INDIGENOUS GREEN NEW DEAL

8TH FIRE SOLAR IS GROWING!

In this opening of 2020, it’s incumbent upon us all to have good vision, thinking, and courage. And, it’s the time to work together—whether in creating the next economy, protecting our water for future generations, or insuring that we get out the vote...for all these reasons and more. As we look at the last year, we are very grateful for your support and all the hard work. And as we look ahead, we will be there with our good hearts, our attorneys and social movement ready for change. That’s this story.

We are creating the Green New Deal here on the White Earth reservation, and beyond, Honor the Earth is committed to the Green Path, the path of green economies, renewable energy, local food, and an Indigenous paradigm which reaffirms relationship with Earth. We took this to heart this past year, and created Akiing a community-based economic initiative which began 8th Fire Solar. That’s our Solar Thermal Manufacturing facility in Ponsford, MN.

We are working on a regional Indigenous Green New Deal summit this May. And, we plan on installing 200 kW of solar across White Earth in the upcoming year, and are supporting local food systems, with our sister organization, Anishinaabe Agriculture Institute.

As we continue to grow our organization, we’re outgrowing the solar thermal manufacturing shop space, and have started construction on a new addition on the north side of the building to provide additional office, storage, and work space. We are using our own crew for much of the construction, providing valuable construction training.
We also installed the first of four solar panels destined for the south wall of the shop building. On a recent bitter cold Minnesota January day when the temperature was nearly 20 below, the panel had no trouble heating up to over 100 degree and warming that part of the shop. We will use these installations as training opportunities as well as to showcase the clean heating technology to visitors.

As we begin our second year of grant support from the Northwest Area Foundation, our focus now turns to getting the solar thermal technology to our partners throughout the US. We’ll be offering a series of dealer and installer trainings, both in target communities as well as onsite at our shop, and will attending conferences, meetings, pow wows and more to spread the word and develop partnerships. If you are interested in bringing training to your community, please contact Pam Mahling, Special Projects Coordinator at pam@honorearth.org.

THERMAL STORAGE WORKSHOP AT HUNT UTILITIES GROUP

We recently had a challenging question posed to us by our friends at Lightspring, a solar PV installation company that was trying to help a large pole shed used by the public in the winter to go completely off grid. The question was, how many solar thermal panels would it take to heat a large, only slightly insulated space? To answer that question we turned to our partners at Hunt Utilities Group, where they have been studying, measuring and calculating thermal storage solutions for decades, ranging from miles of tubing in sand under their building storing head from the 72 RREAL solar thermal panels installed to more standard insulation solutions such as rigid foam and double glass. Representatives from both 8th Fire Solar and Lightspring spend a day at the H.U.G. campus reviewing the calculations and learning about their experiments. Thanks so much to all the folks at H.U.G. for a day spent well!

WATER PROTECTOR TOURS

We love our north country, the place where the wild things live. We love the rivers, trees and lakes; we love our maple syrup, and our Anishinaabe people. This is the land we have loved for 8000 years, we are the home team. This land is worth protecting: from large oil pipelines, fossil fuel infrastructure, industrial agriculture, wasteful practices, and mining projects. This is our land, Anishinaabe Akiing, the land to which the people belong.

We invite you to celebrate the north country in two separate tours, offered through Honor the Earth. The tours will include lectures with Anishinaabe attorneys, traditional teachers and water protectors. These tours will include visits to front line opposition to Line 3, Enbridge pipe yards and facilities. The tours include outdoor activities from skiing to maple syruping and, if you take the later tour, horse back riding.

Water Protector Tour #1: March 26-29
Water Protector Tour #2: May 14-17
Water Protector Tour #3: June TBA

SIGN UP AT welcomewaterprotectors.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

3rd Annual Indigenous Hemp Conference March 4th 2020
17th Annual Indigenous Farming Conference March 5-8th 2020
LN3 FILM SCREENINGS
Colorado Environmental Film Festival, Golden CO, Feb 20-23
Youth Climate Justice Summit, Twin Cities, MN Feb 23
National Museum of the Native American, Washington DC April 22
Garifuna International Indigenous Film Festival, Los Angeles, CA May 2020
As Honor the Earth enters 2020, it’s our 27th year as an Indigenous organization serving our communities and Mother Earth. We have measured ourselves, shored up our foundations, and continue a seven year battle against the Enbridge Corporation, and fossil fuels in our Great Lakes.

We will continue our legal, policy and on the ground challenges to Enbridge in the upcoming year, as we expand our challenge to the Husky Refinery in Superior, Wisconsin, and the Nemadji Trails Energy Center (NTEC), a newly proposed natural gas power plant intended to power the Enbridge complex. Enbridge’s main line, six tar sands pipelines consumes the equivalent of two nuclear power plants. That’s the complexity of the problem they’ve created.

