



Ohio Student Environmental Coalition

Update from Mattie 12.9.07

Hello friends, it's time for another update on things Ohio, student, and environmental. It's been two weeks since the last one I sent, and I feel like that's a pretty good flow so I'm gonna plan to try and do this every other week. I'm hooked into a lot of information channels and so have a lot to share, but please don't let this limit dialogue on the listserv. The reason why there's so much to share is because y'all are doing so much at the grassroots!

"Knowledge emerges only through invention and re-invention, through the restless, impatient, continuing, hopeful inquiry human beings pursue in the world, with the world, and with each other...The more students work at storing the deposits entrusted to them, the less they develop the critical consciousness which would result from their intervention in the world as transformers of that world." -Paulo Freire, Pedagogy of the Oppressed

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--OSEC UPDATES--

MOUNTAIN JUSTICE SPRING BREAK

Still plugging away, the one important update from the MJSB Planning Collective is that WE MAY BE CHANGING THE DATES OF MJSB OHIO. This Wednesday we are voting on the possibility of moving the dates from March 15th-23rd to the 22nd-30th. We'll definitely let y'all know.

<http://www.mjsb.org>

OHIO AREA STUDENT ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT (OASES)

We had our first planning call on Wednesday, with 8 students from 6 schools in attendance (Hiram, OU, Wittenberg, OSU, Kenyon, and UAHS represent!). We heard working group report backs, discussed our goals, and voted to adopt a consensus decision-making process. Our immediate next step is to set a date - we have it narrowed down to the first or second weekend in February, and we'll be contacting schools to figure out which is the most popular. Also, watch out for that Outreach working group, it's smokin'.

Our next planning call is Tuesday the 18th at 9 PM.

http://spreadsheets.google.com/ccc?key=pMFaraOyxOjksJkEA8E_wBQ&hl=en&pli=1

DIGITAL WORLD

Our google group has a file repository, available at <http://groups.google.com/group/ohio-sec/files>

There are a couple useful things in there, including the OASES call notes and a PDF of this update. Feel free to add to and use this repository.

--ACTION--

THE ENERGY BILL

Two weeks ago I sent you an update on the Energy Bill and showed you how to take action. Well, while thousands of young people across the country got on the phones demanding a good bill, it looks like we may be losing this battle.

Here's the deal:

The Senate blocked a move to vote on the bill on Friday:

<http://itsgettinghotinhere.org/2007/12/07/senate-blocks-vote-on-house-energy-bill/>

So, we're going to take action by calling Senators and making demands:

<http://itsgettinghotinhere.org/2007/12/08/take-action-on-the-senate-energy-bill-this-weekend/>

This page has everything you need, from your Senator's phone numbers to a call script.

Jessy Tolkan, the Energy Action Coalition Programs Director, says "With a strong message from Senate Republicans and the President that they won't pass or sign an Energy Bill with the current subsidy cuts to big oil and the mandatory renewable energy standard for utilities - I think we need to remain loud on the issue - and be sure that young people across the country are clear where they stand...this vote only highlights the importance of us continuing to build our movement large enough to over-power the special interests in this country that are attempting to prevent us from our right to a just, clean, and sustainable energy future."

NEW ORLEANS NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT THIS WEEK

From Ingrid Chapman of the Catalyst Project (<http://collectiveliberation.org>):

I have been in New Orleans for just a couple days and am really feeling the enormity of this moment. Next week developers are scheduled to begin demolishing 4 major public housing complexes, a total of 4605 low-income housing units. Only 744 are slated to be rebuilt. Resulting in thousands and thousands of low income families unable to return home to New Orleans and or homeless. This is all happening while the government is evicting thousands of people out of the FEMA trailers parks. They are planning to kick everyone out within the next 3 month, that is 52,000 families! This is also happening at the same time that there are hundreds of homeless people camped out in tents across from city hall. The city gov has been threatening to go in this weekend and destroy the homeless encampment and erect a fence around the park.

I really want to encourage you all to do what you can to support the struggle to stop the demolitions of Public Housing in New Orleans, below are some ways you can. This is a incredibly intense and important moment right now to support thousands of working class and Black residents of New Orleans from being permanently displaced from their home. National solidarity is Needed!!!

Ways to give support:

- Come to New Orleans and participate in Direct Actions
- Participate in a solidarity actions
- Call all the representative you can and put the pressure on Nationally
- Share this information with others and ask them to take action

- Send folks you know who are from New Orleans or live hear loving and supportive email text and phone messages
- Donate money for supplies, many orgs down here are broke
- Prey, meditate, do what ever you do to send some hope, energy and love to folks in and from New Orleans engaged in this struggle.

Visit the Katrina Information Network for more information - <http://www.katrinaaction.org/>

--POLITICS--

OHIO JOINS OTHER STATES, DEMANDS FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR COAL

ROANOKE, W.Va. (AP) - Officials from Ohio and other big energy producing states are frustrated with Congress' inaction on America's energy future. The key theme of today's meeting is that as long as coal remains this country's most abundant fossil fuel, it must play a central role in U.S. policy.

