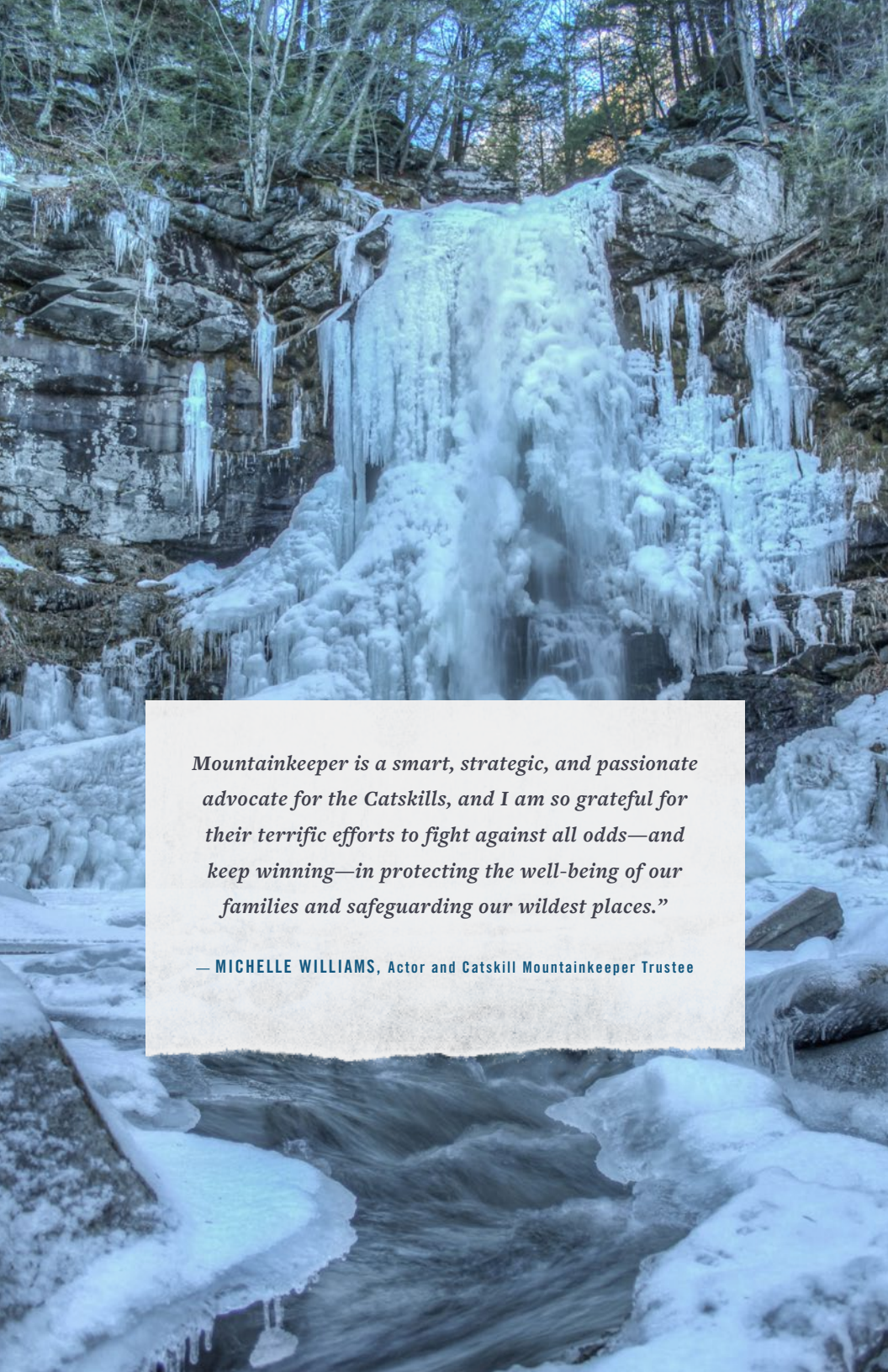




CATSKILL MOUNTAINKEEPER STAKEHOLDER REPORT

2017





Mountainkeeper is a smart, strategic, and passionate advocate for the Catskills, and I am so grateful for their terrific efforts to fight against all odds—and keep winning—in protecting the well-being of our families and safeguarding our wildest places.”

