



Ohio Student Environmental Coalition

Update from Mattie 1.14.08

Another two weeks, another OSEC update. After some adventuring, I got back into Columbus early one morning last week, and was struck by two thoughts: first, that we have got a long struggle ahead of us in this state, and second, that winter is damn cold.

We keep the thermostat at 50 in my house and we've got plastic insulating the windows and compact fluorescents and all, but our winter bills are still high. The sun hardly even penetrates this old shack – I can't believe we have so lost touch with our natural world that our architecture doesn't even consider the sun, which is the single greatest energy source we have and surely a great selling point for any house. So here's to taking some time to reflect and breathe this winter season, and to bringing some architecture students on board this quarter/semester.

"If I am not for myself, then who will be for me? And if I am only for myself, then what am I? And if not now, when?" -Hillel the Elder

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-- OSEC UPDATES --

OHIO AREA STUDENT ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT (OASES)

February 8-11, 2008. The summit is moving along – we've got food, workshop space, and sleeping accommodations for 100 at and around OSU in Columbus, an amazing agenda with almost all facilitators booked, and a great direct action plan. It's gonna rock. If your school doesn't have an OASES Campus Coordinator, get in touch with the Outreach Coordinator, Amanda, at aa276306@ohio.edu

-- ACTION --

FOSSIL FOOLS DAY: WORLDWIDE DAY OF RESISTANCE TO THE FOSSIL FUEL EMPIRE

April 1st, 2008



For over a century the fossil fuel industry has been fooling with our lives. From extraction to combustion they have poisoned our air, polluted our water, and have altered the Earth's climate to the detriment of all life on the planet. It is time that we turn the tables and show who are the real fools.

There is no doubt that fossil fuels are the primary source of climate change. If we have any hope of averting a complete climate meltdown we must immediately stop burning fossil fuels. Despite melting ice caps, unprecedented species extinction, droughts, and extreme weather it is clear that the governments and corporations of the world will not do this voluntarily. Instead we must join together in collective action to create a better world.

On April 1st, join thousands around the world in shutting down the fossil fuel empire. From your local gas pump to international coal ports, communities will be taking direct action to show we aren't fooling around. Plan an action in your town by pulling a prank that packs a punch. Climate change is no joke, stop burning fossil fuels!

www.fossilfoolsday.org

-- - POLITICS -- -

HOUSE PLANS TO REVAMP STRICKLAND'S ENERGY BILL

The Ohio House of Representatives plans to revamp Gov. Ted Strickland's comprehensive energy bill. "There will be significant changes," State Rep. John Hagan, the Alliance Republican who chairs the House Public Utilities Committee, said today. "It's a work in progress."

The bill aims to end Ohio's seven-year experiment deregulating the electric utility industry while simultaneously fostering the development of wind turbines, solar arrays and high-tech coal and nuclear plants over the next couple of decades.

[Continue reading 'House Plans'](#)



-- - NEWS -- -

THE ONE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE

New York Times - The overriding environmental issue of these times is the warming of the planet. The Democratic hopefuls in the 2008 campaign are fully engaged, calling for large — if still unquantified — national sacrifices and for a transformation in the way the country produces and uses energy. The Republicans do not go much further than conceding that climate change could be a problem and, with the notable exception of John McCain, offer no comprehensive solutions.

[Continue reading 'The One Environmental Issue'](#)

BIG PLAYERS WANT A SAY IN OHIO'S ENERGY POLICY

Coal and power company interests work to gain influence through campaign contributions

COLUMBUS — If the old saying "Money is the mother's milk of politics" is true, then electric utility companies and coal mine owners deliver it by the truckload to Ohio politicians.

Coal and power company interests together contributed \$1.2 million to Ohio politicians and political parties between Jan. 1, 2005, and June 30, 2007, according to a new study by Ohio Citizen Action, a government watchdog. That works out to about \$249 for every work day hour during the period.

[Continue reading 'Big Players'](#)

HANSEN CALLS FOR REVOLT AGAINST COAL

NASA Climate Scientist Draws Line in the Sand

"The people of Massachusetts took great risk, for the sake of themselves and their progeny, when they drew a line with the British at Lexington and Concord. It is time for a line to be drawn with the powerful special interests, who reap profits from our fossil-fuel addiction."

[Read Hansen's 'The Wrong Choice' from the Boston Globe](#)

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY RECEIVES \$3.6 MILLION TO SUPPORT STARTUP OF GREAT LAKES INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY INNOVATION

Case Western Reserve University's new Great Lakes Institute for Energy Innovation received a large boost on Tuesday, December 18, with the awarding of a \$3.6 million grant from the Cleveland Foundation. Based at the Case School of Engineering and building on the university's strengths in fuel cell research and materials science, the new institute will generate and implement achievable solutions today to build and sustain tomorrow's industries through development of innovative energy technology platforms and farsighted energy research and energy-use strategies. Three major areas of research are envisioned: renewable power, energy storage and efficiency of larger energy systems. [Continue reading 'Case Western'](#)

AN UPDATE FROM BRAZIL'S LANDLESS WORKERS' MOVEMENT

Brazil lags far behind her left-leaning neighbors in government initiatives that bring privatized national resources back into the public domain. In recent months, however, Brazil's Landless Workers' Movement (MST)

and other groups have launched mass actions that demand similar moves toward national resource sovereignty. The MST's recent triple occupation of Brazil's Companhia Vale do Rio Doce (CVRD), the largest iron ore exporter in the world, is seen by some as the opening salvo in these new efforts.

