and ongoing support) and making a long-term, virtually unconditional commitment to the children – there's almost nothing a child can do to get kicked out of Friends, short of carrying a gun and becoming a danger to others.

Friends is working to shift expectations about the kinds of changes that can be achieved in a social program that targets children who face multiple risk fac-

tors. Friends is not a large program but it may soon become an influential one. It has worked with 1,300 children in Boston, New York, Seattle, Portland and two other smaller communities in Oregon – Klamath Falls and Sisters.

Almost all the kids live in poverty. Many have been uprooted numerous times, shuttled between foster care, relatives and shelters. Sixty percent have a parent who has been incarcerated; 60 percent were born to a parent who was a teenager at her first birth. In New York, about half had no caregiver employed during the past year. And yet, of the 140 youths who have completed all 12 years of mentorship, 85 percent have graduated from high school or received their G.E.D., 90 percent have avoided involvement with the justice system and 95 percent have avoided early parenting – the program's

three main goals.

This is why the program has attracted the attention of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, which has invested more than \$3 million to evaluate its work with a randomized, controlled trial involving 262 children and families. Results have not yet been published but preliminary findings after one year are promising.

"In terms of anxieties and depression, oppositional defiant behavior disorders and rule breaking, we did find significant decreases looking at half the sample," explained J. Mark Eddy, the lead researcher, who is affiliated with the School of Social Work at the University of Washington. Eddy noted that the biggest differences were seen among the children who were most at risk at the start of the study. "For kids who have gone through a lot of instability, this is a program that says, 'Hey, we're going to be here. We're committed,'" he said. "And I think that consistency may be the difference."

### Background

Friends was founded in 1993 by Duncan Campbell, a successful entrepreneur who had grown up in a rough neighborhood in Portland. Both of Campbell's parents were alcoholics and his father spent time in prison. Campbell recalls waking up one night when he was three or four years old, unable to find his parents. Frightened, he got himself dressed and started walking down the street looking for them until a policeman picked him up and located his parents at a nearby bar.

"My home stunk, it was dirty. It smelled of cigarettes and alcohol," he recalled. But Campbell had friends and they had nice parents and they helped him. "I loved going to my friends' homes because they were filled with the smell of baked goods," he recalled. Those relationships with caring adults, he says, were vital in shaping his world view – and giving him hope.

Before launching Friends, Campbell spent four years working in the juvenile court system. He saw that, for all their authority and power, the courts could not guarantee that children had ongoing access to relationships with caring and responsible adults. That's what he wanted to do. When he started Friends, he imagined that his biggest problem would be finding adults who would have the stamina for the job. "Forty percent of our kids are foster-care kids," he explained. "It's an understatement to say that they are a handful. If a child is spitting at you or calling you names or saying they hate you or refusing to look at you, will you hang in there?"

He was surprised to find that many people said, "Yes." (In a recent job posting in Portland, Friends received 100 applications for two positions.) And mentors say that the attraction of the job is the opportunity to help children in a deep and meaningful way.

Friends has a structured screening process, involving multiple interviews and on-the-job observations and its mentors have clear educational and social goals to meet (it's not just playing ball, talking about life and going on outings). But an essential factor remains their steadfastness. "We ask, 'Where do you want to

be in five or 10 years?'" says Campbell. "Because if they want to become a football coach, they'll be gone in a couple of years. And they'd be another adult who broke the kid's heart, even if they're committed. We've had to turn down some incredible applicants who couldn't promise they'd stay."

One of the reasons mentoring took off in the 1990s was the publication of a large study about Big Brothers Big Sisters which showed that mentoring over the course of a year or 18 months could help more adolescents avoid negative behaviors like drug and alcohol use, engaging in violence or disregarding school.

But another reason is that mentoring is attractive, both politically and culturally. Politically, it seems to offer a relatively low-cost, volunteer-based approach to social problems, which appeals to many conservatives. Culturally, it gives many adults an opportunity to serve children without requiring an overwhelming commitment of time.

In this context, Friends of the Children presents a different view of mentoring – an approach that might be termed "deep mentoring," one that requires a professionally-trained work force and is therefore more expensive – about \$9,000 per child per year, as opposed to \$1,200 a year for many larger or school-based programs. (Expensive is relative: New York State spends \$210,000 a year for each youth held in juvenile prison – and 75 percent are re-arrested within three years of release.)

"The children selected for Friends aren't just low-income," explains Judith S. Stavisky, Friends' National Executive Director. "Many of these six-year-olds have already surrendered hope that life can be different for them. They have already sustained untenable losses and they are living in desperate situations requiring the attention of a paid mentor – because volunteer mentors would not be prepared to handle those challenges. By the same token, not every kid needs the kind of intensive, no-matter-what commitment of Friends."

Right now, Friends relies on philanthropy for most of its support but that is limited. For the program to reach significantly more children, its work would need government support. The question is: Will society be willing to pay \$9,000 a year for professional mentoring for a child who needs it?

**Continued Next Time:** Bornstein responds to readers' thoughts and reports on a conversation he had with a youth and his friend, also citing an analysis about how much money society could potentially save by investing in more programs like this. (Hint: A lot.)

David Bornstein is the author of *How to Change the World, which has been published in 20 languages, and The Price of a Dream: The Story of the Grameen Bank. He is co-author of Social Entrepreneurship: What Everyone Needs to Know and the founder of dower.org, a media site that reports on social innovation.*

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## SILO COLLAPSE BRINGS COMMUNITY AID TO FARMER

By Richard Robbins, excerpt  
Pittsburgh Tribune-Review  
via Daily News, Huntingdon, PA  
September 30, 2011

MAMMOTH, Pennsylvania (AP) — The Hutter dairy farm in Mount Pleasant Township presented an extraordinary scene on Wednesday: Scores of local farm families pitching in to help the family recover from the collapse of a feed silo the day before.