The meeting's title, "Advancing Domestic Resources in an Era of Carbon Challenges," hints at coal's status as the chief culprit in the greenhouse gas debate. Also under fire in Eastern states is mountaintop removal mining, where layers of earth are blasted away to expose coal seams and then dumped in the valleys below. "The bottom line is, it will continue to produce a large share for many years," said Gov. Joe Manchin of West Virginia, the nation's second-largest source of coal and the summit's host.

<http://www.cantonrep.com/index.php?ID=389991>

--NEWS--

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE RELEASES NEW REPORT

The U.N Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recently released a report synthesizing the findings of the panel's 2,500 scientists. Their verdict, as described by the Chairman of the IPCC: "If there's no action before 2012, that's too late. What we do in the next two to three years will determine our future. This is the defining moment." If you are a policy wonk (which I am not), you might be interested to see this report and others at <http://www.ipcc.ch/>

COALITION OF ANTI-NUCLEAR ACTIVISTS FORMS NUKEFREE.ORG

<http://www.nukefree.org> has information, multimedia, and action opportunities in resistance of the nuclear renaissance. Ohioans should be particularly concerned about this issue because of the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership plan to process all nuclear waste in the country in a facility in Piketon, Ohio. To learn more these local issues, visit <http://ohioneighbors.org/>

--OPPORTUNITIES--

BE A LEADER - OASES AND MJSB WORKING GROUPS

We are currently in need of additional members for the Ohio Area Student Environmental Summit and Mountain Justice Spring Break Planning Collectives. OASES particularly needs help with Groundwork, Action, and Website, and MJSB particularly needs help with Service/Organizing, Outreach, Entertainment, Groundwork, and Action. For more on MJSB see <http://www.mjsb.org> and for more on OASES please contact me.

BE A LEADER - OASES AND MJSB CAMPUS COORDINATORS

Remember Power Shift? Well, even if you don't, the OASES and MJSB outreach model is based on the one we used to get 6,000 of you to DC last month...just a little smaller. Campus coordinators coordinate outreach, media, and transportation for their group or school. If you're interested in being an OASES campus coordinator, please contact Amanda Annis - aa276306@ohio.edu; if you're interested in being an MJSB campus coordinator, please contact Katelyn McCormick from UT Knoxville - katelyn.mccormick@gmail.com.

--RESOURCES--

VIDEO OF ELISA YOUNG, GRASSROOTS COAL RESISTER IN SE OHIO

A great young fellow named Jordan put together this film about the true cost of coal in southeast Ohio, featuring Elisa Young. Many of you have met and been inspired by Elisa and/or this video, and I want to make sure you have access to it so you can share it with others.

The film is available at <http://blip.tv/file/309712/> - you can download it to a file, with the links on the bottom right of that page.

EARTH WATCH OHIO

Earth Watch Ohio is a statewide newspaper whose mission is to educate Ohioans on environmental issue and encourage them to take an active role in protecting the environment and promoting sustainability. The latest issue has front page coverage of the coal situation in Southeast Ohio, and features an article from Elisa Young (page 9).

<http://www.earthwatchohio.org/pubs.htm>

THE STORY OF STUFF

An absolutely fantastic new video. Very worth the 20 minute watch, and you can even download it.

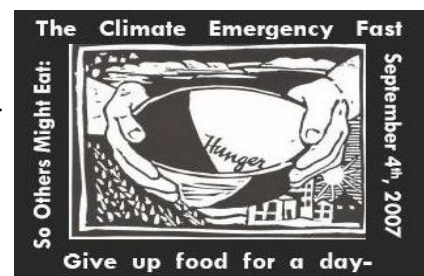
"From its extraction through sale, use and disposal, all the stuff in our lives affects communities at home and abroad, yet most of this is hidden from view. The Story of Stuff is a 20-minute, fast-paced, fact-filled look at the underside of our production and consumption patterns. The Story of Stuff exposes the connections between a huge number of environmental and social issues, and calls us together to create a more sustainable and just world. It'll teach you something, it'll make you laugh, and it just may change the way you look at all the stuff in your life forever."

<http://www.storyofstuff.com>

--SPOTLIGHT--

CLIMATE EMERGENCY FASTER ENTERS 99TH DAY

Ted Glick of the Climate Emergency Council began the Climate Emergency Fast on September 4th with hundreds of others across the country. Many of those people, including myself and a crew at OSU, only fasted for the day or a few days, but Ted is still going strong. Since beginning his fast, he has participated in multiple arrestable actions in DC, and will be doing another this Tuesday:



"This Tuesday morning the 11th, around 10 a.m., on the 99th day of my climate emergency fast, I'm going to the Senate office on Capitol Hill of Mitch McConnell, the top-ranking Republican in the Senate. And I'm going to stay there for a while..."

You can read more about Ted's epic story of nonviolent resistance to climate change at <http://climateemergency.org/blog/>

Irresistible and in your living room (ok, so I'm not *really* in your living room),

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Matt/Mattie Reitman

Energy Justice Network Campus and Community Organizer

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>