— MICHELLE WILLIAMS, Actor and Catskill Mountainkeeper Trustee



FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I think about all that Catskill Mountainkeeper has achieved over the last year—an extremely busy and productive time for our team—I am so grateful for and humbled by the dedication and support of the many friends and stakeholders who help make everything we do possible.

These are wildly challenging times for our work, but one of Mountainkeeper’s strengths is that we never give up, and so over the past year our team has continued to serve up our trademark blend expert advocacy, political savvy, and fierce determination to win across the full range of our issues. Whether fighting to protect and promote the Catskills’ wild heritage, build a sustainable economic future for our communities, get healthier foods into the hands of people in need, oppose the invasion of NY State by a spate of dirty and dangerous fossil fuel projects, protect our region’s irreplaceable water resources, or help drive our transition to a clean, sustainable, and prosperous renewable energy future, Mountainkeeper’s team is getting the job done and winning big.

Mountainkeeper has long understood that while each group working on the issues we all care about brings unique and important qualities to the table, we are never stronger than when we stand united with allies and partners seeking the same positive change. That strong model of working in dynamic partnership has always been an important tool in Mountainkeeper’s kit, and in the coming year we will continue to dialogue and creatively partner with diverse groups ranging from the smallest of the grassroots to the biggest national organizations, carving out the best strategies for working together. Our many great partners are listed towards the end of this report, and we are grateful to have them standing by our side.

And we are grateful for you and all the other Mountainkeeper stakeholders who inspire us to stand up and fight every day. Given the tough political landscape for the issues we care about, and the many challenges ahead, we’ve never needed each other more. The entire team looks forward to making you proud as we move into 2018!

Sincerely,

Ramsay Adams

FIGHTING FOSSIL FUEL PROJECTS TO

AT THIS CRITICAL MOMENT IN THE FIGHT FOR A CLEAN AND SAFE ENERGY FUTURE, THE NEED TO BREAK OUR DEPENDENCE ON CLIMATE-WRECKING FOSSIL FUELS HAS NEVER BEEN MORE URGENT.

In 2017, Mountainkeeper made important strides in our campaign to fight the massive build out of fossil fuel infrastructure in our region that would poison our air, water, and land, while exposing communities to the risk of devastating spills and explosive accidents. We are fighting multiple projects—like pipelines, natural gas compressor stations, bomb trains, and oil barges—that would further lock us into a dirty energy future, with a special focus on fighting proposed infrastructure that would help turn the port of Albany into a major east coast fossil fuel hub.

CONSTITUTION PIPELINE – THE FIGHT GOES ON

Mountainkeeper and our allies are hanging tough in the years-long fight to block the \$685 million Constitution Pipeline Project, which would carry fracked gas 124 miles from PA to Canada, threatening communities, forests and farms, and vulnerable waterways. We helped spur the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's 2016 decision to halt the project by denying an essential water quality certificate, and Mountainkeeper and our legal partners are now fighting two retaliatory lawsuits filed by the pipeline company, piling up multiple legal victories during 2017.

Even so, Constitution LLC is not giving up. In October 2017 the company filed a motion asking the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to find that NYSDEC took too long to consider the project's water quality certificate, therefore waiving its right to deny it. Mountainkeeper and our allies are now gearing up for the next phase of this legal fight, which has serious national implications beyond the fate of the Constitution pipeline. The outcome could either help turn the tide on FERC's notorious history of rubberstamping pipeline projects, or grease the skids for the agency to continue to run roughshod over our communities and environment.

PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES + CLIMATE

PROTECTING THE HUDSON RIVER AND ITS COMMUNITIES

In June 2017, Mountainkeeper and our allies helped beat back a proposal to build 43 new commercial shipping anchorages along the Hudson River that would have facilitated a huge uptick in river transport of crude oil by barge. Mountainkeeper helped rally people to generate the 10,000+ comments that pushed the US Coast Guard to suspend rulemaking on this terrible proposal, and we are now watching closely as the Coast Guard studies waterway safety hazards and evaluates mitigation measures to reduce risk.