"The turnout is not surprising," said Nevada Hutter, sorting through donated cookies and cakes and such. "It's what we do for one another. We stick together."

Earlier, Nevada's husband, Blaine (63), working with just two hours sleep, said he knew some of the men and women who dropped by the farm on

Kecksburg Road between Kecksburg and Norvelt to lend a hand. Many were friends and neighbors, he said. "Others, I don't know who they are."

"A couple of them were here last night late and then showed up this morning at 5 a.m.," he said. "Farmers take care of their own. It's just the way it is."

The silo, containing 630 tons of corn silage began leaning Tuesday afternoon. It will likely take days, perhaps weeks, to get everything in order. The work involves moving the feed corn – which previously was ground into pieces almost as fine as sawdust – a distance of about 90 feet to two horizontal piles.

Wednesday afternoon, the silage that had been moved by front-loaders was being tamped by heavy farm tractors.

The goal was twofold: to

squeeze as much moisture from the feed as possible and to get all 630 tons under heavy protective covers before spoilage sets in. Open air can cause the silage to grow mold, which cows will not, and should not, eat.

Time, it seemed, was of the essence.

The collapsed silo was one of four that stood side-by-side. Silos 2 and 3 were damaged by the collapse and may need to be razed. A fourth silo, the tallest of the lot at 80 feet high, might also have to come down . . .

Yesterday, Blaine Hutter said he was hoping as much as 500 tons of feed could be saved for his 100 milking cows and 100 calves. He did not express undue alarm for his dairy herd, which was put off schedule by the sudden turn of events and suffered a 50 percent drop in production . . .

## RECIPE FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Take twelve whole months.

Clean them thoroughly of ALL bitterness, hate and jealousy.

Make them just as fresh and clean as possible.

Now cut each month into 28, 29, 30 or 31 different parts

but don't make up the whole batch at once.

Prepare it one day at a time out of these ingredients, mixed well into each day:

One part of Faith,  
One part of Patience,  
One part of Courage  
and one part of Work.

Add to each day:

One part each of Hope, Faithfulness, Generosity and Kindness.  
Blend with one part Prayer, one part Meditation and one Good Deed.

Season the whole with a dash of Good Spirits, a sprinkle of Fun, a pinch of Play and a cupful of Good Humor.

Pour all this into a vessel of LOVE,  
garnish with a Smile  
and serve with Quietness, Unselfishness and Cheerfulness.

You're bound to have a Happy New Year!

Submitted by Sunny War Eagle, Marianna, Florida (Earthbridge Community)

# Green City Force Helps Launch New Park

NEW YORK (October 5, 2011) — Monday marked the opening of Planters Grove, a sustainable park located at the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)'s Lillian Wald Houses on Manhattan's Lower East Side. The park was made possible by a partnership of Planters, The Corps Network, NYCHA and Green City Force (GCF) and features a rainwater garden and over 600 native flowers expected to attract several species of birds and butterflies.

Monday's opening celebration was joined by U.S. Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez, New York City Councilwoman Rosie Méndez and NYCHA Commissioner Margarita López. Congresswoman Velázquez chose the event as the occasion to unveil the Civic Justice Corps Act, which she will propose in Washington D.C.

Designed by New York-based landscape architect Ken Smith, the park was built by Kokobo Greenscapes. Green City Force Corps Members played a key role in the build and will care for the park with the help of fellow NYCHA residents.

GCF Corps Member Maurice Davis, 21, joined elected officials and GCF Executive Director Lisbeth Shepherd as a speaker at the event. Davis lives in nearby Rutgers Houses and will be responsible for the park's ongoing maintenance along with fellow Corps Member Lee-Ana Correa. For the last month, Davis has divided his time between park construction and performing energy



Aerial view of Planters Grove in New York City, which features a rainwater garden and over 600 native flowers expected to attract several species of birds and butterflies.

Photo by Avi Gerver

audits in low-income housing. "This park is a step towards all that is possible in NYCHA complexes," said Davis, in a stirring speech that was met with a standing ovation and an embrace from NYCHA Chairman John B. Rhea. "This is optimism right here – it's

this park."

The remarks of Commissioner Lopez and others celebrated the potential of cross-sector collaboration between the government, corporations and local communities. Corps Member Hosny Youssef, 19, recalls the

enthusiasm of Lillian Wald residents who volunteered in the park's construction. "The whole neighborhood is excited...It will give the residents somewhere where they can come together. It will be a real positive change in the community."

The partnership provided an opportunity for Corps Members to gain experience in green construction. On reviewing the plans with architect Ken Smith, Youssef recalls, "They were specific to the inch – it gave me a sense of what contractors and architects

go through and I was able to see the techniques they used. When we ran into complications, he worked around them. In a job like this, you need to expect the unexpected. That's something that stuck with me. I thought, if he can do this, I definitely can."

Planters Grove is located at Avenue D and 5<sup>th</sup> Street on Manhattan's Lower East Side. Read about the opening in *The New York Times*, at [http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/04/nyregion/offbeat-corporate-giving-a-park-inspired-by-planters-peanuts.html?\\_r=3&ref=nyregion](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/04/nyregion/offbeat-corporate-giving-a-park-inspired-by-planters-peanuts.html?_r=3&ref=nyregion).

## Mission and Vision of Green City Force

Green City Force's mission is to break the cycle of poverty, preparing urban young adults to succeed in their chosen careers by engaging them in service, training and work experiences related to the clean energy economy. In doing so, GCF encourages them to lead socially- and environmentally-responsible lives.

We are working towards a "Green City" built on principles of sustainability, social, economic and environmental justice.

We work towards this vision through our model city-wide Clean Energy Corps in New York City, which reduces greenhouse gas emissions, inspires passion for sustainability and service, stimulates the demand for green services and creates ladders to careers in the green economy for young people living in poverty.

