



Ohio Student Environmental Coalition

Update from Mattie 4.6.08

It's been almost four weeks since the last update. Both the Virginia and Ohio Mountain Justice Spring Break camps were amazing, but they took up a lot of time! I have a lot to share this update, but I'll keep it short and will provide a separate one-pager on summer opportunities.

“Any educational philosophy comes out of what you do and how you deal with people. When you believe in people and in the importance of trying to create a democracy, you must turn these beliefs into practice.”

-Myles Horton (co-founder of the [Highlander Research and Education Center](#)), The Long Haul-

-take action, take action, and get some satisfaction, m-

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-- OSEC UPDATES --

MOUNTAIN JUSTICE SPRING BREAK – REPORT BACK

200+ people from 17 states participated in 7 direct actions in 4 states along with 100+ workshops, 6 service projects, 4 concerts, 5 climb trainings, 2 listening projects, 1 lobbying event, 1 canvassing project, and 1 square dance all packed into 18 days in March 2008 that earned more than 60 media hits. All of this excitement was planned by a mostly volunteer collective of ~15 youth from 6 different states during more than 50 hours a conference calls.



We were trying to stop coal plants and send out a strong message that youth in America want NO NEW COAL! We dropped by two Bank of Americas to play old time mountain music for them, and let them know that funding coal global warming is killing our mountain traditions. Several students shut down their bank accounts so that their savings weren't funding dirty coal.

We worked with community groups across Virginia trying to defeat proposed coal plant in Wise County, telling the Department of Environmental Quality to deny the permit and give the Citizen's Air Pollution Control Board decision making power over the coal power permit. This is wonderful news as the Air Board is committed to holding the permit to a much higher standard than DEQ.



We worked with community groups in Ohio who are fighting 5 proposed coal power plants as well as 40 years of proposed underground coal mining in Meigs County, Ohio. Residents said that they wanted a chance to sit down with the board of AMP-Ohio, which is trying to push through a coal plant, and tell them about the effects that the 4 coal plants in their area are having on their health and quality of life. We showed up at the AMP-Ohio headquarters, demanded politely, if a bit loudly, and got what we wanted!

Sorry you missed out on the whirlwind of fighting for justice, green jobs and rolling hills? Want to get involved? Try Mountain Justice Summer!! The week long training camp, May

17-23rd in Harlan County, Kentucky will lead into a summer of opportunities for training, action, and organizing against coal at the grassroots level across Appalachia. Check www.mountainjusticesummer.org to sign up!

Check out more MJSB pictures and video at <http://www.mjsb.org/multimedia.html>

OHIO PLANNING FOR 08-09

The school year passes quickly, and we're coming up on the end of this one for many people. I'm going to be working with leaders around the state over the next few days to set their groups up strong for the summer and fall. **I've also made a commitment to stay in Columbus and continue working with OSEC for another year, and am planning to develop an internship program within OSEC, where students like you can get credit and/or cash to do great work.** If you've got ideas for the future, get in touch!

-- NEWS --

ANOTHER WIN – OHIO SUPREME COURT DECISION AGAINST AEP “CLEAN COAL” PLANT
COLUMBUS, Ohio - March 14, 2008 - The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) today praised the decision by the Ohio Supreme Court that the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) must re-evaluate its decision that would allow American Electric Power (AEP) to collect costs before a proposed Integrated Gas Combined Cycle (IGCC) power plant is constructed.

The OCC, along with the Industrial Energy Users – Ohio, sought a refund of \$24 million in research and development costs that were collected through July 2007. There will be no refund at this time, but a refund could occur in the future if construction on the plant does not commence by June 2011.

Continue reading [Decision Against “Clean Coal”](#)

BACK TO 1988 on CO2, SAYS NASA's HANSEN

James E. Hansen, the NASA climate scientist who has long had a habit of pushing past where many colleagues dare go in [describing the risks posed by global warming](#), has done it again. He and eight co-authors have drafted a fresh paper arguing that the world has already shot past a safe eventual atmospheric concentration of carbon dioxide, which they say would be around 350 parts per million, a level passed 20 years ago. (The atmosphere currently holds about 385 parts per million of the greenhouse gas.)

The most difficult task, phase-out over the next 20-25 years of coal use that does not capture CO₂, is Herculean, yet feasible when compared with the efforts that went into World War II. The stakes, for all life on the planet, surpass those of any previous crisis. The greatest danger is continued ignorance and denial, which could make tragic consequences unavoidable.

Continue reading [Hansen](#)

ENERGY COMPANIES PLUG COAL'S “CLEAN” BENEFITS

Dogged by pollution and growing concerns about global warming, power and mining companies have mounted a \$40 million nationwide ad campaign aimed at cleaning up coal's dirty image. Americans for Balanced Energy Choices, which is funded by Columbus-based American Electric Power and 22 other power and coal companies, spent about \$750,000 this month on Ohio television, radio, newspaper and billboard ads.

Continue reading [Energy Companies](#).

-- OPPORTUNITIES --

GRANT: BROWER YOUTH AWARDS 2008

The Brower Youth Awards honors six young people annually with a \$3000 cash award and weeklong trip to the San Francisco Bay Area. During that week, award recipients will participate in a week of media and public outreach and be recognized at an awards ceremony attended by 900 members of the public.

