

Climate First!, Inc.

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

The trump card in saving the climate is... people power!



Image: People's Climate March, 4-29-17; credit--Mike Theller, Reuters

As one might have predicted, 2017 was an extraordinarily busy year for Climate First!. The nation's new president quickly began to follow through on his campaign promises to dismantle or reverse his predecessor's substantial climate initiatives, which included the Clean Power Plan and the landmark Paris Climate Accord, as well as a rejection of the Keystone XL (KXL) pipeline. Trump even went so far as to promise that he'd end the "war on coal," bringing back to its former glory that "black rock" first used for energy in the U.S. in the early 19th century. Returning to the 21st century, given all that, it wasn't surprising that many of the nation's largest banks continued to follow "business as usual" by funding destructive fossil fuel projects at home and around the world. Never mind that the cost of renewable energy was competing quite favorably with that of fossil fuels in numerous U.S. markets.

In response to all the alarm bells in 2017, Climate First! stepped-up its work pushing corporations to start thinking climate first. And as the year came to a close, the organization had seen growth in numbers of supporters and allies, as well as an expanded geographical reach in the Mid-Atlantic region. Some of the 2017's action highlights follow.



The New Year started off with a bang as a million-plus Americans from all walks of life sent a strong message to the new administration during the Women's March on Washington. Climate First! was there among the women and children carrying signs and banners proclaiming their concern for Earth and the climate crisis.

For the third year in a row, Climate First! joined the Polar Bear Plunge fundraiser in late January with dozens of others. Two of its Board members jumped in the chilly Potomac River in Oxon Hill, Maryland, to raise needed resources to address the climate crisis.



In February, the organization held its fourth Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. We ate delicious food as a recent PhD graduate shared his dissertation findings that only people with strong climate beliefs make any significant changes in their carbon footprint. Then a representative from Citizen Climate Lobby spoke about climate advocacy in Congress. An interesting discussion followed both presentations.

Climate First! stood in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples who came to Washington in late winter to march for their rights, and call for a shut-down of the Dakota Access Pipeline.



With the coming of spring and the president's approval of the KXL pipeline, climate activists held an emergency rally against the project.



During a visit with friends in Germany in early April, Climate First!'s director and others met with some dedicated activists who had resorted to living in treehouse "towns" to save a forest. The Hambach Forest in Western Germany was being destroyed for coal underneath it, and these young people were putting their lives on-hold for years in an effort to stop the mining.





With the advent of nice spring-time weather, Climate First! started a new campaign in April against everyone's least favorite bank—Wells Fargo. The organization began scheduling a monthly Day of Action against the lender for its financial support of the KXL pipeline. Over the next nine months and nine Days of Actions in multiple locations throughout the Mid-Atlantic, we and our allies delivered a “demand” letter to maybe 20 bank managers or staff, facilitated “visits” by (about) 13 Wells Fargo clients with bank staff, and collected nearly 200 signatures

on petitions--many were customers of the lender!--from passersby. Along the way, the head of Wells Fargo's Environmental Sustainability office sent an email to Climate First! touting, among other things, the bank's work in sustainability, and how its philanthropy supported clean energy. Climate First! will continue to press Wells Fargo to live up to its claims.

A busy April brought Climate First! and friends to a rally and march for science on a rainy day. And we also joined thousands of highly energized activists at the People's Climate March in Washington, D.C.



Mid-May brought the organization's first appearance ever at the Green Festival Expo in Washington, D.C.

Late June brought the 3rd consecutive Day of Action against Wells Fargo with protests in Wilmington, Delaware, as well as in the nation's capital and Maryland.



It's July's Day of Action, and Climate First! and an ally are holding actions against Wells Fargo in four different states. At the Wells Fargo bank in Philadelphia, this is what awaited us!

Also in the July Day of Action, Climate Stewards of Greater Annapolis gave Wells Fargo a piece of its mind, at left. Then in August, Climate First! and an ally ran actions against Wells Fargo in five states. At right, we are in Camden, N.J.





Onto September's Day of Action, and Climate First! organized protests against Wells Fargo in four states, including below in Frederick, Maryland.

Early in the fall, Climate First! joined the DC Reinvest coalition which was demanding that the District of Columbia divest itself from Wells Fargo.