DON'T FRACK THE DELAWARE RIVER BASIN

Mountainkeeper is protecting the Delaware River Basin, which supplies drinking water to 15 million people, supports \$25 billion of annual economic activity, and harbors diverse wildlife including Bald Eagles. After blocking a push to open the Basin to fracking, Mountainkeeper and our partners instead fought for the permanent fracking ban included in draft regulations issued by the Delaware River Basin Commission in November. This is a major victory, but we still must fight to keep the Basin equally safe from the hazards of wastewater fracking water withdrawal, waste storage, and gas storage, which the draft regulations only "discourage" instead of prohibit.

BUILDING A STRONGER MOVEMENT

Mountainkeeper is the anchor organization for the Extreme Energy Extraction Collaborative (E3C), which fosters cooperation among grassroots groups fighting extreme energy extraction—like fracking, coal, gas, oil, and tar sands. In March 2017, the 7th Extreme Energy Summit brought 90+ organizers to TX for 3 days of collaboration and a tour of Houston's massive petrochemical complex.

FIGHTING FRACKING NATIONWIDE

Mountainkeeper is lending our expertise on fracking's health impacts to help allies fighting across the U.S. and overseas. Our team's support of partners in Maryland paid off in April 2017, when the state adopted a permanent fracking ban.

PROTECTING WILD LANDS AND PROMOTING THE OUTDOORS

Championing the Catskill Park

Mountainkeeper is dedicated to making sure that the Catskill Park—our region’s crowning glory and one of the most ecologically diverse natural areas in the eastern U.S.—gets its fair share of attention and funding. Working with partners, each year Mountainkeeper mobilizes a campaign to urge New York State to allocate the resources needed to preserve and enhance these spectacular wild lands. In 2017, our advocacy helped secure \$7.35 million in funding to fight invasive species, improve trails and outdoor recreation, protect forests, and support our communities. Mountainkeeper’s team is now mounting a strong campaign to advocate for increased funds in the upcoming 2018-2019 state budget cycle.

GROWING ECOTOURISM

Mountainkeeper is boosting tourism—our region’s top economic driver—and staving off pressure for intensive development of wild lands by promoting the Catskills’ abundant outdoor resources. We are leading efforts to create and interconnect trails, with a focus on multi-purpose trails for cycling, hiking, birding, and other active outdoor recreation for users of all ages and physical condition. In Sullivan County, our Trailkeeper.org website provides user-friendly info about existing back-country and multi-purpose trails. In Ulster County, Mountainkeeper is partnering with the Woodstock Land Conservancy to lead the Friends of the Catskill Mountain Rail Trail in mobilizing support for the Ashokan Rail Trail—an 11.3-mile long multi-purpose trail that should begin construction soon.



BATTLING INVASIVE SPECIES

The Woolly Adelgid—a small insect that attaches itself to the base of the Hemlock tree’s needles, starving it of nutrients—is attacking the Catskills. Hemlocks make up a large percentage of our forests, sheltering species like deer, salamander, and migratory birds, and protecting clean water by stabilizing stream banks. Mountainkeeper is raising

awareness and seeking resources to tackle the Adelgid invasion, while working on the ground to identify significant Hemlock stands, map infestations, and implement solutions like the use of beneficial predators.



THE PEEKAMOOSSE BLUE HOLE

The Peekamoose Blue Hole is suffering from too much popularity. Over 1,000+ people visited this iconic swimming hole in a single day this summer—far more than this area can support. When initial efforts to address the problem weren’t successful, Mountainkeeper and others sounded the

alarm to local authorities, NY State, and the media, and our team participated in a big August clean up of the degraded area. We are now brainstorming with stakeholders about how to strike the right balance between keeping wild places open to all and protecting them from overuse.

