



Ohio Student Environmental Coalition

Update from Mattie 11.25.07

Hey friends, there is quite a lot that I want to share with you, but I've put it in a format that I hope will be easy on your brain and your eyes (unless your email doesn't do fancy stuff, in which case it probably looks pretty boring). As the quarter/semester comes to a close and things start to slow down, we'll have time to figure out what this network/coalition looks like, and reflect on the past semester and plan for the next. Oh, and don't forget to ask for a Mountain Justice Spring Break registration (or some such awesome thing) for the holidays!

This google group belongs to you as much as it does to me, though I'm happy to be a point of information on all this stuff. Feel free to forward this on to others in your groups and beyond.

-Yours, m-

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--OSEC UPDATES--

MOUNTAIN JUSTICE SPRING BREAK

The Mountain Justice Spring Break Planning Collective is off and running, and we can use your help. We've got working group bottomliners ready to plug you in, and working groups that still need bottomliners. Our bi-weekly planning call is this Wednesday at 9 pm, call in number: 641-715-3300 access code: 268727# - feel free to join in. <http://www.mjsb.org>

OHIO AREA STUDENT ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT (OASES)

February. Columbus. Training. Action. Networking. Fun. The OASES working groups are beginning to form, so it's a perfect time to get involved. If you're interested and I haven't already contacted you about getting involved, please let me know. We're looking to have our first planning call by December 7th. Since you're subscribed to this list, you should have access to the OASES 2008 Google Spreadsheet - http://spreadsheets.google.com/ccc?key=pMFaraOyxOjksJkEA8E_wBQ&hl=en&pli=1

FACEBOOK

Oh yes, we have a new OSEC Facebook group with over 100 members now (holy crud). If you're not in, you're missing out!

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=7461526853>

LOGO

William Hilton from U of Cincinnati designed that wonderful logo on the Facebook group and at the top of this email. Thanks William!

--ACTION--

THE ENERGY BILL

On Monday, November 5th, three thousand youth engaged in the largest lobby day on global warming in American history and rallied around bold goals for how to stabilize the climate with Congressional champions. However, before the week was out, our leaders not only failed to heed our call but went so far as to strip some of the most important language from the national Energy Bill, which was the greenest Energy Bill in years. This is a test and an opportunity.

Your Representative and Senators will be in district from now until November 30th, which means that we can build on the momentum of Power Shift through follow up meetings in their home districts and show them that we, their constituents, demand a strong Energy Bill. We have a fleeting window of opportunity to invigorate and inspire the thousands strong national network coming out of Power Shift to take action on this and to bring about the passage of strong legislation putting us on track to achieve what we need by 2009.

We'll need to act fast. Download the Energy Bill Toolkit at <http://www.SSC.org> to get ideas and materials for how to take action at your school and in your district over the next few days.

"WALK AGAINST WARMING"

On Sunday, November 11th more than a hundred thousand people "walked against warming" in Australia. Walks occurred in over 50 localities around the country with marches of around 30,000 in Sydney and Melbourne. The nation-wide demonstration on climate change occurred two weeks before the federal election (24th November), as the issue becomes a key voting issue. John Howard, the only Western leader to join US president George Bush in rejecting the Kyoto Protocol, will be fighting to retain power.

On December 8th, the Saturday midway through the UN Climate talks in Bali, Indonesia, this tide of climate protest will reach a crescendo with demonstrations and events in more than 50 countries all around the world. These will demand that world leaders take urgent action on climate *now*, before it's too late. This means an equitable and effective international emissions reductions treaty with binding targets as soon as it can possibly be achieved.

<http://www.walkagainstawarming.org/>

--POLITICS--

MORATORIUM ON APPROVAL OF NEW COAL-FIRED POWER PLANTS?

On November 8, Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) announced his plans to introduce a bill that establishes a moratorium on the approval of new coal-fired power plants until the EPA creates regulations to address greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act. Waxman announced his legislation at a Congressional hearing with EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson. Under the Waxman proposal, a new coal-fired power plant could only receive a permit if it uses state-of-the-art technology to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These measures would also be required for any new plant to receive allowances under future climate change legislation.

READ MORE - <http://oversight.house.gov/story.asp?ID=1613>

GOVERNOR STRICKLAND BYSTANDER IN REGIONAL CLIMATE INITIATIVE

What's a green, coal-lovin' governor to do? Pressured on both sides, Strickland chose a middle path - signing the agreement covering alternative fuels and renewable energy but taking a walk on the greenhouse-gas pact and just agreeing to be an "observer."

READ MORE:

<http://itsgettinghotinhere.org/2007/11/15/ten-midwest-leaders-sign-a-regional-climate-agreement/>
<http://www.cleveland.com/open/plaindealer/index.ssf?/base/isope/1195306331232120.xml&coll=2&thispage=1>

--NEWS--

Ohio's Traditional Manufacturing Sector Sees the Value of Renewables

COLUMBUS- The Ohio Business Development Coalition says that Ohio's manufacturing companies are quickly moving into the wind energy industry. There are currently 37 companies in Ohio associated with the wind energy industry and 34 more interested in getting involved.

READ MORE - <http://www.renewableenergyaccess.com/rea/news/story?id=50571>

Ohio Next to Implement Renewable Energy Standard?

