



Ohio Student Environmental Coalition

Update from Mattie 3.11.08

Fresh off Mountain Justice Spring Break Virginia, I'm energized and ready, and looking forward to MJSB Ohio in a couple weeks. This fight will be hard, but we have no choice but to win.

*"Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor, it must be demanded by the oppressed."
"We will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream."
-Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.-*

-with my liberation bound up in yours, m-

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- - OSEC UPDATES - -

OSEC CALL SUNDAY 2/16 @ 5PM

:: 616.712.8000 Code: 807778# ::

Join us for the next (monthly-ish) OSEC call this Sunday. All are welcome, especially those that represent groups and/or schools – any questions, contact me. Tentative agenda:

- Introductions (10 minutes)
- Getting Familiar with our online world (5)
- No Coal - goal setting, role creation (20)
- Green Jobs - goal setting, role creation (10)
- Upcoming Actions: MJSB, Fossil Fools Day (15)
- Next Steps (5)

AD HOC OUTREACH WORKING GROUP

Kristen Arnold from Upper Arlington and Megan Hentges from Wittenberg have been putting some work into an ad hoc OSEC Outreach working group effort, to advertise and increase participation in OSEC and our upcoming call this Sunday. You may have heard from them!

- - ACTION - -

MOUNTAIN JUSTICE SPRING BREAK 2008 - OHIO

Direct action is a core component of **Mountain Justice Spring Break**. Without getting ahead of ourselves or divulging too much information, you can expect **committed, effective, and non-violent action on coal issues** in this state towards the end of the month. Contact me directly for more details or to figure out how to get involved. The action planning process will take place both before and during MJSB.

Past MJSB actions can be seen [here](#) and [here](#) and below in the "Spotlight".

NO WAR, NO WARMING :: **FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE, NOT WARS FOR OIL!**

March 19, join a global movement rising up against war and global warming by participating in a massive intervention in Washington DC or your own community.

[Video from NWNW 2007](#)



FOSSIL FOOLS 2008 – VOTE NOW!

Unroll the green carpet, strap on an eco-gown, and let's get voting! The first annual "Foolies"- the official awards of Fossil Fools Day- have begun. Vote in the online poll and this year's winners will get a "special" delivery of their awards, all captured on video of course. Vote today!

www.FossilFools08.org/vote

Marc Gerken with AMP-Ohio, OSEC's main corporate target, is currently just barely winning for the "Biggest Human Toll" category - [vote today](#) to keep it that way!

WELCOME CONGRESS HOME :: SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Welcome Congress Home! Congress will be in their home districts from March 17th - 28th. Invite them today to come to your campus for a climate change conversation while they're in town. We need to start scheduling these visits in the next week (Monday, March 3rd) to get our Congress members to campus or to schedule an in district meeting with them.

It's easy to set up a meeting today!

1. Email, fax or mail a scheduling request to your official's office. Find their contact info by going to congress.org and typing in your zip code.
2. If you're trying to bring a Congressperson onto campus, call their local, in-district office.
3. Use our handy toolkit for sample letters and phone scripts: [Adopt-a-Congressperson Invitation Toolkit](#).

-- POLITICS --

OHIO: NEW COMMITMENT TO A STRONG ENERGY EFFICIENCY STANDARD

From Ellen Hawkey Carmichael of Sierra Club Ohio - Speaker Husted announced that he will strengthen the proposed energy efficiency standard for Ohio! The standard will begin to 2008 and ramp up to a 2% reduction in load per year in 2019 and each year thereafter. This will equal a total electricity savings of 22% by 2025. This will put us on the map of being on of the stronger states for energy efficiency.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who have helped with this campaign over the last year and a half. Our work is far from over – we need to continue to lobby our state lawmakers and the governor to make sure that the stronger standard is signed into law. Unfortunately the speaker's legislation still includes nuclear and coal. We have, and will continue, to advocate for the removal of coal and nuclear from the proposal.

-- NEWS --

COAL – INDUSTRY SPENDS TO SWAY '08 RACES

Facing a bruising fight over climate change, the coal industry is on the political offensive this election year to ensure that no matter who wins in November, so does coal. Billions of dollars in corporate profits are at stake for the companies that mine, ship and burn the nation's most abundant domestic fuel.

Some powerful Washington voices, including Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and House Oversight Committee Chairman Henry Waxman, have lined up against coal-fired power, which churns out 2 billions tons of greenhouse gases annually. Not shirking from a fight, coal's supporters are spending tens of millions of dollars to cement their support among members of Congress and the top presidential candidates. The industry is also appealing directly to the voters those politicians need.



= **Ohio
Jobs**

CLEAN COAL.
ENERGYFOROHIO.ORG

GROSS! Continue reading [Coal Industry Spends to Sway 08 Races](#)

COAL-SLURRY SPILL BLACKENS MILES OF CREEK

Columbus - State and federal officials are investigating a major coal-slurry spill that blackened part of a Belmont County creek that's home to an endangered salamander. Part of Captina Creek turned black from slurry that apparently leaked from a storage impoundment near the Ohio Valley Coal Co. mine near Alledonia. Slurry is coal-dust contaminated water used to wash freshly mined coal.