In October, Climate First! staffed a booth at the popular Street Festival in Takoma Park, Maryland. The KXL pipeline issue brought many visitors to our booth where they learned about Climate First!'s action-oriented campaigns and strategies.



With the Wells Fargo CEO testifying on Capitol Hill, Climate First! and our DC Reinvest allies let 'em have it!



Our allies -- 350 Fairfax (below), 350 Loudon, and the Chesapeake Pipeline Resistance (right) -- joined the October Day of Action.





Another ally, Elders Climate Action, joined the newly expanded Days of Actions in November, running an action in Silver Spring, Maryland. We were now out in front of Wells Fargo branches on both Fridays and Saturday every month.

Closing out the year with a December Days of Actions, Climate First! and its allies continued their work against Wells Fargo.



All indications are that 2018 will be another extraordinarily active year for Climate First!. We will continue to organize people in an effort to stop climate-wrecking fossil fuel projects such as the Keystone XL pipeline, while simultaneously pushing corporations to quickly embrace renewable energy, all in the context of an unraveling climate.

Climate First! sincerely thanks 1) the members of its Board of Directors, who helped set the direction for the organization, while also giving their time to individual projects—such as bringing on a new powerful website—both of which vaulted the nonprofit forward over the past year; 2) its “staff” members and many volunteers, each of whom gave their time to making the organization’s actions and events happen; and 3) the supporters who gave generous financial donations without which Climate First! would not exist.



Image: Rally for the Paris Climate Agreement, 6-1-17; credit-Jennifer Bendery

Board of Directors – Dec. 31, 2017

1. Carrie Biggs-Adams, Treasurer (CA)
2. Jean Boucher, Secretary (MI)
3. James Collins (NY)
4. Ted Conwell, President (MD)
5. Sasan Dehghan (MD)
6. Molly Snyder (NY)

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Climate First! is a nonprofit, tax exempt 501 (c)(3) corporation.

Annual Report prepared by Climate First!, Inc.- February 9, 2018.

Climate First!

12/31/2013 12/31/2014 12/31/2015 12/31/2016 12/31/2017

Operations Statement

Income from Donations	2,851.80	4190.00	7,596.00	8,408.00	7,313.78
Income from Grants			500.00	0.00	0.00
Income from Item Sales	<u>430.00</u>	<u>90.00</u>	<u>80.00</u>	<u>50.00</u>	<u>40.00</u>

Total Income	3,281.80	4280.00	8,176.00	8,458.00	7,353.78
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Expenses

Operations

Cost of Items	491.40	0.00	70.20	35.10	28.08
Registrations (IRS, Reg Agent, MD)	1,017.00	189.00	189.00	243.04	224.23
Memberships	100.00	227.00	118.00	100.00	95.00
Outreach incl Web	385.00	135.85	306.78	474.94	1,955.87
Professional Fees	0.00	310.00	265.00	330.00	231.00
Other Operating Costs	280.85	378.16	1,824.45	2,510.90	6,134.50

Total Operations Costs	2,274.25	1,240.01	2,773.43	3,693.98	8,668.68
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Programs	575.15	1377.34	2,251.11	737.27	1,579.13
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Fund-Raising Commissions			777.50	1,101.78	0.00
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Fines and Penalties			100.00	0.00	0.00
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Total Expenses	<u>2,849.40</u>	<u>2,617.35</u>	<u>5,902.04</u>	<u>5,533.03</u>	<u>10,247.81</u>
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Net Income	<u>432.40</u>	<u>1,662.65</u>	<u>2,273.96</u>	<u>2,924.97</u>	<u>-2,894.03</u>
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Beginning Fund Balance	0.00	432.40	2,095.05	4,369.01	7,293.98
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Net Income	<u>432.40</u>	<u>1,662.65</u>	<u>2,273.96</u>	<u>2,924.97</u>	<u>-2,894.03</u>
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Ending Fund Balance	<u>432.40</u>	<u>2,095.05</u>	<u>4,369.01</u>	<u>7,293.98</u>	<u>4,399.95</u>
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*Compiled by Barkley Associates, Frederick, MD; February, 2018.