We intend to be here facing Wiindigo Economics, tar sands pipelines, guiding our communities to the resilience needed for our communities to survive, and also facing these pipelines. We will work side by side with our communities, with our allies at the churches, the schools and the youth. And we are going to make good decisions for our community. To make this happen our staff came together this January in our first staff retreat of 2020 and we are proud to be working for Mother Earth and our future generations.

In the Twin Ports, Honor the Earth came out December 19th for a Public Utilities Commission hearing in Duluth dealing with the neglected question of the threat of Lake Superior posed by a new line. Winona LaDuke participated in a press conference that included the Chairwoman of Duluth Indigenous Commission, Babette Sandman, and affected landowner Ben Groeschl. Winona entered into evidence a toxic tar ball in water that had pulled from the Kalamazoo River in 2015, 5 years after a billion dollars had been spent cleaning up Enbridge’s catastrophic 2010 spill in Michigan. Winona made the case that the assurances being offered by pipeline supporters are not based in reality. Organizer Allen Richardson used his testimony to encourage the members of organized labor in attendance to broaden their definition of solidarity to include treaty rights, wild rice protection and water quality standards. He reminded them that the Landowner Choice Program which would allow for the removal of a deactivated old Line 3 pipeline from private property was the result of water protectors, landowners and pipeline worker finding common ground.

Honor the Earth participated in January 13th’s press conference announcing a solid legal victory by opponents of the PolyMet sulfide mine. We are heartened to see Fond du Lac continue to take a major leadership role on this crucial issue.
On January 20th Honor the Earth was present for the Duluth National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) 2020 MLK tribute events. We look forward to expanding our relationship with the Duluth NAACP as their chapter approaches their 100th anniversary.

On January 23rd the Wisconsin DNR held an air permit hearing for the Nemadji Trail Energy Center. NTEC is a 700 million dollar joint venture of Minnesota Power and Wisconsin’s Dairyland Power that represents an investment in fossil fuels at the critical moment when we must transition to renewables. The Minnesota Court of Appeals ruled in December that the state’s Public Utilities Commission erred when it declined to consider potential impacts the Nemadji Trail Energy Center could have on air, water, land and other natural resources. Paul DeMain, Oneida/Ojibwe, a Chairman for Honor the Earth and 1st Degree Mide from Lac Courte Oreille and Ojibwe pipe carrier Gwiiwizens, known as Ricky DeFoe of Fond Du Lac spoke against the project. DeMain and DeFoe spoke to the urgent need to transition away from dependence on fossil fuels and addressed the history of the land the facility is slated to be built upon which would be very close to a mass gravesite of Native remains originating from Wisconsin Point. Paul DeMain let the project supporters know that climate change is happening so fast that soon people who double down on fossil fuel proposals will find themselves the singled out and blamed by their fellow citizens.

Honor the Earth continues to organize against the continued use of deadly Hydrogen Fluoride gas at the Husky Refinery which exploded in April of 2018, endangering lives throughout the region. We have every intention of leveraging Husky onto a greener path.

We wanted to put up a Fish House, well a couple of them on Lake Bemidji. You see, we were fortunate to receive a grant for murals, intended to be in the community. That’s because Annie Humphrey, VOTAN and some other cool artists painted up the village of Pine Point, at least started to. So, we wanted to paint a fish house, put it out there on the lake, and share some beautiful art about water, on Lake Bemidji. Well, that’s not good ice on Lake Bemidji. For the first time in my memory, the collective memory of LaDuke women, there is not good ice on Lake Bemidji. The quality of ice is really what matters. This is the warmest and wettest year we know, and that deeply impacts our culture and way of life.

More than that, there are all these new ice castles. Really, Minnesota is full of lakes, and ice castles, that’s sort of like the modern day fishing man cave. And you know what, can’t even take those out on the lake these days. That’s frustrating for sure. And, that means that the world we know is changing.

We are happy to share our ice fishing houses, murals and works of art with our community. Special thanks to Christi Belcourt, for her amazing work, and to Ashley Martin, Teresa LaDuke, Ava Mart, for their work on the murals. Time to share them!
YOUNG WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

By Waseyabin Kapashesit, Ojibwe/Cree, White Earth/Moose Factory, Ontario, CAN

I was born in Moose Factory, Ontario and spend my first few years with my mother Winona, and father Randy Kapashesit. My father passed in 2012 but is the hereditary chief of my people. I come from a family with genocide on both sides, Jewish from my maternal and Native from my paternal side. We are a strong family. Survivors.