BUILDING OUR GREEN ENERGY FUTURE

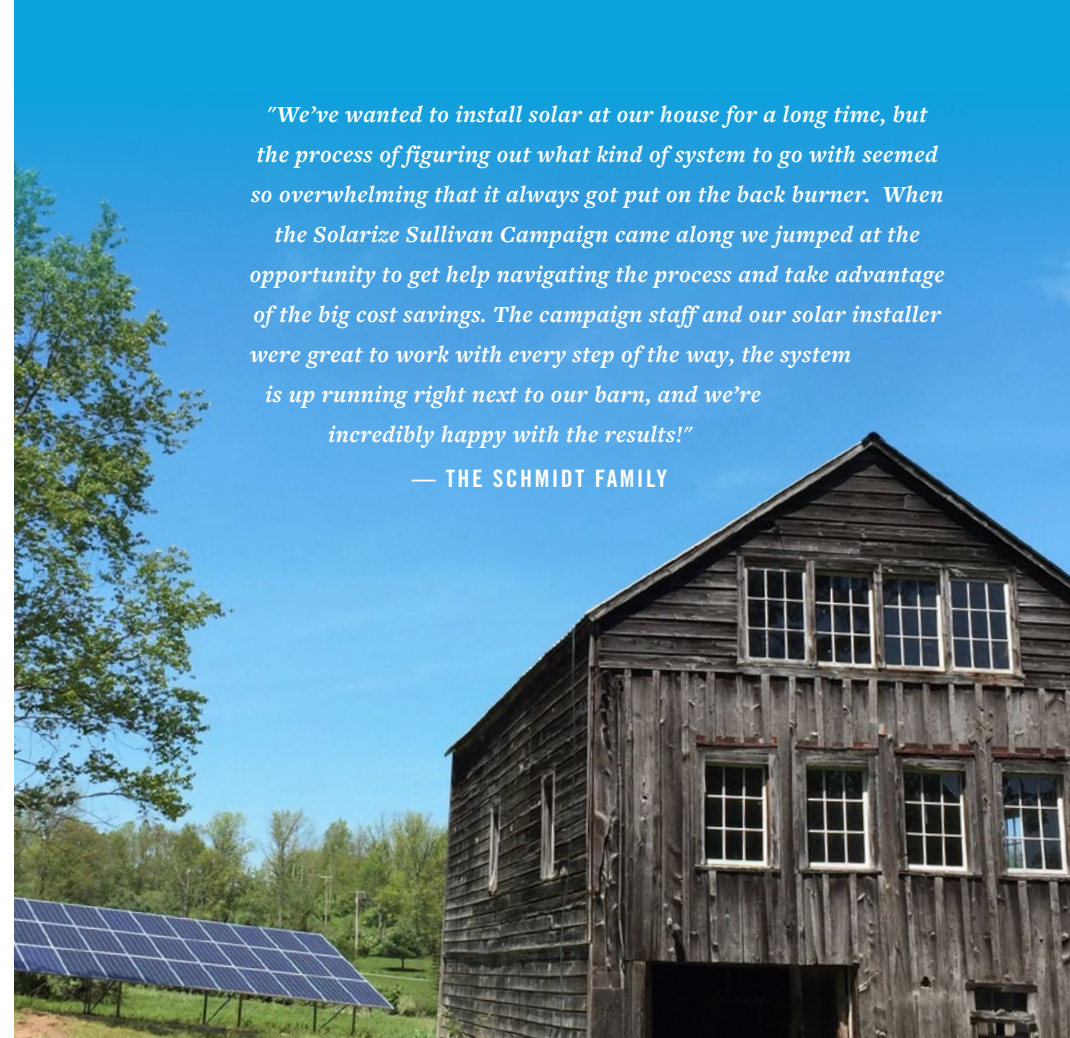


Mountainkeeper's RenewableNY program is helping spur New York's transition to a healthy and prosperous sustainable energy future by demonstrating that clean, renewable sources of power are well within reach.

In 2017, our team was focused on the Solar Outreach Initiative, a groundbreaking "solarize" campaign that is making it easier and more affordable for people and small businesses in 15 New York counties to go solar. Mountainkeeper is collaborating in this pilot program with partners at Binghamton Regional Sustainability Coalition, Sustainable Hudson Valley, and Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County. The Initiative is built around community outreach campaigns that help simplify and streamline the experience of going solar from start to finish, and bulk purchasing programs that significantly reduce costs for consumers and installers alike.