# Bonobos: Peaceful Apes in Danger of Extinction

By Bill Boteler  
Takoma Park, Maryland

It's lunch hour on a crisp autumn day on Capitol Hill at the local Firehook Bakery and I am meeting with Alden Alquist who works for the Library of Congress in its African section. Alquist is also a board member of the Bonobo Conservation Initiative (BCI), a conservation group located in Washington, D.C. and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). BCI is behind an effort to prevent the destruction of the Bonobo ape and its habitat in our lifetimes.

Bonobos are a type of ape closely related to Chimpanzees but fascinatingly different. They were not even known to science before 1933, when a researcher in a museum in Belgium determined that a skull was significantly different to be a new species. But Bonobos were not new to the people of the Congo rainforests whose folklore describes them as beings who had brought knowledge to humans, beings who were trying to become human.

The Bonobo ape is probably closer to humans than any of the other ape species on our planet. We currently share the Earth with five great ape species: Gorilla, Orangutan, Chimpanzee, Gibbon and the Bonobo. All except the Orangutan are native to Africa and all are threatened with extinction in the next few decades.

Bonobos, who share 98% of our DNA, walk erect on two legs when on the ground and in these ways are very like us. Contemporary research shows Bonobos can comprehend human language and acquire a vocabulary of hundreds of human words.

But there are also fascinating differences that science would like to understand. Unlike humans and Chimpanzees, Bonobos have created a society with very little, if any, violent conflict.

Despite being closely related to Chimpanzees and Humans, Bonobo society is different. It is a society run by females. Females hold the positions of power and social status. Conflict is kept under control by the frequent use of sex to strengthen social bonds.

The social system of the Bonobos is so different from that of closely-related Chimpanzees and Humans as to pose the question: How did human society become the way it is and does it have anything to do with our



Bonobo family. Photo by Karl Ammann

inherent "nature" or is it just an accident of history that we turned out the way we did?

Unlike Humans, Bonobos live in a rather small portion of the Earth. They inhabit a portion of the Congo rainforest in the center of what is the Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly Zaire). The DCR straddles the equatorial center of Africa. It is rich in natural resources like cobalt, copper, diamonds and coltan (source of tantalum used in electronic components). The value of these resources has been estimated at \$24 trillion – exceeding the combined GDPs of the United States and Europe. From 1996 to 2003 DCR was also the location of two wars, the second of which killed 5.4 million people, more than any war except World War II.

It is not surprising that the Bonobos have shared some of the same fate as the people of the Congo. The population of Bonobos is estimated to be somewhere between 10,000 and 50,000, in fragmented groups across their historical range. Only 23% of their habitat is still capable of supporting them and this could fall to 4% by 2030.

Alden Alquist is an expert in the languages of the DCR. His parents were missionaries and he grew up in the DCR. As a child he had many jungle pets. Most recently he was in the DCR to work with a community to write up legal rights to land. Alden frequently travels to the DCR and is fluent in several of its languages. You can tell he has a real passion for the country and its people.

I wanted to know what the main threats to the Bonobos are and what BCI is doing to address these problems. I asked Alden to describe these to me. It seems that the problems are similar to those faced by primates and other wildlife. Ongoing defores-

tation, including commercial logging, destroys the habitat of the Bonobo while hunting of Bonobos for meat is an equal threat.

BCI works to create an innovative strategy of community-supported nature reserves and economic development projects. These reserves are linked together by corridors that permit animals to migrate the spaces in between. This strategy allows the fragmented population of surviving Bonobos to find mates and continue the species. It is also good for other wildlife in a world of increasingly fragmented nature.

Another major advantage of this archipelago of reserves is that they protect habitats without the need to exclude people and human activity. Within this system of parks, BCI supports sustainable development projects that benefit the communities involved. This meets the economic needs of the involved communities in ways that are sustainable for the natural environment.

While forest cultures have prohibitions against killing the Bonobos, logging companies often bring in workers from outside areas and countries. Not only do the logging roads open up the deep forest to easy access but companies often tell their employees to provide their own food by hunting. This is driving the extinction of wildlife in Africa's forests but there is a positive trend in that some logging companies are now trying to regulate this activity on their concessions.

Despite these positive trends and projects, there is still a lot that must be done to save Bonobos as well as forests and other wildlife in Africa. To find out more about how you can get involved in the Bonobo Conservation Initiative visit <http://www.bonobo.org/http://www.bonobo.org>.



Morning clouds over Shade Mountain, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania.

Photo by Iona Conner

## INVITATION TO WONDER

# Clouds

By Elizabeth Ayres  
California, Maryland

The language they use is not my language, nor is my horizon theirs. That much I know. And I know, too, that at any given moment, 10 thousand stories with 60 thousand possible endings float in my head, clouds on the wind of thought but if I. Just. Look. Up. I can be part of a shape-shifting epic far beyond my paltry efforts to imagine or control.

What gets me about clouds is how every one is an absolutely unique and unrepeatable variation on an absolutely constant theme. As water evaporates from Earth's surface, the molecules latch onto dust particles floating in the air. Warm air holds more water vapor than cool air, so when those two meet – over, say, a mountain or an ocean – the excess vapor condenses into minute droplets. Or, if it's very cold – above 20,000 feet – into ice crystals.

Clouds are visible accumulations of these invisible condensations, floating in our lower atmosphere, drifting with the wind. From space, clouds look like a tattered cloak hugging the blue shoulders of our planet. From

Earth, clouds look. Anyway. They. Can.