Past winners have protected Native sacred sites from development, restored wetlands, spread awareness about threatened sea turtles, coordinated student networks pushing for a clean energy future, and more. Their impact doesn't stop there. They continue as environmental change agents, writers, organizers, visionaries, and speakers, supported by Earth Island Institute's New Leaders Initiative. Join them. Apply today for the 2008 Brower Youth Award at <http://www.broweryouthawards.org>. Applications for the 2008 awards are due May 15.



GRANT: LORAX CHALLENGE

The Lorax Challenge can give you the support you need to launch your idea, including up to \$1000. Earth Island Institute – the home for Energy Action Coalition - has partnered with Youth Venture and Dr. Seuss Enterprises - organizations dedicated to empowering student leaders - to give students ages 12-20 support to launch lasting environmental ventures that will change the world. Find out more about how to get funding for your campus work at www.newleadersinitiative.org; the deadline for Action Plan submissions is May 30th.

EVENT: MIDWEST STUDENT CLEAN ENERGY CONFERENCE APRIL 11-13, MADISON, WI

We all know that climate change and fossil fuel consumption are affecting our lives. This is the challenge of our generation, and we have an incredible opportunity to shape our future. The time for action is now and we have the momentum to make lasting change.

Next weekend, join hundreds of students from across the Midwest for the 3rd annual [Midwest Student Clean Energy Conference](#). From April 11-13, participate in climate organizing workshops, campaign planning, state and local breakout sessions, and a weekend jam-packed with music, activism, and inspiration!

EVENT: HEARTWOOD FOREST COUNCIL, SOUTHERN OHIO MAY 23-26

We would like to invite you to the [18th annual Heartwood Forest Council](#), to be held Memorial Day weekend, May 23-26, 2008, at Boy Scout Camp Oyo in the Shawnee State Forest near West Portsmouth, Ohio. Hosts for this year's event include Heartwood, the Buckeye Forest Council, Save Our Shawnee Forest, Voices for the Forest, Meigs Citizens Action Now, Protect Biodiversity in Public Forests, EarthWatch Ohio, Southern Ohio Neighbors Group and Portsmouth/Piketon Residents for Environmental Safety and Security. The theme of this year's Forest Council is "Burning Issues: Climate is a Forest Product."



The Heartwood Forest Council is the largest annual gathering of citizens from across the Eastern, Midwestern, and Southern United States who care about the health and well-being of our nation's forests. This will be the second time this event has taken place in Ohio, the first being at Camp Oty Okwa in 1992. We will focus on threats to our region and to human and community health, in an atmosphere of collaboration designed to form stronger personal and organizational connections. While addressing the issues we face and celebrating the work that we do, the Forest Council offers participants an opportunity to identify lasting solutions and proven action steps that will move us as a community toward a shared vision of a healthy, just, and sustainable society.

JOB: MAHONING VALLEY ORGANIZING COLLABORATIVE

The Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative is seeking several community organizers to work in communities in Youngstown and Warren. Organizers will coordinate grassroots issue campaigns and projects, identify and develop leaders, and bring together a broad base of institutions and residents to work collectively to address quality of life issues. The Mahoning Valley Organizing Collaborative is an organization committed to working on social justice issues affecting low income, working class, and people color.

Salary: \$32,000-40,000 plus fringe benefits, including health insurance

Location: Youngstown, Ohio

Last day to apply: April 18, 2008 For more information, contact knoden@hotmail.com

- - RESOURCES - -

EVENT PLANNING MADE EASY AND OTHER GREAT NEW RESOURCES

Want to throw a rockin Save the Ales party, host an awesome Fossil Fools Day event and bring your Congressperson onto campus? The [Sierra Student Coalition's toolkits](#) are full of creative ideas and supporting materials to help you save time while holding the best event possible. Be sure to check out the newly revamped [SSC Resources website](#). With a new structure and a constant stream of new resources (three new toolkits in the last two weeks!) you're sure to find the Resources page useful.

GUIDE: DORM VS DORM SUSTAINABILITY COMPETITIONS

An [instructional video project and idea-sharing community](#) produced by the [Duke Environmental Alliance](#) and hosted by the [Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education](#).

This video project came about because the undergraduate environmental student group at Duke University, Environmental Alliance, decided it was time to document their annual Eco-Olympics competition. The idea was to create an instructional video that could be used when organizing the event each year.

REPORT: GREEN COLLAR JOBS IN AMERICAN CITIES

The nation's leading experts on green-collar jobs just released an important new publication, [Green-Collar Jobs in America's Cities: Building Pathways out of Poverty and Careers in the Clean Energy Economy](#).

The report profiles our Green-Collar Jobs Campaign's work on the Oakland Green Jobs Corps as a case study, along with almost a dozen amazing examples of other cutting-edge, local innovation in cities around the country.

YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MEDIA PROJECT

[EJ@USA](#) is a media project that illustrates the work completed by the Urban Ecology classes at Urban Science Academy (USA) in the Fall of 2007. Our research results are mixed with rap and spoken word poetry, original illustrations, and critical essays that share what we learned about environmental justice.

BROADCAST: CHILL OUT: CAMPUS SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL WARMING

On april 16, the National Wildlife Federation is offering campuses nationwide the opportunity to host the Earth Day broadcast [Chill Out: Campus Solutions to Global Warming](#). This 2nd annual innovation awards program will showcase positive, practical solutions to global warming underway at colleges across the country.