

# ANNUAL REPORT 2013

Only direct action will save the climate!



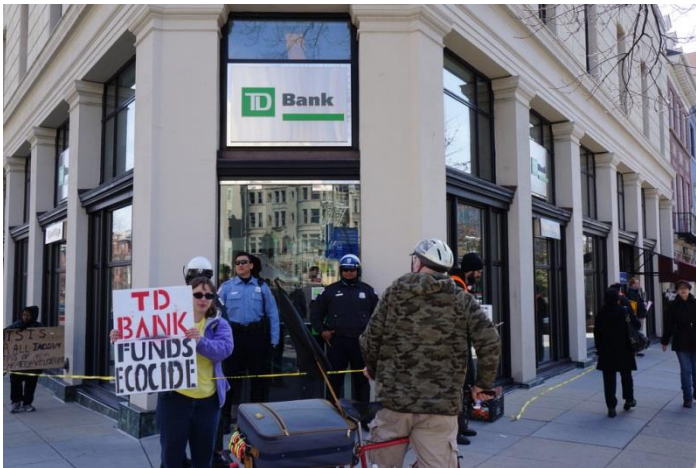
From its very first action in early December 2012 against PNC Bank for its environmental misdeeds in the mountains of Appalachia, Mid-Atlantic-based Climate First!, in an effort to preserve our stable climate, has focused on pressuring corporate entities to do the right thing as far as their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. In its first full year – 2013 – Climate First! worked to establish itself in the Washington, D.C. area by organizing peaceful protests & rallies, as well as joining forces with other groups, all in a drive to grow the climate movement. Working solely through its active Board of Directors, as well as a committed group of energetic volunteers, Climate First! has grown in name recognition and effectiveness.



As the current year comes to a close, Climate First! has continued its critical work by organizing more direct actions, continuing to train people in civil disobedience, and hosting a local visioning workshop by the San Francisco, CA-based Rainforest Action Network. And as Climate First!'s stature has grown, a very modest amount of funding is now flowing into the organization.

Some highlights from 2013 include:

- On a bone-chilling day in February, Climate First! volunteers joined with over 35,000 other people in the Forward on Climate Rally on the nation's Mall in Wash., D.C. The event was, at the time, the largest climate rally in the history of the U.S.



- On a single day in March, Climate First! led protest outside two different branches of TD Bank in Wash., D.C., a lender with strong financial ties to TransCanada, the company that is building the climate-wrecking Keystone XL (KXL) pipeline.

- The month of April brought an opportunity for Climate First! to host a table at

the first Takoma Park Earth Day Festival in Takoma Park, MD. A chance discussion with some visiting Canadians during the Festival led to the prospect of confronting a Canadian minister over his government's inattention to the world's climate problems at a talk a few days later in the District.

- On that eventful April day in Wash., D.C., Climate First!'s founder publicly confronted the Canadian Minister of Natural Resources, Joe Oliver, in a Q & A session regarding the KXL pipeline and tar sands oil. The pointed question got the reporters in the audience scrambling to report back to their newsrooms. A media firestorm subsequently erupted in Canada and beyond, over the minister's blatant dismissal of then-NASA scientist James Hanson's views on the pipeline project.
- In July, Climate First! attended in the District a two-day training on how to perform civil disobedience against the KXL pipeline. The training also included teachings on how to train, and organize a team to commit to such tactics over the pipeline project.



- Later in July, Climate First!'s founder participated with other activists in a direct action in Wash., D.C. against the federal contractor that had prepared a faulty environmental assessment of the KXL pipeline. All fifty-five participants in the action were arrested and carted away in handcuffs. The event made national headlines, and likely resulted in further scrutiny of the report.

- And finally, in October, Climate First! held its first training at a church in Takoma Park, MD for people willing to engage in civil disobedience at the U.S. Department of State in Wash., D.C. over the KXL project.

In yet-to-completed 2014, Climate First! organized an even greater number of events with more robust outcomes. Some of the year's highlights include:

- The first day of April brought the start of daily protests at the Department of State in the District in anticipation of the release at the end of the month the Dept.'s approval or disapproval of the KXL pipeline. The campaign – organized by Climate First! and called "Occupy State Dept." – lasted 18 straight days before being suspended due to agency's announcement of a prolonged delay in the its determination.
- In mid-April in the District, 17 people attended Climate First!'s second training on how to engage in civil disobedience at the Dept. of State over the KXL project.
- In May, a large crowd attended a Climate First! protest/rally at the Canadian Embassy in Wash., D.C. over the KXL pipeline. The action was successfully managed by a member of the organization's Board of Directors, Carrie Biggs-Adams.
- From June to December, Climate First! organized and ran 4 successful actions against PNC Bank and TD Bank in the District of Columbia.
- Then in July, Climate First! ran a protest at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Wash., D.C. over the business organization's unfair attack on the U.S. EPA's recently released regulations to reduce emissions from coal-fired power plants. The mid-week protest was followed by a march to the EPA's home office for a rally in support of its regulations.
- A humid day in early August brought goods news to Climate First! when the IRS awarded tax exempt status to the organization under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.



- On a fair day in September, Climate First! volunteers and supporters marched with well over 300,000 others in the People’s Climate March in New York City. The marchers were demanding that soon-to-be arriving world leaders get to work on protecting the climate at the upcoming U.N. climate negotiations in the Big Apple.
- November brought a two-day Rainforest Action Network workshop in Wash., D.C. hosted by Climate First!. Over 50 people were treated on the workshop’s first day to a visioning session regarding a post-carbon future, followed by interactive break-out sessions on how we would in reality reach such a sustainable future.

In close, Climate First! owes its accomplishments to 1) the dedicated members of its Board of Directors, 2) individuals who have made monetary donations to the organization, and 3) the many volunteers and supporters who have worked tirelessly to further the organization’s twin mission of reducing emissions of GHGs and promoting clean energy, primarily through grassroots organizing and peaceful direct action. While some claim that the odds of successfully preserving our stable climate are small and thus aren’t worth the needed herculean efforts, those who have worked with Climate First! in its initial years see the challenge from a far more responsible perspective: our children and their children deserve great efforts to save the climate no matter what the odds or costs are.

## MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

### Board of Directors - 2014

1. Carrie Biggs-Adams
2. Ted Conwell, President & Secretary
3. Dennis Eshman, Treasurer
4. Brian Higgins, Vice-President
5. vacant
6. vacant

### Contact

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