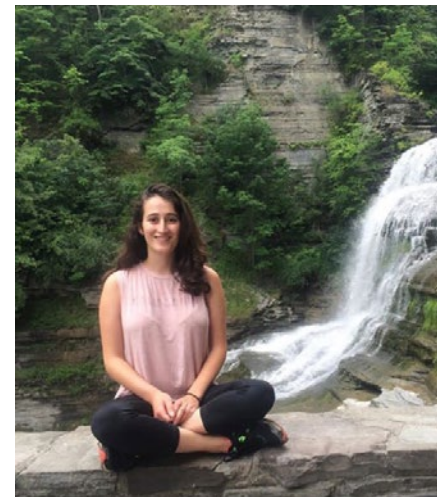
Since the campaign's 2015 launch, Mountainkeeper and our partners have helped a total of over 550 households go solar, putting just over 5 MW of capacity on the grid. When the program ends in 2018, we anticipate that solar installed as a result of the campaign will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 496 metric tons annually, and save participating consumers \$500,000 in energy costs each year. Mountainkeeper is also helping "write the book" on how to roll out successful solarize campaigns on a large scale by documenting strategies, best practices, and lessons learned in a written guide that will serve as a road map for others seeking to join the solar revolution.

This program is partially supported by funding from the New York State Research and Development Authority's (NYSERDA) NY-Sun and Community Solar initiatives, which are investing \$1 billion in solar over the next decade.



"We've wanted to install solar at our house for a long time, but the process of figuring out what kind of system to go with seemed so overwhelming that it always got put on the back burner. When the Solarize Sullivan Campaign came along we jumped at the opportunity to get help navigating the process and take advantage of the big cost savings. The campaign staff and our solar installer were great to work with every step of the way, the system is up running right next to our barn, and we're incredibly happy with the results!"

— THE SCHMIDT FAMILY



INTERN SPOTLIGHT

"My internship focused on community outreach and teaching residents of Sullivan County about the benefits and incentives for going solar. When I wasn't out meeting people, I was working on flyers and posters behind the scenes, and researching ways to get our message out. Over the summer, more and more people enrolled in the program, and it was gratifying to see the tangible difference my efforts were having."

— ELIANA BEN-SOREK, 2017 Summer Energy Corps Intern

FARMING AND FOOD

Mountainkeeper is helping grow a more robust regional food system that will improve the health of our communities, support our farmers, and build our food-based economy—the region’s second largest industry



EAT HEALTHY SULLIVAN COUNTY FARMERS’ MARKETS

Despite our region’s rich farming tradition, many local people lack direct access to fresh, healthy foods. Mountainkeeper is making a difference through our Eat Healthy Sullivan County Farmers’ Markets in Monticello and Liberty, NY, which

let people in need shop using vouchers from assistance programs that lower the cost of fresh produce for eligible low-income seniors, women, infants, and children. The program also supports local farmers by helping them get certified to accept these vouchers. New enhancements in 2017—like kids story times, presentations from a Catskills bat expert, and musical performances—helped boost attendance at both markets. We also offered a new “Market Ride” program giving free rides to the market for local residents lacking access to reliable transportation. Mountainkeeper partners in this work with the Sullivan County Public Health Services (WIC Program), Sullivan County Rural Health Network, Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County, and Sullivan Renaissance.



CATSKILL EDIBLE GARDEN PROJECT



The Catskill Edible Garden Project gives kids hands-on experience in growing and preparing fresh and healthy food through an innovative program built around edible gardens in area schools. We seek to encourage healthier eating habits, expose kids to possible food-related careers, and help local communities by donating

produce to food pantries. The project includes eight active school gardens, including a new garden established at a local special elementary school in early 2017, along with several community gardens. Mountainkeeper collaborates on the project with Sullivan County Center for Workforce Development, Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County, Green Village Initiative, and Sullivan Renaissance.



HARNESSING THE POWER OF PEOPLE

Mountainkeeper's over 40,000 supporters and online activists provide the people power that energizes our team and drives our programs to success.

In 2017, Mountainkeeper's dedicated supporters took over 5800 actions by phone or email urging decision makers to deny pipeline permits, allocate funds for the Catskill Park, oppose new

anchorages for oil barges on the Hudson, and support a fracking ban in the Delaware River Basin, among many other issues. Mountainkeeper also drove strong public participation at rallies and other actions. Mountainkeeper's website (www.catskillmountainkeeper.org) offers a rich variety of resources including program info, campaign alerts, reports, regional news, and an event calendar.

Mountainkeeper's active Facebook community inspires our team and each other. Mountainkeeper is online every day sharing campaign updates, breaking news, and photographs of our glorious Catskill mountains, wildlife, lakes, and rivers, along with outdoor resources like hiking trails and swimming holes.