The Ohio EPA took video of the creek from an aircraft yesterday afternoon as officials documented the spill. U.S. EPA officials also were investigating. Ten miles of the creek, which empties into the Ohio River, turned black, said Cristie Wilt, spokeswoman for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Continue reading [Slurry Spill Blackens Creek](#)

EARTH FIRST! BLOCKADES POWER PLANT CONSTRUCTION SITE, 27 ARRESTED



2/18 - Palm Beach County - Early Monday morning dozens of concerned community members from Palm Beach County and all over the nation put their bodies on the line to halt construction of FPL's West County Energy Center (WCEC), demanding energy efficiency, truly clean, renewable energy and a moratorium on development in south Florida. Everglades Earth First! blocked the main entrance to the WCEC site, a proposed massive 3800 MW gas-fired power plant that would emit 12 million tons of CO₂, a leading greenhouse gas, every year. The plant is currently under construction despite ongoing legal challenges to the plant's needed permits and certification, which have been spearheaded by the local Palm Beach County Environmental Coalition.

A dozen activists locked themselves together through metal pipes as 200 supporters rallied around them. The blockade stopped work on the construction site for six hours before a total of 27 people were arrested.

Continue reading [Earth First! Blockades Power Plant Construction](#)

NATION'S FOREMOST CLIMATE EXPERT URGES PUBLIC TO OPPOSE NEW COAL PLANTS

Dr. James Hansen, Director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies and outspoken proponent of rapid greenhouse gas reductions, says there is a huge gap between what is understood by the scientific community about global warming and what the public knows about it. Last November, he brought his urgent message to over 700 people during a free public forum held at Queens University in Charlotte about the alarming rate of climate change and offered an overview of his [5-Step action plan](#) to combat the problem.



VATICAN LISTS "NEW SINS," INCLUDING POLLUTION

VATICAN CITY (Reuters) - Thou shall not pollute the Earth. Thou shall beware genetic manipulation. Modern times bring with them modern sins. So the Vatican has told the faithful that they should be aware of "new" sins such as causing environmental blight.

Continue reading ["New Sins"](#)

-- OPPORTUNITIES --

GREEN FOR ALL PRESENTS [THE DREAM REBORN](#)

Memphis Cook Convention Center -- Memphis, Tennessee -- April 4-6, 2008

Join us on the 40th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination. This historic event will celebrate his extraordinary life and present positive solutions from today's generation of visionary leaders. A bullet killed the dreamer, but not the dream. Together, we will create ecological solutions to heal the earth while bringing jobs, justice, wealth and health to all our communities. Register Online - <http://www.dreamreborn.org/register>

There are **scholarships available** for this conference through the Rainforest Action Network to cover travel, lodging, breakfast, and dinner. Contact me for an application.

STUDENT ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COALITION – REGIONAL ORGANIZER

The Student Environmental Action Coalition (SEAC) is seeking an experienced and motivated individual to join our organization as a youth, student and community organizer on climate change issues in their region and to act as a liaison with the Energy Action Coalition (EAC) and the Rainforest Action Network (RAN). This position is full time and may be based in the Southeast, Midwest, Northeast or San Francisco CA dependent on the skills of the applicant and the region she/he is in.

SEAC is a student and youth run national network of progressive organizations and individuals whose aim is to uproot environmental injustices through action and education. We define the environment to include the physical, economic, political, and cultural conditions in which we live. By challenging the power structure which threatens these conditions, students in SEAC work to create progressive social change on both the local and global levels.

More information and full job description available [here](#)

SIERRA STUDENT SUMMER TRAINING PROGRAM – APPLY NOW!

Attend a week-long training sessions in organizing skills led by the nation's top student organizers. Learn to develop effective groups that can tackle serious environmental and justice issues (particularly the climate crisis), and network with other activists to build your region's student environmental movement. Then take what you've learned and put it into action at your high school, on your campus and in your community.

APPLY NOW online at www.ssc.org/sprog

-- RESOURCES --

CHILL OUT: CAMPUS SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL WARMING

On April 16, 2008, the National Wildlife Federation is offering campuses nationwide the opportunity to host the groundbreaking Earth Day broadcast [Chill Out: Campus Solutions to Global Warming](#). Watch student-made videos, inspiring presentations from contest winners, solution-focused discussions, and live Q&As with people who really are changing the world.

STUDENTS FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY NATIONAL BULLETIN #3

The [most recent communique](#) from the largest grassroots student organization this country has seen in decades is available. This issue brings such articles as Religion and SDS, Demystifying Leadership, various anti-war issues, conference report backs, free verse poems, and upcoming events.

ZIP CODE SEARCH FOR ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

A [new website](#) offers a zip code search for energy efficiency and renewable energy grants, loans and related support programs. It's new and they are asking for feedback. Note that the zip code search is in the green block at the top center of the page, not to be confused with their membership/newsletter subscription lower down which asks for zip code and e-mail.

SPOTLIGHT :: MOUNTAIN JUSTICE SPRING BREAK
YOUTH FIGHT COAL, NOT HANGOVERS, AT MOUNTAIN JUSTICE SPRING BREAK



From March 1-9, students from across the eastern U.S. (including 3 Ohio schools) stood in solidarity with communities directly impacted by the dirty lifecycle of coal in southwest Virginia. Through workshops, trainings, skill shares, speakers, service and organizing projects, and actions in three different states(!), young people have made a tangible difference in the ongoing struggle to re-energize our culture and our economy.

Come to [MJSB Ohio](#), March 22-30, amongst the highest concentration of proposed coal power plants in the country, for a day or for all 9. As Ohio goes, so goes the country – it will most certainly be the place to be.

Some media highlights from VA:

[Youth fight coal not hangovers at mountain justice spring break](#)

[College Student Spend Break Fighting Coal Plants](#)

[Ruining Our Youth, Our Future](#) (hilarious)

[New Student Group Traveling to Virginia for Mountain Justice Spring Break](#) (from Muskingum's paper)