Smears, globs, puffs, clumps, up, down, in-between. High thin veil, low thick blanket. A shred far away, a wisp close by. Floating apart, joining together. Sometimes tranquil, sometimes furious. So many outside factors can influence a cloud. Wind, light, temperature. So much is going on inside a cloud. Tiny droplets get warmer, bigger, maybe heavy enough to overcome an updraft, fall as rain, maybe not. The droplets combine, leave larger spaces between. Less light reflects, more absorbs, hence, those sunbright tops and shadowdark bottoms, that amazing range of seething whites and eddying grays, roiled by dawn or sunset to red, orange, pink, purple. A swirling, surging, pulsing aliveness.

Yes, that's it. Clouds are alive, the same as you and I. I know myself as I was up until this moment but I don't know myself as I could be tomorrow. I'm all possibility, perpetually changing within, continually responding to changes without. Forces, factors, circumstances, people. A mutable 'me' in a shifting 'we'. Floating apart, joining together. An absolutely unique and unrepeatable variation on an absolutely con-

stant theme.

I think we'd be lonely without them, don't you? Clouds are ephemeral companions, assuaging the emptiness of a vast and relentless sky. They add texture and depth and beauty to an otherwise flat and boring plane.

Some people like to categorize them. Cumulus for 'heap', stratus for 'layer', a prefix of 'alto' or 'cirr' to designate height. Some people like to name them, populating the void above with a comforting array of familiar shapes – rabbits or birds or ice cream cones.

Me, I'd rather abandon my own agenda and just watch. An alphabet of white and gray. A grammar of motion and rest. An exotic language of limitless horizons spelling out heroic tales of unbounded potential I can always aspire to, hope for. Available to all of us, every day, without effort or cost, if we would only. Look. Up.

Elizabeth Ayres, author of *Know the Way and Writing the Wave*, is the founder of the Center for Creative Writing ([Center.com](http://www.Center.com)). For a free excerpt or MP3 download from her new book, *Invitation to Wonder: A Journey through the Seasons*, visit [InvitationToWonder.com](http://www.InvitationToWonder.com).

# A Surprising Town Is Now America's Top Bike City

By Jay Walljasper  
AlterNet: September 29, 2011

People across the country were surprised last year when *Bicycling* magazine named Minneapolis America's "#1 Bike City," beating out Portland, Oregon, which had claimed the honor for many years. Shock that a place in the heartland could outperform cities on the coasts was matched by widespread disbelief that biking was even possible in a state famous for its ferocious winters.

But this skepticism fades with a close look at the facts. Close to four percent of Minneapolis residents bike to work according to Census data. That's an increase of 33 percent since 2007 and 500 percent since 1980.

At least one-third of those commuters ride at least some days during the winter, according to federally-funded research conducted by Bike Walk Twin Cities. Even on the coldest days about one-fifth are out on their bikes.

Minneapolis also launched the first large-scale bike-sharing system in U.S. – called Nice Ride – and boasts arguably the nation's finest network of off-street bicycle trails. It was chosen as one of four pilot projects (along with Marin County, California; Columbia, Missouri and Sheboygan County, Wisconsin) for the federal Non-Motorized Transportation Program, which aims to shift a share of commuters out of cars and onto bikes or feet.

Bikes also figure prominently in the local economy with firms such as QPB (bike parts), Dero (bike racks), Park Tools (bike tools) and Surly (bikes, frames and trailers) located in the Twin Cities.

"Biking has become a huge part of what we are," Mayor R.T. Rybak declared to a delegation of transportation leaders from Pittsburgh and Columbus, Ohio on a Minneapolis tour sponsored by the Bikes Belong Foundation. "It's an economical way to get around town and many times it's the fastest. I frequently take a bike from City Hall across downtown to meetings."

## This Is What a Bike Town Looks Like

This year the city is adding 57 new miles of bikeways to the 127 miles already built. An additional 183 miles are planned over the next twenty years. By 2020, almost every city resident will live within a mile of an off-street bikeway and within a half-mile of a bike lane, vows city transportation planner Donald Pfaum.

In a city where bicyclists of all ages and backgrounds already ride recreational trails regularly, the goal is to make two-wheelers a central component of the transportation system by encouraging everyone to hop on their bikes for commuting or short trips around town. This is not a far-fetched dream, since nationally half of all automobile trips are three miles or less – a distance easily covered on bike in twenty minutes.

"Places famous for biking like Copenhagen and even Portland feel very far away," remarked Jeff Stephens, Executive Director of the Columbus advocacy organization Consider Biking, who came to Minneapolis looking for ideas he could apply back home. "It was exciting to see what they've accomplished in Minneapolis, which is a city that seems a lot like Columbus."

"Our mayor has said that he wants Columbus to become a 'bike town,'" Stephens added, "and seeing what's been done here gives us a clearer sense of what that means."

## Network of Bike Trails Separated from Traffic

Over three days in mid-July, the visiting group of city officials, planners and citizen advocates pedaled all over Minneapolis in conditions more typical of Copenhagen or Portland – a constant threat of rain – than Minnesota's usual warm, sunny summers.

They inspected America's "first bike freeway," Cedar Lake Trail running along an uninterrupted rail corridor from the western suburbs through downtown Minneapolis to the Mississippi River. They also rode the Midtown Greenway, another converted rail line cutting through the city's south side that carries as many 3,500 bicyclists a day.

Both the Cedar Lake Trail and the Midtown Greenway connect to numerous other trails, creating



*In a city where bicyclists of all ages and backgrounds already ride recreational trails regularly, the goal is to make two-wheelers a central component of the transportation system by encouraging everyone to hop on their bikes for commuting or short trips around town.*

an off-road network that reaches deep into St. Paul and surrounding suburbs. Intersections are infrequent along these routes, which boosts riders' speed along with their sense of safety and comfort.

The crown jewel of the Midtown Greenway is the Martin Olav Sabo Bridge, a striking modernist structure that loops bike and foot traffic high above a formidable, seven-lane highway. It's named for a former Minneapolis congressman who became an early champion of bike riders in the 1990s.