Above: Mountainkeeper and allies at a 2017 Delaware River Basin Commission meeting.



Mountainkeeper has over 12,500 Facebook friends.



We have over 11,500 Twitter followers.



*Mountainkeeper's 1,900+ Instagram followers
♥ our beautiful photos.*

OUR DIVERSE AND DYNAMIC PARTNERS

In addition to Mountainkeeper's over 40,000 individual supporters and online activists, we partner with the following organizations:

ALIGN (Alliance for Greater New York), Allied Media Projects, The American Sustainable Business Council, Binghamton Regional Sustainability Coalition, Building Equity and Alignment for Impact Initiative, Californians Against Fracking, Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy, Center for Biological Diversity, Center for Discovery, Citizen Action, Citizens Against the Pilgrim Pipeline-Saugerties, Climate Justice Alliance, Californians Against Fracking, Coalition Against Pilgrim Pipelines - NY & NJ, Coming Clean Collaborative, Concerned Health Professionals of New York, Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County, Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County, Delaware Highlands Conservancy, Delaware Riverkeeper, Earth Guardians New York, Earthjustice, Earthworks, Energy Democracy Alliance, Environmental Advocates of New York, Extreme Energy Extraction Collaborative, Food and Water Watch, Frack Free Catskills, Friends of the Catskill Mountain Rail Trail, Green Village Initiative, Healthy Ulster County, Hudson Riverkeeper, Indigenous Environmental Network, Maurice D. Hinchey Catskill Interpretive Center, Just Transition Alliance, Morgan Outdoors, National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council, New Paltz Climate Action, New York City Environmental Justice Alliance, New Yorkers against Fracking, New Yorkers for Clean Power, New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, No LNG Coalition, Northeast Organic Farmers Association of NY, NY Renews, Onondaga Nation, Open Space Institute, OvRide, Patagonia, Physicians for Social Responsibility - New York, Pure Catskills, PUSH Buffalo, Rainforest Action Network, Rootskeeper, Sane Energy Project, Shandaken Community Gardens, Sierra Club Mid-Atlantic Chapter, Solutions Project, Southwest Pennsylvania Environmental Health Project, Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion, Stop the Constitution Pipeline, Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development, SACRED Sullivan Area Citizens for Responsible Energy Development, Sullivan County Center for Workforce Development, Sullivan County Public Health Services (WIC Program), Sullivan County Residents Against Millennium, Sullivan County Rural Health Network, Sullivan County Visitors Association, Sullivan Renaissance, Sustainable Hudson Valley, 350.org, Transitions Woodstock, Union of Concerned Scientists, Ulster County Climate Action Committee, Ulster County Tourism Advisory Committee, Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee, Uprose, Water Defense, We Are Seneca Lake, Woodstock Land Conservancy, and Woodstock Transition NY

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All of Mountainkeeper's programs are made possible by the generous financial support of our friends and stakeholders, and we hope you will consider making a tax-deductible gift to help power our team in the coming year.

Our Board of Directors oversees stewardship of all gifts to Mountainkeeper, and we are proud that 95 cents out of every dollar contributed goes directly to fund the work of our programs to protect our natural heritage and empower communities.

Ways to Give

You can make a secure online credit card donation at:
WWW.CATSKILLMOUNTAINKEEPER.ORG/DONATIONS

– or –

**send a check made out to Catskill Mountainkeeper along with
your name and address to:**

**CATSKILL MOUNTAINKEEPER
PO BOX 1000
LIVINGSTON MANOR, NY 12758**

To make a gift of securities or donate by wire transfer, please call us at
845.439.1230 for instructions.

Please consider providing meaningful legacy support of our work for years to come by including a gift to Mountainkeeper in your will or trust, or through your retirement or life insurance plan.

THE KEEPERS

We are very grateful to the following members of the Keepers, an inner circle group of Mountainkeeper friends who provide significant financial support and creative energy for our programs:

JOHN AND PATRICIA ADAMS
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THE OUZOUNIAN FAMILY
TAMMY AND JOHN PRATT
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BAGLEY AND MERION WRIGHT
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SAM AND SALLY WRIGHT



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