

# Climate First!, Inc.

## 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

While the urgency seems overwhelming, with courage,  
dramatic change is possible, even inevitable.



Image: Håkan Jansson/Alamy

As the U.S. government continued its efforts in 2018 to ignore—and seemingly even to exacerbate—the impending climate crisis, Climate First! stepped-up its work against Wells Fargo bank for its financial support of the Keystone XL pipeline. By year's end, the #StopAllPipelines campaign (formerly known as #DefundKXL campaign) completed its 21<sup>st</sup> consecutive monthly direct action against Wells Fargo, a streak that translated into 25 actions at the lender's branches in the metro D.C. area. Of the 25 bank actions, Climate First! activists delivered a “demand” letter to 11 Wells Fargo branch managers and 2 bank employees, while collecting pretty close to 100 new petition signatures. And finally, heeding the unprecedented warnings from various scientific reports released in the fall, Climate First! organizers began demanding that Wells Fargo end its support of—not just the KXL pipeline—but of all tar sands oil pipelines. Some highlights of 2018 follow.



Starting the year, Climate First! had its 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive monthly “Days of Actions” against Wells Fargo, one of the main lenders to the energy company building the KXL pipeline. The above direct action was in Washington, D.C., while another protest followed the next day in Maryland.



On a shivering cold day in February, Climate First! joined with GWU's Students for Indigenous and Native American Rights (SINAR) on Capitol Hill to protest the KXL pipeline.



In mid-February, Climate First! held its' fifth Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. We ate delicious home-cooked food as Leslie Wharton from Elders Climate Action (ECA) shared with us how the organization organized seniors to march and lobby for climate legislation. A lively discussion regarding how ECA and Climate First! could attract more people to their events followed the talk.







The February Days of Actions brought on four protests against dirty Wells Fargo.

Two actions were organized by Climate First! with the help of Elders Climate Action, while 350 Fairfax, 350 Loudoun, and Chesapeake Pipeline Resistance ran two in Virginia.



As part of our work with the D.C. ReInvest Coalition—which campaigns to end Wells Fargo’s reign as the District’s bank—we spent a sunny April lunchtime on the steps of D.C. city hall sharing our robust message.



Onto Fairfax, Virginia, where Climate First! worked an April Day of Actions against everyone’s least favorite bank.



Early May gave Climate First! the opportunity to “show its wares” at Montgomery County’s GreenFest in a blooming park near downtown Silver Spring, Maryland. The festival offered to passersby a cornucopia of



clean energy technologies, advocacy from nonprofit groups, and products by environmentally-friendly businesses.



Climate protection advocates got together near the end of the GreenFest to strategize.



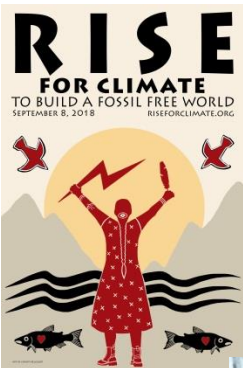
Quite an impressive fleet of electric cars...

In June's 15th consecutive monthly Days of Actions, Climate First! recruited a friendly canine to help us bark at a Wells Fargo branch in NE Washington, D.C





In late summer, Climate First! was invited to share its work with incoming college students enrolled in American University's "Explore D.C." program. "Professor" Ted taught the students about environmental justice issues in the nation's capital.



In preparation for the world-wide event "Rise for Climate" -- which was scheduled for early September in an effort to encourage local and state leaders to enact climate measures in view of the virtually do-nothing U.S. government -- Climate First! and other Montgomery County, Maryland advocacy groups began organizing. The coalition spent a couple of months putting together a local rally, dubbed "MoCo Rise for Climate" (R4C), which was intended to push county and state politicians to start acting like there was a climate emergency, and pass legislation.

The outdoor MoCo R4C event in downtown Rockville, Maryland,



featured short talks by dynamic local leaders, including a young Native American, person of faith, Goldman Prize-winning activist, county legislator, and U.S. Representative. In addition, the event included kids' activities, live music, dynamic artwork, and tabling by civic and nonprofit groups.







Despite a torrential rain that pushed the event indoors at the last minute, over 250 people showed-up to the MoCo R4C rally.