I grew up mostly in northern Minnesota on the White Earth reservation. I attended tribal schools, and public schools in the area. I did some studies at Bemidji State University, and wish to continue my schooling in the near future, mainly focusing on indigenous health.

I am a mother of 2 amazing kids who push me everyday to be better. Not only for my family but for my community. I am grateful for the opportunity and will do my best to carry out the responsibilities that come with it.

My main roles with Honor the Earth is special projects coordination, and as scheduling assistant. I have a strong interest in maintaining the integral core relationships of Honor the Earth. I have spent my life with the organization from living on a tour bus, to personally investing my own family’s time to ensure it thrives. I look forward to what the future holds for our team!

EMPLOYEE FEATURE

AVA MART

Boozhoo my name is Ava Mart. My immediate blood brings me to the Leech Lake reservation but have intermittently lived on White Earth for 12 years. For the past 15 months at Honor the Earth, my time and efforts have primarily revolved around merchandise, customer service, screen printing, and tabling at a wide variety of events. I look forward to creating art pieces when the opportunity arises.

My most recent accomplishment is a giant 9’ x 4’, hand-painted “Water is Life” mural, which took me 50 hours to complete. In light of our climate crisis, the fish house the mural is to be installed on, will not be on Lake Bemidji this winter. This is why I’d like to keep doing the work that I do in the battle against environmental injustices. I’ve testified against Enbridge, in the defense of life. And I’d like to expand my horizons and continue fighting against injustice.

I enjoy creating art with my hands and with my voice; am extremely personable, and have endured at a very young age the cruelties of poverty, neglect, abuse, extreme addiction, and trauma that have been normalized on reservations. So, through life’s endurances - and very pivotal experiences and encounters I now finally know it’s time to be heard.

I’d like to use my artistic ways of expression and social skills, add to them and more, and direct my energies towards building a livable environment for future generations. One could say my personal & professional goals intertwine as the things we are fighting for are a matter of life and death.
ROCKING THE NATIVE VOTE

It’s 2020, and the stakes are high. In every area of civil society, from the rights of women, the right to clean water, the right to security of home, immigration, and the right to a future, the US election in 2020 will count. Being president of the United States is like being president of the Free World, and no question, the current administration has put the world on edge.

In this upcoming election, every vote matters. Over the past four years, Republican and corporate interests have been pushing to disenfranchise millions of voters, particularly voters of color who would most likely vote as Democrats. As it turns out, the Native American vote could influence election results in seven major swing states: Arizona, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, North Carolina, Wisconsin, and Colorado, according to data from Four Directions, a national Native American research institute. “We can make a difference,” said Renee Lenore Fasthorse Iron Hawk, a member of the Cheyenne River Sioux tribe in South Dakota. “There are swing states that will make a difference. We can and have mobilized our vote when it matters.” 2020 will matter.

August of 2019, saw the first National Native American Presidential Forum, attended by most of the Democratic candidates, except Joe Biden.

The Frank LaMere Memorial Presidential Forum was the place to be. Names in honor of LaMere who had attended seven consecutive Democratic conventions until 2012 and was a citizen of the Winnebago Nation. Tribal leaders, journalists, and attorneys put candidates on the spot asking for some answers and some commitments. Iron Hawk said a new “awakening” of political activism in Native American communities is prompting candidates to respond.

NATIVE PEOPLE ARE GETTING ELECTED

The historic midterm election of 2018 changed the playing field. That’s to say that the midterm elections of Reps. Deb Haaland, D–NM, and Sharice Davids, D–KS became the first Native American women to serve in Congress. In September of 2019, Kimberly Teehee became the Cherokee Nation’s first delegate to the U.S. House. And in Minnesota, Lieutenant Governor Peggy Flanagan (White Earth Anishinaabe) became the highest elected Native in state office nationally. Elsewhere, Paulette Jordan, narrowly lost the governors election in Idaho, after serving years in the Idaho Legislature. Adversity is the norm with Native people, and rocking the vote is one of the anecdotes. Honor the Earth will continue our work to rock the vote, and we hope to work with all good people to make sure that 2020 is the year where a good future is made at the ballot box and in the communities.

Your contribution directly supports targeted organizing, strategic outreach, media and education campaigns, legal interventions, and renewable energy projects. We are up against some of the largest energy corporations and lobby groups in the world and we need your help to make real change! Support us by visiting our website: https://donorbox.org/honor-the-earth-donation
HONOR THE EARTH ALLOCATES $116,000 IN NEW GRANTS TO 25 INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Honor the Earth has the privilege of helping to redistribute wealth to indigenous nonprofits and organizing work. We do our best to respond to the needs of indigenous struggles financially by supporting groups, and also by providing political and social support. We were able to support the horse rides of the Dakota 38 and the Big Food Memorial Ride, reaffirming the horse nation as a healing nation.