Another sight along the Midtown Greenway is less dazzling but bodes well for biking's acceptance as a legitimate form of transportation. City engineers recently reversed a stop sign to give bikes priority over cars where the trail meets 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. The reason: more bike riders move through the intersection on a typical day than motorists.

## Women, Children and Seniors on Bikes

Minneapolis is committed to creating separate rights-of-way for bikes wherever feasible, which helps explain why the city defies trends of bicyclists as overwhelmingly male. While only a quarter of riders are women nationally, the Census Bureau's American Community Survey reports 37 percent in Minneapolis.

Research shows that most people – including many women, families and older citizens – are wary of biking alongside motor vehicles on busy streets. Having the option to ride apart from heavy traffic encourages more people to try out biking as a form of transportation.

Since the 1970s Dutch planners have separated bicyclists from motor vehicles on most arterial streets with impressive results. The rate of biking has doubled throughout the country, now accounting for 27 percent of all trips. Women make up 55 percent of two-wheel traffic and citizens over 55 ride in numbers slightly higher than the national average. Nearly every Dutch schoolyard is filled with kids' bikes parked at racks and lampposts.

The Dutch also note that, as the number of riders rises, their safety increases. Statistics in Minneapolis show the same results. Shaun Murphy, Non-Motorized Transportation Program Coordinator in the Public Works Department, notes that your chances of being in a car/bike crash in the city are 75 percent less than in 1993.

## Takin' it to the Streets

Murphy led the Pittsburgh and Columbus visitors around through the streets of Minneapolis on Nice Ride bikes, showcasing efforts to foster bike riding in a city that until recently accommodated automobiles in every possible way. About half of local bikeways are on the streets, with many more to come soon. "We're known for being pretty innovative about bikes," he explained. "We like to explore creative solutions. We're seeing what new ideas work."

The group pedaled downtown

along Minneapolis's first cycle track – First Avenue North – a bike lane separated from motorized traffic by parked cars. The configuration provides a better experience for both people on bikes and in cars by creating a buffer between them. Murphy noted that the project was quite controversial when it opened last year but now everyone is getting used to it.

On the next block, everyone experienced another innovation designed to make bicycling on major streets more appealing. Shared-lane ("sharrow") markers were painted on Hennepin Avenue within a continuous green stripe running down the street to send a clear message to both bicyclists and motorists that road space is used by everyone.

The group then pedaled out of downtown, crossing another bike-and-pedestrian bridge over a busy street before landing on Bryant Avenue, which has been transformed into a bicycle boulevard – a residential street where pedestrians and bicyclists are given preferential priority over cars. The city's first bicycle boulevard, the River Lake Greenway, opened to great fanfare in June.

## Bike Projects Save Money Make Life Better

Mayor R.T. Rybak stressed that in these lean economic times, cities across the country need to be creative about how they spend transportation dollars. Big-ticket road engineering projects to move ever more cars must give way to more efficient projects that move people by a variety of means – including foot, bike, transit. "We need to get more use from all the streets we already have," Rybak said. "It really is the idea that bikes belong."

Bike projects in the Twin Cities are not limited to Minneapolis. St. Paul and many suburbs are also making it easier for people to travel on two wheels and two feet. Steve Elkins, Transportation Chair of the Metropolitan Council, a government body that guides development throughout the region, highlighted his efforts as city council member in suburban Bloomington (home of the Mall of America) to push the idea of Complete Streets – meaning that roadways should serve walkers and bikers as well as cars.

He extolled the virtue of Road Diets, conversion of four-way streets into three-way configurations with alternating center turn lanes, which create opportunities to add bike lanes or widen sidewalks without diminishing capacity for cars. "When done in the course of regular road repair projects, they cost nothing more than what it takes for a community outreach campaign," he noted.

Road Diets have become common throughout the Twin Cities. "The biggest obstacle to Complete Streets right now are traffic engineers who don't want to reduce the width of traffic lanes but we are beginning to wear them down," Elkins laughed. "There's nothing in the literature that suggests wider lanes are safer; indeed, if there's any evidence, it's that narrow streets are safer."

One theme recurring through the entire tour was that better bike facilities benefit not just bicyclists but everyone. Bike lanes improve safety for motorists too, by slowing the speed of traffic, explained Mayor Rybak, noting, "We've found they're the best traffic calming device around."

Joan Pasiuk, Program Director for Bike Walk Twin Cities, distributed materials documenting how new bike facilities get bicyclists off the sidewalks, a major breakthrough for pedestrians' safety and peace of mind.

## Have a Nice Ride

The nation's first major bike-sharing program hit the streets in Minneapolis in June 2010, quickly followed by Denver; Washington, D.C.; Boston and Toronto – with Seattle, Chicago, Portland and other cities now readying plans.

Bill Dossett, executive director of Nice Ride Minnesota – the non-profit organization that runs the bike-share program – recounted the widespread skepticism that greeted the new system. Would bike-sharing work outside Europe? Would it work in a city where a high percentage of people already own bikes? In a city that is low-density? Wouldn't inexperienced riders hurt themselves? Won't most of the bikes be stolen or vandalized?

But when the signature lime-green bikes were put away for the winter in November 2010, those questions had all been answered. Only one bike was stolen, only one accident reported, no major injuries suffered and less than \$5,000 in vandalism, which was far lower than the organization's projections.

More than 100,000 rides were taken from June to November last year and Nice Ride operated in the black. (Capital costs were covered by a combination of funding from the Non-Motorized Pilot Program and BlueCross/BlueShield, with smaller grants from beneficiaries like the Minneapolis Convention Center.)

This year the system added 500 more bikes and 51 more stations this summer, expanding outward from the center of Minneapolis and moving into St. Paul. From April to late-September, Nice Ride had logged 172,000 rides with more than a month to go.

