

Annual Report 2016



Our mission

We're uniting a mass movement for bold solutions that both lift up Vermonters and cut down carbon — to be a national and global example for solving the climate crisis. We believe that everyone has a right to a secure, healthy and ecologically sound environment. Yet, our world is presently facing an economic, ecological, and social crisis of proportions never before seen in human history. The survival of life as we know it is at imminent risk from global climate change. The times demand that we build broad and unified social movements that are strong enough to confront and overcome the systems which have created this crisis, while assuring that this human right is reflected in policy and on the ground at the state and local level. This means acting in solidarity with the communities most immediately affected by the climate crisis, working for a just transition to a renewable society, and challenging inequalities rooted in race, class and gender dynamics.



VT delegation to Standing Rock

We chartered and organized a bus to join the Dakota Access Pipeline resistance



Youth Action Summit

Running parallel with the People's Convention, 50+ high-school students participated in a wide range of workshops.



Geprags Park action

Hundreds walked onto a construction site of the fracked gas pipeline in a last-stand action



Resist. Build. Transform.

We live in an amazing time. It is both horrific with climate change happening faster than scientists' predictions and unprecedented in the rising of a broad and deep resistance movement calling for climate, economic, and social justice. 2016 was the warmest year on record and brought many extreme events including fires in Canada, Zika in the tropics, and continued drought in many places. Even in Vermont we feel the odd weather that caused dry wells last summer, yet torrential rain and storms too. And the political outcomes of 2016 that risk undoing the progress we've seen. Yikes! But in many ways, Vermont is leading the way in the movement for climate justice. We are growing, maturing, strategizing, and intensifying more than we ever have before. I'm not throwing in the towel yet, and I hope you won't either. -Maeve



ExxonKnew rally

Dozens gathered to support the legal action taken by Attorneys General to prosecute ExxonMobil. Bill McKibben spoke while everyone enjoyed Ben & Jerry's ice cream scooped from their Tesla



Mother Up! Trip to Dimock, PA

Five VT families traveled to the fracked lands of northeast PA to witness first-hand the impacts of fracking on families and communities.

Our campaigns

Your support has allowed us to organize bold actions of resistance, build a broader and more organized climate movement, and transform individuals to activists and activists to organizers.

Extreme Energy

“There’s no doubt that they will have impact on schedule and cost.” — Vermont Gas CEO Don Rendall, speaking in 2016

350VT participated in the largest ever global civil disobedience on climate, Break Free from Fossil Fuels. People occupied mines, ports, fracking wells, and train tracks, calling for an immediate just transition to 100% renewable energy. In Albany, a hub for oil trains, over 1,200 people occupied railroad tracks. We collaborated with Climate Disobedience Center, AVillage, and several local groups. In Vermont, the Stop the Fracked Gas Pipeline campaign continues. We helped delay and disrupt eminent domain hearings on local landowners, collect hundreds of ratepayer complaints, and challenge Vermont Gas’ right of way through Geprags Park in Hinesburg. We are holding Vermont Gas accountable for its environmental and economic impacts on our communities. Phase 1 may go forward, but the other phases of this fossil fuel expansion are either cancelled or tabled.



Divest VT

#DumpFossilFuels #noDAPL #fossilfree #BankExit



Our multi-year campaign to build public pressure for divestment resulted in Governor Shumlin calling on the state legislature to divest from coal and ExxonMobil. Although the legislature did not pass a divestment bill,

Mother Up!

mother (v): to care for or protect like a mother; act maternally toward.



Mother Up! Parents Exchange for Change program is up and running. It is building locally-based parent networks across the state in response to many parents' feelings of deep despair about the climate

their divestment resolution helped prompt Treasurer Beth Pearce and the pension committee to form a divestment committee to proceed, albeit slowly, toward divestiture. We are actively participating in this process, and Clean Yield Asset Management, a renowned socially responsible investing firm, is helping to guide their work. We are confident the review will only add more evidence to the overwhelming case for divestment.

We also ramped up the pressure the fossil fuel industry by calling on our VT Attorney General to investigate ExxonMobil for their campaign of misinformation against climate science. In May, we delivered 1,600 petition signatures to the AG, calling on him to join other states investigating ExxonMobil.

crisis. In 2016, we collected surveys of over 70 parents, finding a shared sense of overwhelm. Through Mother Up!, parents not only participate in climate justice work, but also become leaders in it. We come together at regular meetings in Brattleboro, Burlington, and Montpelier, to share stories, build relationships, learn together and take action together. Our active Facebook group already has several hundred members.

In August, five families traveled to the northeast corner of Pennsylvania to meet families impacted by fracking. VT families brought back stories and contaminated water samples to share with their communities.

A Leaderful Movement

We take pride in fostering new leaders in our movement. We have mentored dozens of interns who have become young leaders in political campaigns, international advocacy, and other climate and social justice groups. Last year, over 75 people completed our 2-day leadership training, called Building Ground, and several have gone on to take leadership roles at 350VT. Participants have described the training as “inspiring” and “empowering.” 350Brattleboro was created by 2 participants from our Building Ground training in June. Our trainings have also supported student campaigns. In our October session, student organizers from 6 different schools participated.

In the past year...

2

new nodes in Bennington & Brattleboro

8

interns & fellows

114

new volunteers

183

new donors

2638

joined the 350VT network



Hope, a high school student from Montpelier, prepares to speak at the Geprags Park pipeline action



Our intern, Naudelis, leads a Story of Self workshop at Building Ground in June.



Youth Lobby Day, April. Students engage with Rep. Chris Pearson.

Profile: Rebecca Dalgin

Central Vermont Climate Action node

Rebecca is a clinical herbalist and one of the leaders of the Central Vermont Climate Action node in Montpelier. She was profiled by our intern, Julie Elfin, for a blog series on pipeline resisters.