During his talk, U.S. Representative Jamie Raskin (Democrat-MD), above, was his usual energetic self.



At the end of the long day, the MoCo Rise for Climate organizers celebrated success!

In October, Climate First! and others joined with the Indigenous Women's Delegation to share our views on fossil fuels to a group of bankers--including Wells Fargo--that was meeting at the International Finance Corporation in the nation's capital.





As 2018 came to a close, activists from Climate First! and other groups helped organize the first action of the Extinction Rebellion's (XR) D.C. chapter. XR, which had only recently started in the United Kingdom, garnered international attention last November when it blocked the five main bridges over the River Thames, causing major traffic jams in one of the biggest acts of civil disobedience in the U.K. in decades. XR then quickly spread to more than 35 countries, including 25 U.S. cities.

XR's D.C. action occurred in December on Capitol Hill, and symbolized the official launch of "Extinction Rebellion US." Over 50 people participated, first by formally declaring a nonviolent rebellion against the U.S. gov't for "criminal inaction on the climate crisis." Then the group marched to an area close to the U.S. Capitol where it publicly deliberated--in the street--on policy solutions to address the impending crisis.







By joining with other groups in NW Washington, D.C. in December, Climate First! completed its 21<sup>st</sup> consecutive Days of Actions against Wells Fargo.

In close, as the U.S. continues to grapple with the existential warnings from recent reports authored by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and other scientific/policy bodies, while simultaneously facing the political challenge of enacting far-reaching climate measures to wary voters, Climate First! will continue its efforts to stop fossil fuel projects. Appropriately, the sheer urgency of the climate issue at the present time is causing Climate First! and other groups to embrace more abrupt tactics such as civil disobedience in their direct actions. “If you take the [IPCC] report literally — which you should! — the decade of the 2020s is about to be the most important years in all of humanity. We’re about to enter one of the most creative, meaningful, transcendent eras of human history — *simply because we must.*” Quote: Meteorologist & Grist columnist, Eric Holthaus.

Climate First! sincerely thanks 1) the members of its Board of Directors, each of whom helped set the direction for the organization, while also giving time to individual projects; 2) its’ “staff” and the many volunteers who together were critical to the organization’s events going forward successfully; and 3) its’ supporters who gave generous donations which permitted the nonprofit to continue its climate protection work.

#### Board of Directors – Dec. 31, 2018

1. Carrie Biggs-Adams, Treasurer (CA)
2. Jean Boucher, Secretary (Vancouver, BC)
3. Ted Conwell, President (MD)
4. Sasan Dehghan (MD)
5. Walter Ebmeyer (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 20, 2019.



# Climate First!

	12/31/2013	12/31/2014	12/31/2015	12/31/2016	12/31/2017	12/31/2018
Operations Statement						
Income from Donations	2,851.80	4190.00	7,596.00	8,408.00	7,313.78	10,491.86
Income from Grants			500.00	0.00	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>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Income	3,281.80	4280.00	8,176.00	8,458.00	7,353.78	10,491.86
Expenses						
Operations						
Cost of Items	491.40	0.00	70.20	35.10	28.08	0.00
Registrations (IRS, Reg Agent, MD)	1,017.00	189.00	189.00	243.04	224.23	189.00
Memberships	100.00	227.00	118.00	100.00	95.00	100.00
Outreach incl Web	385.00	135.85	306.78	474.94	1,955.87	567.44
Professional Fees	0.00	310.00	265.00	330.00	231.00	280.00
Other Operating Costs	280.85	378.16	1,824.45	2,510.90	6,134.50	4,753.54
Total Operations Costs	2,274.25	1,240.01	2,773.43	3,693.98	8,668.68	5,889.98
Programs	575.15	1377.34	2,251.11	737.27	1,579.13	836.84
Fund-Raising Commissions			777.50	1,101.78	0.00	0.00
Fines and Penalties			100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
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>	<u>6,726.82</u>
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>	<u>3,765.04</u>
Beginning Fund Balance	0.00	432.40	2,095.05	4,369.01	7,293.98	4,399.95
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>	<u>3,765.04</u>
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>	<u>8,164.99</u>

\*Compiled by Barkley Associates, Frederick, MD; February, 2019.