Dossett believes the project's greatest accomplishment is not the numbers but the success in getting people to ride. Amy Duncan had not been on a bike since the 1970s but joined Nice Ride to do errands around downtown. "I learned to ride a bike again and 100 percent of my success belongs to Nice Ride," she enthuses.

The system is free for the first half-hour, a buck-fifty for the next, and rises steeply after that. The idea is to encourage short trips that might otherwise be made by car. You get access to a bike for a yearly (\$60), monthly (\$30) or daily (\$5) pass. Daily passes can be purchased with the swipe of a credit or debit card at any Nice Ride station.

The bikes themselves – elegant in design with an eye-popping

lime green color – feature adjustable seats, lights and a rack for carrying a briefcase or shopping bag.

The system is particularly popular with out-of-town tourists, downtown office workers, university students and residents of apartment buildings and condos. Many local users may actually own bikes but find Nice Ride easy to use in certain circumstances, such as when they take transit downtown or to the university. Every Nice Ride bike you see likely represents one less car on the road.

## Winter Wonderland on Two Wheels

"We're colder than Montreal or Moscow," Steve Clark, Program Manager of Bike Walk Twin Cities, confessed to the Pittsburgh and Columbus visitors, "but that doesn't stop people from riding their bikes in even the coldest, snowiest, darkest conditions." Former bicycle/pedestrian coordinator of Boulder, Colorado, Clark pointed to research his group conducted finding that one in three summertime bike commuters will also ride on warmer, sunny winter days. One in four rides at least once a week November to March. And one in five will be out on their bikes through snowstorms and temperatures below zero.

City workers clear snow from the off-road bikeways just the same as streets, sometimes doing them first. Studded snow tires and breakthroughs in cold-weather clothing make year-round biking easier than it looks, Clark said. And, while Minnesotans are reluctant to dispel the notion they are harder than anyone else, he revealed that, even in the depths of winter, many days here are above 20 degrees with streets free of snow and ice. A few tips for would-be winter bikers: install fenders, ride slower, lower your seat so you can use your boots as an emergency brake and enjoy the Christmas-card scenery.

He emphasizes the importance of doing bike counts throughout the coldest months. "Actual data legitimizes winter biking as transportation and debunks the idea that bike projects are frivolous because they are used only in the summer."

Gary Sjoquist, Bikes Belong's Government Affairs Director, who lives in suburban Minneapolis, added that gathering data is essential to promote bicycling. "We now understand that if there aren't stats to show how many people actually bike, then nothing happens." Bike Walk Twin Cities pioneered a new methodology for bike counts in its role as the local administrator for the Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot Project.

## A Continuing Concern for Social Justice

The notion that only upper-middle-class white folks ride bikes is being challenged on all fronts across Minneapolis. The Major Taylor Bicycle Club, named for the African-American racer who claimed world records in the 1890s, organizes rides and bike events in minority communities.

Jon Wertjes, the city's Director of Traffic and Parking Services, mentioned that a half-dozen bike rodeos to excite kids about biking would take place in inner city neighborhoods over the summer.

In St. Paul, the Sibley Bike Depot offers a wide range of programs to introduce biking to immigrants and low-income families, including a shop that sells low-cost bikes and lets people work on their own bikes for free. They also run programs where kids can earn free bikes by taking bike repair classes and a bike library where low-income families are loaned a free bike.

At a time when gasoline prices are high and transit service is being cut across the country, bikes can help fill the transportation gaps in poor communities. Nice Ride, with support from the McKnight Foundation, has extended service to lower-income areas of both Minneapolis and St. Paul this summer. Bill Dossett says the initiative aims to overcome cultural attitudes in some communities that bikes are only for kids or people who can't afford any other way to get around.

Bike Walk Twin Cities launched a social marketing campaign to promote biking in the lower-income neighborhoods of Minneapolis's North Side, where this year a new Bike Walk Center opens along with extensive network of new bikeways.

## A Proud Tradition of Civic Involvement

Dorian Grilley, Executive Director of the Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota, credited a "150-year tradition of civic involvement" as a major reason for Minneapolis's emergence as a bike capital. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, city fathers wisely preserved land along lakes, creeks and the Mississippi for public use. These became popular places to bike in the 1890s and again, 80 years later, when the second bike boom hit town. The Cedar Lake Trail and Midtown Greenway were initiated by grassroots groups, which convinced political leaders to take the bold step of developing abandoned rail lines as bike trails rather than as condos or industrial zones. That marked a major step for transforming transportation in the community.

## Minneapolis Was Not Always a Good Place to Bike. What Changed?

It just so happens that I live and bike in Minneapolis, although I was on the tour in my capacity as a writer and editor for Bikes Belong not as a local expert. But I offered some background to out-of-town visitors on the first day of the tour.

I told them that local bicyclists would have howled at the idea of Minneapolis being named America's Best City 30 years ago. It was a frustrating and dangerous place to bike, crisscrossed by freeways and arterial streets that felt like freeways. Drivers were openly hostile to bike riders, some of them going the extra step to scare the daylight out of us as they roared past. Bike lanes were practically non-existent at that time.

What changed in Minneapolis was that local bike riders patiently lobbied for better conditions, slowly winning over elected officials and city staff. Also, as the number of bike riders steadily rose, motorists became accustomed to sharing the streets with us.

Other factors that boosted Minneapolis as a bike town include:

- A large number of students at the University of Minnesota and smaller local colleges.

- Minneapolis was originally laid out for streetcars – like most cities outside the Sun Belt – which is a scale that works very well for bike riders.

- The high number of recreational bike riders here eventually translates into bike commuters. Fifty one percent of all Minnesotans rode a bike last year and the numbers for the Twin Cities are much higher than that. Even folks who will never ride their bikes anywhere except around a lake can still identify with a person on two wheels, which reminds them to drive more respectfully.