It's looking like it: according to the Springfield News-Sun, "Backers of renewable energies are ratcheting efforts to get passed this fall legislation mandating that 20 percent of Ohio's total energy come from wind energy production." Supporters of a statewide renewable energy standard believe the time is right, as Gov. Ted Strickland will also be introducing his comprehensive energy plan for Ohio by the end of the year, and many expect him the plan to call for a reduced dependence on coal for electricity production.

READ MORE - <http://sustainablog.blogspot.com/2007/08/ohio-next-to-implement-renewable-energy.html>

--OPPORTUNITIES--

ACTIVIST TRAINING DAY

You are invited to the National Environmental Trust and Audubon Ohio Activist Training Day: Saturday December 1st at the Plains Library near Athens.

From 11-2pm the program will be on issues of global warming and how folks can make a big impact by mobilizing members of their communities to take action on federal legislation. From 2-3pm people will have an opportunity to meet with grassroots campaigners from NET in a strategy session to discuss how to proceed in the future. Lunch will be provided.

Contact Noelle Janka with NET for more info - noelle@grenncorps.org 614.228.1447

Register online now at: <http://www.audubon.org/campaign/workshop.php>

PEACEMAKER TRAINING INSTITUTE

January 3-10, 2008 Kirkridge, PA -- Young Organizers, Artists, and Activists - challenge yourself, share and gain knowledge and build community with some of the most dynamic youth organizers from across the country!

PTIs combine theory/discussion on social change with concrete organizing tools you can use in your community

around counter recruitment and social justice. For one week, participants learn and teach through group and one-on-one discussions and interactive workshops, music, art, and popular education to develop and strengthen solid foundations in: militarism and counter recruitment, racism and anti-racist organizing, gender oppression, roots of economic inequality, lesbian, gay, queer, trans and bi-sexual issues, spirituality/sustaining practice, *AND MUCH MORE!*

For more information and to apply, go to <http://youth.forusa.org/> and/or call Brie at 651-757-5353 or email peacemakertraining@gmail.com.

CAMPUS ECOLOGY FELLOWSHIPS

Proposals due December 15!!

NWF's Campus Ecology program is now accepting fellowship proposals for the 2008 class of Campus Ecology Fellows. NWF is seeking undergraduate and graduate students working with a team of faculty, staff, or other students on projects to reduce their campus' carbon footprint. Fellowship grants are awarded in amounts up to \$2000. Learn More: www.nwf.org/campusecology/fellowships

DART COMMUNITY ORGANIZING POSITIONS

The Direct Action & Research Training (DART) Center is currently accepting resumes from those interested in social and economic justice issues for their paid, four-month community organizing training program known as the DART Organizers Institute. The application deadline for this program is January 1, 2008. The DART Organizers Institute starts June 17, 2008 and combines a 7-day classroom with 15-week field training. Organizer Trainees will learn such things as entering a community, identifying and training local leaders, strategic planning and issue cutting, relationship and community building, direct Action on community issues, and fundraising. To find out more about the DART center, check out our website: www.thedartcenter.org.

JOBS BOARD

To stay on top of this information in the future, you can check the Campus Climate Challenge Jobs Board, which has most of these opportunities, plus plenty more.

<http://climatechallenge.org/jobsboard>

--RESOURCES--

HOW ARE YOU CONNECTED TO MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL?



For years, coal companies have tried to hide the dirty secret behind mountaintop coal - that it comes at the the cost of mountains, communities and even lives. Yet if you live east of the Mississippi, odds are some of your power comes directly from burning coal from mountaintop removal. And even if you live in California, our tool shows how the money you pay in your electric bill goes into the pockets of mountaintop removal coal companies.

Wherever we live, we all have a connection to mountaintop removal coal mining, and that means it is up to us to do something about it. Visit My Connection to see how your electricity is connected to mountaintop removal - then take action and demand that your power company stop using mountaintop removal coal:

<http://www.ilovemountains.org/myconnection/>

CARBON MONITORING FOR ACTION (CARMA)

At its core, Carbon Monitoring for Action (CARMA) is a massive database containing information on the carbon emissions of over 50,000 power plants and 4,000 power companies worldwide. Power generation accounts for 40% of all carbon emissions in the United States and about one-quarter of global emissions. CARMA is the first global inventory of a major, emissions-producing sector of the economy.

The objective of CARMA.org is to equip individuals with the information they need to forge a cleaner, low-carbon future. By providing complete information for both clean and dirty power producers, CARMA hopes to influence the opinions and decisions of consumers, investors, shareholders, managers, workers, activists, and policymakers. CARMA builds on experience with public information disclosure techniques that have proven successful in reducing traditional pollutants.

<http://www.carma.org>

--SPOTLIGHT--



ItsGettingHotInHere is one of the many homes of the environmental and social justice blogosphere, and it's the only one made for and by the youth climate movement. I am an IGHIIH editor, and really enjoy helping young people get their voices heard through the blog. Check out recent posts from OU and Oberlin at <http://itsgettinghotinhere.org/author/mattreitman/> my IGHIIH page. This blog is yours - if you want to write for it, just let me know!

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Campus Climate Challenge Campaigner - Ohio

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:::Check out the newly formed Ohio Student Environmental Coalition:::

<http://groups.google.com/group/ohio-sec/>

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=7461526853>

Dispatches from the global youth climate movement - <http://www.itsgettinghotinhere.org>