The year 2007 is coming to an end and we would therefore like to communicate to you a political assessment of our struggle. We would like to provide accounts of what we are doing in our trenches, which is the struggle for Agrarian Reform. We would like to share with our companions who are active in other trenches what we accomplished in this period, and at the same time reaffirm our commitment to the struggle for the transformation of this society. Read more:

[Read 'Brazil's Landless Movement Sets Sighs on Nationalization'](#)

[Read 'In 2008 We will Continue to Struggle and Make the Impossible, Possible!' from the MST](#)

I-69 RESISTANCE :: CAMPAIGN UPDATES

On August 22, 2007, the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and some contracted consultants (including some folks from Indiana University) attempted to hold a meeting regarding a grant program. This program is intended to funnel money to communities along the proposed I-69 route in order to “help them cope with the effects of the highway”. Obviously this is nothing more than a thinly veiled bribe program, where the state government pays off local community officials for their support of the highway.

Because of this, more than a dozen anti-I-69 activists hijacked the meeting, creating enough of a ruckus that the meeting was eventually shut down. Fearing a repeat of events, it was never rescheduled. In hijacking the meeting, the activists took the microphone, describing their opposition to the highway and the positive projects of resistance that were happening all over the state and country. State and local police were called in, but by the time they had mobilized, the meeting was canceled, and all of the activists made it out without too much confrontation. You can listen to [the local radio's excellent coverage of the meeting](#)

Action Camps: Bloomington anti-I-69ers will be leading a number of action camps later this spring throughout the Midwest, Midsouth, Midatlantic, etc. We can provide instruction in forest defense, land defense, etc. To schedule an action camp in your area, email roadblockf@yahoo.com

New website: We are in the process of constructing a new website, which will host all of our news information and will allow better access to and distribution of our materials. Stay tuned for the address. For the time being, please continue to check <http://i69news.bee-town.com> for quick updates.

- - OPPORTUNITIES - -

2008 SOWING SEEDS FOR CHANGE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Do you care about migrant and seasonal farmworkers? Are you looking for an exciting paid job opportunity next summer? Do you want to meet diverse students who share these goals? Student Action with Farmworkers (SAF) is looking for bilingual (Spanish/English) college students in New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Tennessee to participate in a life-changing summer fellowship program.

The Sowing Seeds for Change Fellowship is a paid 10 week summer leadership development program for college students looking for an opportunity to learn about migrant farmworkers in their state and improve farmworkers' living and working conditions. The program runs June 2-August 10. Fellows receive a \$3000 per diem & scholarship, and SAF pays for travel to trainings. Apply by March 7, 2008

Available online: Brochure, Application Form, 2007 SSC Fellow Report www.saf-unite.org

Contact: Laxmi Haynes, National Student Organizer, 919-660-3660, farmer_justice@yahoo.com

OUTREACH AND ORGANIZING ASSOCIATE MANAGER, CAMPUS PROGRESS

The Center for American Progress has an opening for an Outreach and Organizing Associate Manager for Campus Progress. The Outreach and Organizing Associate Manager will work under the direction of the Issue Campaigns Manager to coordinate all aspects of Campus Progress efforts to implement a national issue campaign on climate change and to advance campaigns on other issues. They will also work under the

Communications and Outreach Manager to strengthen Campus Progress's outreach to students, student groups, student publications, faculty, national and regional organizations, and others in order to involve them in the work of Campus Progress and the Center for American Progress, and to work as partners toward common goals.

[See the Outreach and Organizing posting](#)

SUSTAINABLE ENDOWMENTS INSTITUTE :: SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOW

The Sustainable Endowments Institute is seeking highly motivated and reliable individuals for full-time summer research fellowships. Research Fellows will collaborate on surveying and analyzing sustainability initiatives at hundreds of prominent colleges and universities in the United States and Canada to help produce the *College Sustainability Report Card 2009*. To download or view the 2007 and 2008 editions of the *Report Card*, visit <http://www.endowmentinstitute.org/sustainability>.

The fellowship positions will last approximately 10 to 12 weeks, starting in June 2008, based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. See <http://www.endowmentinstitute.org/internships.html> for more information.

PRESIDENTIAL FORUM ON RENEWABLE ENERGY ESSAY CONTEST - \$10,000 prizes

The Presidential Forum on Renewable Energy is sponsoring a student essay contest in which three college students will be awarded a \$10,000 educational prize. The contest is intended to engage college students in the issues of renewable energy, sustainability, and conservation. It is open to students who, as of January 1, 2008, are between the ages of 18 and 24; enrolled, full-time or part-time, in an undergraduate college program; and a citizen of the US. Deadline is February 1, 2008. [Read more about the essay contest](#)

- - RESOURCES - -

OSEC INTEREST CARDS

Quarter sheets for us to build the network with. "Apart, we are strong. Together, we are irresistible."