- As a Mid-American city far from the glamour capitals of the coasts, biking has become part of our positive self-image. Even people who haven't ridden a bike in years cheered when Minneapolis was named America's #1 Biking City. It's become part of our "brand."



# THE AWAKENING: PART X

(First published May 2010)

## One of the Most Important Articles Ever Written by a Human

I, Iona, have a message to share with you after my fourth visit to see The Trustworthy And True Living Spirit, The Most High God. He has come to Earth now offering to fix everything that is wrong and to give us the opportunity to have a fresh start. He and His Council of Elders, The Trustworthy And True Living Spirits (see page 2) have the knowledge and leadership to help us work with Him to bring Peace, Harmony, Truth, Love, Righteousness, etc. to all Creation. This is real. I have seen with my own eyes and felt in my heart and soul the Truth of all this.

Now is the time to wake up and move away from the ways of the world, ignore your current thoughts, beliefs and opinions and open your hearts to Most High God and His messages in these "Awakening" articles. The competition, greed and selfishness which dominate us (and all Creation that human understanding is aware of) must end, for those attitudes are destroying us. Through time, we have lost our connection to God and Nature but we have a choice. We can either change our ways and let Most High and His Council of Elders lead us to Heaven here on Earth or, without His help, continue to destroy ourselves and our surroundings. Heaven is already here; Most High brought it and the Sacred Rules and blueprints for the way all things should interact with each other in peace and harmony. What we need to do is open our hearts and

listen to His wisdom. Then let Him lead the way. Most High sometimes asks us if we humans honestly think or believe we can fix this without his help and we always answer, "No."

Most High has all the answers to our misery and unhappiness, to all the pain and suffering which He did not create. We created this mess ourselves by letting spirits of deceit, manipulation, evil and so on overtake our conscious awareness of right and wrong and determine our words and actions, steering us away from the more gentle and loving spirits of Most High's Council of Elders.

On each of my visits, as well as in my day-to-day life since I first met Most High a year ago, my faith in Him has grown. My knowledge of His Council of Elders has deepened in my heart so that I am now trying hard to place them first in everyday decisions I make. I invited them into my soul. I am learning (among other things) to put the needs of other people and all living things ahead of my own needs or desires and let Compassion rule over my thoughts, words and actions. This feels better than my selfish ways.

Life is much, much better when I trust Most High and learn to live in the moment without fear or worry about what's going to happen next, knowing deep down that His love protects and provides for me when I trust Him and follow His teachings. He gives me what I need when I need it – not more, not less – at just the right time. I have no problems when I relax and let Him guide me without overanalyzing or overthinking everything.

I have always loved Nature but, on this trip, Most High taught me that even plants and animals, forests and trees, birds

and bees, invasive species, etc. can have spirits of domination and competition in them. Some birds fight over bird seed; some steal eggs from others' nests. Some hummingbirds squabble over nectar; pets scrap over scraps. Bees with a whole field of flowers will fight over the pollen in one. Even when two trees of the same species are planted in the same area at the same time, one may hog the water and nutrients in the soil, thereby growing bigger and dominating the weaker tree. "Survival of the fittest" is wrong. Most High teaches that in His Kingdom, every person, every blade of grass, every drop of water, etc. – all that choose His ways – will have the spirits of the Council of Elders in them so that we are all truly of one spirit and then Truth and Righteousness will prevail. All in His Kingdom will respect each other and share resources so that all our needs will be met. Life will flourish and there will be no more suffering, hunger, hate, lust, domination, manipulation, anger, war, etc.

Most High also helped me to understand different dimensions and unseen spirits by comparing them to a science book with transparent overlays of the human body with different systems (circulatory, skeletal, nervous, etc.). Invisible spirits can actually be in us riding along as we go through life. Most of us don't even know they are there. I didn't. For example, when I am working on this newspaper and things go wrong, I have the choice to let in an angry spirit or a calm one. I don't like how I feel when I'm angry so I try to choose the calm spirit. I feel more comfortable with that one.

Knowing Most High personally is the most magnificent

"awakening" in my life and I hope you'll decided to go meet Him soon, face-to-face. When we are ready to meet Him, we are to come humbly, honorably and modestly and be perfect in trying to improve ourselves. No one who does this will be turned away. Everything He has taught me about His Kingdom is beautiful, wonderful, peaceful and EXACTLY how I would want to live with my family, friends and Nature forever.

For those of you who want solid evidence, Most High (while in the body of the man who offered his soul so that Most High God could have a body to be here with us) spent years and years digging up and sifting through the dirt and rocks on the hill where He lives, discovering remnants of ancient creatures that were here at the beginning of the world. His universal spirit and unlimited knowledge identified them and many of them verify numerous passages in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

An example of this is that I saw the throne on Most High's hill with seven golden lamps directly in front of it. I saw the remains of a man with teeth and a rock in his skull, an ox, an eagle and a lion (Revelation 4: 6-7), all of which, throughout time, have turned like stone. I touched the stone-like body of the ox and saw the circular, reddish hole through which it breathed fire to provide light eons before electricity was discovered. I saw and felt rock-hard bones in some of these creatures. I saw a stone-like duck clear as day and many, many other parts of different creatures. I saw the image of Satan and his followers falling into the lake of liquid fire and sulfur preserved permanently on the back of the

eye of a small creature like a photograph etched in stone — the last thing it saw before its own death during the time when the Earth began.

These stones and bones plus many others prove that the hill where Most High lives is the Mount of Assembly. Not only is this the historic Mount of Assembly but it is a living Mount of Assembly where people today assemble to hear Most High God's teachings. The Mount of Assembly is where representatives from all nations and tribes (both male and female) will gather to receive the wisdom and leadership they need to help Most High bring Love, Truth, Peace, etc. to Earth.