Growing up, I struggled to find my place in the movements for social justice. I was interested, but didn't know how to plug in and got disillusioned very quickly. But the Vermont Gas pipeline felt like something very concrete and very wrong. It was a clear entry point. I got involved with Central Vermont Climate Action (CVCA) during the singing demonstrations we held at the eminent domain hearings for the pipeline. Big groups of us would sit in on the hearings and sing so loudly that they couldn't hold the hearings. Music is such a beautiful and empowering tool of resistance.

I don't know if I really consider myself an activist. I feel a little uncomfortable identifying that way. This has been such a long campaign and I'm just coming in at the end of it. I'm just someone who's really concerned and really fearful for a lot of people in this world right now. There is so much pain and injustice in the world. The emotional impact can be overwhelming. It's hard to know where to put my energy and how to be most effective in creating change. I want people to understand how their actions affect the planet and other people.

Climate justice is not just about the way the Earth is changing. Climate change isn't going to effect everyone equally. It is largely those who have contributed least to the effects of climate change that are already feeling the impacts most acutely. As a fairly well-off white person living in the global North, climate change is affecting people all over the world in far more devastating ways than it has effected me. That said, here in Vermont too, we feel the effects of climate change and will continue to feel them more deeply if we do not change.

Financial Information

A financial overview from our last three years...

Profit & Loss Statements	Jan - Dec 14	Jan - Dec 15	Jan - Dec 16
Income			
Coalitions Funds	26,257.00	32,592.17	45,269.42
Donations			
Individuals	50,462.57	31,830.19	51,979.44
Major Gifts	23,300.00	40,430.00	61,070.80
Sponsorship	15,158.80	8,788.54	17,129.16
Events	2,611.25	6,347.68	5,181.68
Grants	31,677.33	49,083.00	72,067.00
Merchandise	307.00	388.00	292.00
Total Income	149,773.95	169,459.58	252,989.50
Expenses			
Bank Fees	1,189.10	779.59	1,863.84
Conferences & Workshops	0.00	210.00	543.88
Fiscal Sponsor Fee	1,834.00	0.00	0.00
Insurance	1,778.70	1,773.70	2,707.20
Marketing/Educational	1,167.00	809.08	4,354.86
Mileage	5,000.26	5,200.67	5,670.23
Office Rent	5,940.00	5,940.00	5,940.00
Office Supplies	878.16	1,478.44	1,790.99
Outside Contract Services			
Fundraising	6,000.00	8,345.80	8,522.80
Intern	0.00	113.75	1,201.25
Organizers	0.00	6,086.79	10,672.50
Training	0.00	851.42	2,833.56
Phone/Internet	589.98	678.83	1,225.19
Postage	1,132.28	1,102.37	1,576.86
Printing and Copying	2,944.10	2,890.60	5,671.55
Professional Development	795.00	600.00	1,148.49
Professional Fees			
Mailings	246.29	786.73	337.93
Accounting/Tax	486.57	783.25	942.29
Legal	180.00	0.00	950.00
Program Expense	38,831.51	16,093.28	53,064.92
NationBuilder	1,132.00	1,490.40	0.00
Travel & Meals	2,048.83	5,075.42	9,396.58
Payroll Expenses			
Wages	66,710.45	70,583.45	117,767.66
P/R Taxes	5,687.71	5,982.49	9,772.77
Other	537.61	424.98	364.64
Total Expense	145,109.55	138,081.04	248,319.99
Net Income	4,664.40	31,378.54	4,669.51



Future

“When we talk of tomorrow,” says a Chinese proverb, “the gods laugh.”

Or perhaps Mother Nature, or physics, laughs. The climate is changing and warming faster than most had anticipated. If we can say anything with certainty, it’s that the future is uncertain. Those circumstances coupled with the current administration could either cripple us or embolden us. We choose the latter, while staying nimble and creative in our work. We have ambitious goals for 2017 and beyond.

Expand the 350VT network. We will continue to host events and actions that provide entry points for new activists. The 2017 People’s Climate March in Washington, D.C. is a great example of that role we play - organizing hundreds of Vermonters to take part in a national event. We are fostering new “nodes” or local groups in other areas of the state. By hosting retreats, meetings, and social gatherings, we are strengthening existing ties in our network of activists and organizers. This year the board and staff will engage in a network mapping process to become more intentional about our network structure. This summer, 350VT will hit the road to put climate change directly in the public eye in communities across Vermont.

Train leaders. We’ve welcomed Jen Lazar on staff as our Education and Outreach Coordinator. Jen is bringing our basic leadership training to a new level of outstanding. We know that these trainings, called Building Ground, are deeply experiential and transformative. This year, we intend to offer a Building Ground 2, for organizers to advance their skills, as well as offering trainings to deepen our practices of nonviolence in our communications and in direct action. We will continue to support new leaders, especially youth, to find their core purpose and boldly follow their paths as change makers.

Shift culture. We recognize that the path to climate justice is about so much more than reducing carbon emissions. We recognize the need for system change - to, at once, dismantle and rebuild the economic and social structures that oppress people and destroy the planet. Joanna Macy speaks of this body of work as an evolution of consciousness. We will continue to bring this lens to all of our work, whether that is organizing a study group on decolonization, or beginning direct actions with ceremony.

No matter the outcomes that physics or the gods have in store, we believe that these endeavors are worthy, necessary, and revolutionary. Let’s get to it!

A youth speaking out at the Geprags Park pipeline action



Lac Megantic anniversary vigil at Battery Park, Butlington



An interruption of a Public Service Board hearing on the fracked gas pipeline





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