<http://ohio-sec.googlegroups.com/web/InterestCard.pdf>

AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER HALF-PAGER

- 7th largest global warming polluter in the world, 2nd largest in the U.S.
- Largest purchaser of coal in U.S. & a major purchaser of mountaintop removal coal
- Actively proposing 3-5 coal-fired power plants
- Major supporter of false solution: "clean coal"
- Based nationally in Columbus, OH

All this and more on a [half page flyer I made, available for your download and distro](#)

GET YOUR LEARN ON :: From Morgan Goodwin, a senior at Williams College in Mass.

Last semester I took an independent study on climate change organizing. Basically, I got course credit for reading about, writing about and doing activism. Because my experience was so rewarding, I wanted to share a few notes with you. I want you to take your education into your own hands and learn the skills that will be useful to the work that lies ahead of us.

This document can be your springboard on to a great semester of meshing what you do outside of class with the knowledge and advice of your professors. After all, we should take advantage of the resources and advantages that we have as students. [See Morgan's Independent Study write-up](#)

Also see Morgan's incredible blog entries during his independent study:

9.27.07 [Group Centered Leaders](#)

10.26.07 [Do You Think This is a Movement?](#)

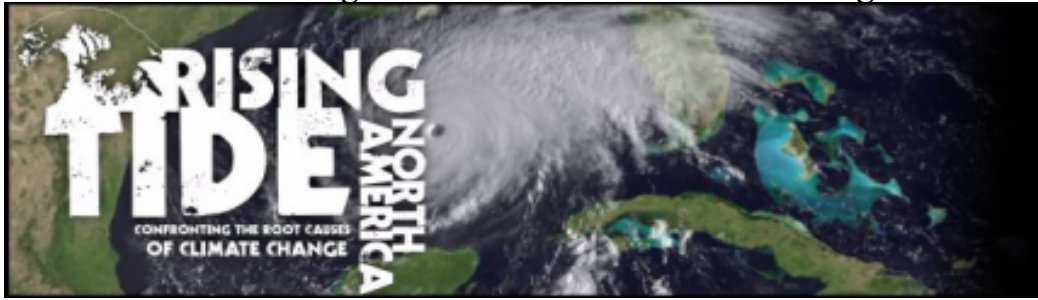
10.11.07 [Hamburgers](#)

11.30.07 [Organizational Ingenuity](#)

NEW ORGANIZING RESOURCES FROM SDS

We have a powerhouse of student organizing resources available from the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS). Including such categories as Nuts 'N Bolts, Anti-Racism & White Supremacy, and Non-Violent Direct Action, and such resources as High School Organizing, Anti Oppression 101, and Facilitating a Conference Call. [Check out this exciting student-made toolbox from SDS, a growing and dynamic organization](#)

**-- SPOTLIGHT :: RISING TIDE NORTH AMERICA
confronting the root causes of climate change**



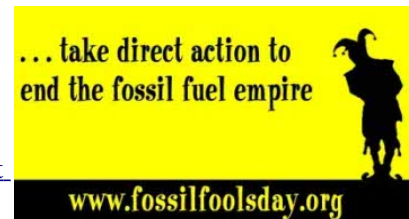
What is Rising Tide? Rising Tide is an international network born out of the conviction that corporate-friendly and state-sponsored “solutions” to climate change will not save us. As a matter of survival, we must decrease our dependence on the industries and institutions that are destroying the planet and work toward community autonomy and sustainable living.

Who is Rising Tide? Rising Tide is a grassroots network of groups and individuals who take direct action to confront the roots causes of climate change and promote local, community-based solutions to the climate crisis. Rising Tide was formed in the Netherlands in 2000 to bring a more radical voice to the COP6 (UN Conference of the Parties) climate talks that attempted (unsuccessfully, largely due to the efforts of the US delegation) to salvage what was left of the Kyoto Protocol. Employing popular education and direct action to address the root causes of climate change with a focus on climate justice, Rising Tide now spans three continents.

Upcoming Actions and Events:

Fossil Fools Day, April 1st: International Day of Action Against the Fossil Fuel Empire

Find a fossil fool in your community and pull a prank that packs a punch. Check out our website for the [call-to-action](#) and to download our new [April 1st Action Guide to Fossil Fooleries](#) zine. [\[read more\]](#)



Members of Durban Group For Climate Justice on Carbon Trading Speaking Tour this Winter

Four internationally recognized experts, will be visiting Canada, the Midwestern and Western US, Vermont and New York City. They will speak on carbon trading, carbon offsets, the effects of climate change and current international campaigns to keep the fossil fuels in the ground and affect meaningful change.

International Day of Action January 26, targeting global agribusiness, demand food sovereignty now!

Join Via Campesina and other organizations worldwide in demanding Food Sovereignty and an end to the corporate control of our food system by global agribusiness

Contact Rising Tide!

Click [here](#) to fill out the online "get involved" form or email contact@risingtidenorthamerica.org

-tea and warm blankets and 25 days 'til the summit, m-

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