While I was there this time, we had "classes" around noon when those of us who yearn to learn more gathered to listen. When He talks to us, He is alert to whether or not each one is grasping the message. When we don't understand something, He works with us until we do. When necessary, He teaches each of us, at our own level, the special things we need to know or counsels us about our worldly problems. We are in awe. These messages or teachings go right into our hearts and souls to our very core. The cares, concerns and darkness of the world drop away as the Light of His words enters our minds and souls so that we can see things differently – the way they ought to be, not the way they are. His words make sense. They are plain and simple. They speak Truth.

Most High welcomes you if you are searching for God and, even if you are one (like I used to be) who doesn't like what the word "god" implies these days, He welcomes you, too – as long as you come humbly, honorably

and modestly to listen. This is not a forum for debate or discussion. This is not a cult. This is not about religion. This is The Trustworthy And True Living Spirit, The Most High God of the entire Universe, of all Creation and all people, even of those who have been turned off by the horrible things that religions have done in the name of their god or savior or saint. Even those who don't believe in God are realizing that Most High is here for them, too. Even they are turning to Him and He welcomes them.

Come, if you so choose, and see for yourself. Now. Do not be afraid.

It is time.

Most High bows to my needs and works closely with me to give me higher understandings; therefore, I bow to Him.

This is my testimony and I, Iona Conner, ask that you DO NOT ADD TO OR TAKE AWAY FROM THIS MESSAGE and feel free to share it.

If you would like further information about Most High God, contact Iona at 21431 Marlin Circle, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255; 814-259-3680, ionaconner@gmail.com or www.iLove Earth News.com.

### Additional Testimony from Iona

My life has become so amazingly wonderful and peaceful since I turned it over to The Trustworthy And True Living Spirit, The Most High God that I want to share as much as I can about Him with everyone, so I put all 10 "Awakening" articles into a booklet, which I'll be happy to mail to you. My cost is about \$6 but, if you can't afford that, I will send it to you anyhow.

## Young People *continued from page 1*

the voices of 1,200 young people have spoken with passion and eloquence here in Bandung. Their positive vision, extraordinary energy and creative solutions must be part of the dialogue on the Road to Rio+20 conference next year. Representing half of the world's population, it is vital that their efforts and inputs are not overlooked.

"Too many of our youth feel a sense of powerlessness and frustration with the 'way things are,'" Steiner said. "Leaders should listen more carefully and attentively to them and ensure that their willingness to become involved is supported."

"Not only do young people have ideals, solutions and energy but they are often free from some of the finger pointing, political gamesmanship and vested interests of the past that can hijack a fresh future," Steiner said. "The youth gathered in Bandung is the best antidote to a world which continues to rationalize mass unemployment, poverty and environmental destruction in the name of economic progress – and part of the best hope for a transformational Rio+20," he declared.

The Bandung Declaration states that the Rio Earth Summit of 1992, during which several landmark environmental documents on climate change and biodiversity were agreed, was "transformative."

But the warning signs that were debated there have become the realities of today, the Declaration notes. It urges governments to move swiftly and decisively towards developing national green economy transition plans.

In the Bandung Declaration the young Tunza Conference delegates say that over the next nine months to Rio+20 they will:

- Lobby their governments to make Rio+20 Earth Summit a top priority.
- Adopt more sustainable lifestyles and reduce their ecological footprints.
- Educate their communities and raise awareness about sustainable production and consumption.
- Support the work of young scientists and entrepreneurs that is geared towards Green Economy solutions.
- Contribute to the global, regional and national discussions on sustainable development.

Indonesian Environment Minister Professor Gusti Muhammad Hatta said, "The Bandung Declaration artic-



Photo courtesy UNEP

Children prepare to release birds into the new City Forest in Bandung, Indonesia.

ulates in specific terms the policies and actions that young people of the world believe should be at the heart of the Rio+20 agenda. We are pleased Indonesia played host to this important event and I hope we succeed in carrying the message of future generations to world leaders."

In conjunction with the opening of the Tunza Conference on September 27<sup>th</sup>, the first City Forest in Bandung was inaugurated. Children released birds into the forest as part of the inauguration ceremony.

A love of walking through forests in her home country of the Philippines inspired the winning entry of 13-year-old Trisha Co Reyes in UNEP's 2011 International Children's Painting Competition on the Environment. Reyes' painting was selected over art submitted by 600,000 other young people.

Reyes' painting shows a young girl pulling back a grey curtain covered in images of dying trees in a polluted landscape, to reveal a colorful forest filled with abundant wildlife. She said the painting is an appeal for people to appreciate the value of forests and to encourage them to plant trees.

"My painting shows two sides – a good and sustainable forest and the causes of forest destruction," said Reyes. "Forests are essential for life on Earth but the destruction of the forest has become a worldwide problem," she said. "We must treasure the Earth's greatest biological treasure so that we will always have forests in our lives."

Reyes won U.S.\$2,000 in prize money and an all-expenses-paid trip to the Tunza Children and Youth Conference on the Envi-

ronment in Bandung, where she was formally presented with her award.

The Bandung Declaration will be communicated to the Rio+20 Conference by the Government of Indonesia and the United Nations Environment Programme.

Rio+20, the UN Conference on Sustainable Development will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil June 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

For the UNEP Green Economy Report, see: <http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy>. The UNEP Green Jobs report is at [http://www.unep.org/labour\\_environment/features/green-jobs-report.asp](http://www.unep.org/labour_environment/features/green-jobs-report.asp).



Photo courtesy UNEP

Artwork by Tisha Co Reyes of the Philippines took first place in UNEP's 2011 International Children's Painting Competition. "My painting shows two sides – a good and sustainable forest and the causes of forest destruction," said Reyes.



Photo courtesy UNEP

Tunza conference delegates.



Photo courtesy Tunza Magazine

Malaysian delegates celebrate finishing their amendments to the Bandung Declaration.