THE TELESCOPE AND THE MAUNA
“The mountain brought us together,” Luana Neff tells us. It’s 200 days into the prayer vigil and blockade which brought the proposed thirty meter telescope to a stop in Hawaii. That’s to say, the project, the fourteenth giant telescopes in Hawaii has met with resistance, big time. Luana is one of the Kapuna, or elders who was arrested in July 2019.

This is the first major occupation since Standing Rock, and it’s a Selma Moment. It’s a moment which unites people and understanding with water and land. Thousands have come. Looking through the lens of a battle over the TMT one also sees a story which is not just about a telescope, but about who gets to decide the future and understand and interpret the world. It’s about if we will look to the stars, or if we will look to the Earth. And it is about if we want bombs or water. It’s a time of the Kia’i, or the Protectors.

On July 17th, 2019 Native Hawaiian Mauna Protectors, faced off with 200 riot police on the Hawaiian Homesteads Road to the proposed site of the $1.9 billion TMT. Native Hawaiian Kia’i watched as the oldest among them were carted off, one by one, by law enforcement officers. Arrested that day were 35 elders, who told their children and supporters to stay calm. Some were in wheelchairs or using canes or walkers.

The Kapu System—“This camp works under strict discipline. Everything is based on ritual and on the framework of our ancestors”, Pua Case, one of the leaders in the Mauna Kea movement tells me. “Our traditional practice includes Cities of Refuge, a Kapu and village system…our traditional governance and organization.” The camp is flourishing, “It’s a temple. You can’t make war with a temple. You can stand for righteousness. It demands aloha,” says Kealoha Pisciotta, Kia’i leader and spokesperson.

FALL 2019 GRANTEES

Four Winds American Indian Council
Eyak Preservation Council
Pocasset Pokanoket Land Trust
Covenant Pathways
Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition
Winona Dakota Unity Alliance
T’Sou-ke First Nation
Tlalnepantla Arts Festival
Kingsley Community Garden
Hopi Tutskwa Permaculture
Mailikukahi Aina Momona Academy
Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance
Native American Educational Technologies Inc.
Kawerak Inc.
Save California Salmon
Indigenous Youth Foundation
Mauna Kea Education and Awareness
Sustainable Nations
Unist’ot’en Camp
New Energy Economy, Inc.
Rogue Climate
Anishinaabe Agriculture Institute
Horse Spirit Society
Dakota 38+2
First Friday Show
AKIING COMMUNITY ART AND SCREEN PRINTING DEVELOPMENT

Oozhitoon Onishishin: To make it beautiful, that’s us here at Akiing

We see the future in 2020, and it is great. We closed 2019 surpassing our goals and expectations in our screen printing here in Pine Point–Akiing. Our team produced over 900 units of t-shirts, hoodies plus more locally. We increased screen printing by 90% fulfilling our merchandise needs, and were able to ship globally. At one time we relied 100% on outside non-local vendors to produce our merchandise, however in 2019, 75% of our products were organic, eco textile garments, as we grew a local value-added economy. We now offer organic, hemp and bamboo textile garments.

We are proud to offer our new “Water is Life” collection in hemp and bamboo garments, featuring our Anishinaabe artists. We have a new ‘collective’ of Water Protector Designers. The idea behind this collective is to support native artists, while up-cycling and upscaling garments to create beautiful art. We are creating a local art economy with native artist leadership. Honor the Earth strives to be part of the fair market and we hope to expand our role in that this year.

Jane Fonda proudly wore a custom-beaded medallion at Fire Drill Fridays in D.C., with Winona LaDuke and Sally Field, and so many more supporters and protectors. We offer amazing gifts to share with our friends of Mother Earth and our water.

We are extremely grateful for the support of our donors, the Kalliopeia Foundation, the Northwest Area Foundation, the Park Foundation, Pugsley Fund of the HRK Foundation, Kristine Ollikkala (and Archie LameDeer), and many more! Miigwech! You make this movement possible! We rely on your donations to sustain and grow our efforts to build a just, green economy in Native Communities.

Executive Director, Honor the Earth

OFFICIAL SELECTION
Colorado Environmental Film Festival
2020

HAPPENING NOW

JOIN OUR NATIONAL FILM SCREENING + DISCUSSION CAMPAIGN
LN3: SEVEN TEACHINGS OF THE ANISHINAABE IN RESISTANCE AND JOIN THE EFFORT TO STOP TAR SANDS EXPANSION
WWW.HONOREARTH.ORG/LN3

For questions LN3@honorearth.org

Visit our Water is Life Collection page & Our new Water Protector Designer Collective at www.honortheearthmerchandise.com/designers