

CLIMATE ACTION REPORT

MAY 17, 2018



IN THIS ISSUE

WELCOME LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

HEADLINES IN NATIONAL MOVEMENT

EVENT REPORT

RI LEGISLATION UPDATES

WELCOME

Hi Friends! Welcome to the CLIMATE ACTION REPORT, a biweekly newsletter edited by myself, Nicole DiPaolo, CARI member since March 2018.

I found out about the group at BOEM's "sham" of a meeting that CARI recreated into a People's Hearing, empowering over 100 water protectors, environmentalists, and advocates of justice.

The event was an huge impetus for growth. Gaining about a dozen active participants, support continues to increase as we gain more faithful attendees each week.

More hands on deck means more voices to demand progress. It also means more to collaborate on and report.

I volunteered to create this periodical to keep record of the action, create a resource to connect to the broader movement, and for to make more space for organizing during our meetings.

I urge you to contribute summaries of your events, actions, and research.

Please do not hesitate to offer feedback & ideas for impact.

NATIONAL MOVEMENT

VICTORIES

May 15 - Activists block oil barge at Seattle Kinder Morgan facility. These dirty dozen banks are supporting tar sands pipeline projects. Greenpeace has a petition to send to the CEOs of these companies.

PA Primaries - 29 out of 41 candidates who signed #NoFossilFuelMoney pledge won their races and will head to general elections, four of which are Democratic Socialist women!

May 9 - Costa Rica became the first country in the world to ban all fossil fuels and pursue a transition to 100% renewable energy after years of pressure

May 8 - Hawaii passed two bills to become carbon neutral no later than 2045

California adopted policy to require all new homes to incorporate advanced efficiency measures and rooftop solar

EPA signals ban on toxic chemical in paint.

CT - passes bill that acknowledges climate change and requires a 45% reduction of 2001 greenhouse gas levels by 2030

May 16 - Senate votes to overturn FCC and save net neutrality (now time to work on the House!)

INJUSTICES

Louisiana bill to criminalize abortion after 15 weeks is on the way to the Governor for signature. The good news, the governor of Mississippi passed a similar bill not to long ago and was immediately brought to court as it violated constitutional rights.

Koch brothers plot against US unions

New Orleans fossil fuel company pays actors to support a power plant at a public meeting

EVENTS

Youth & Climate Justice

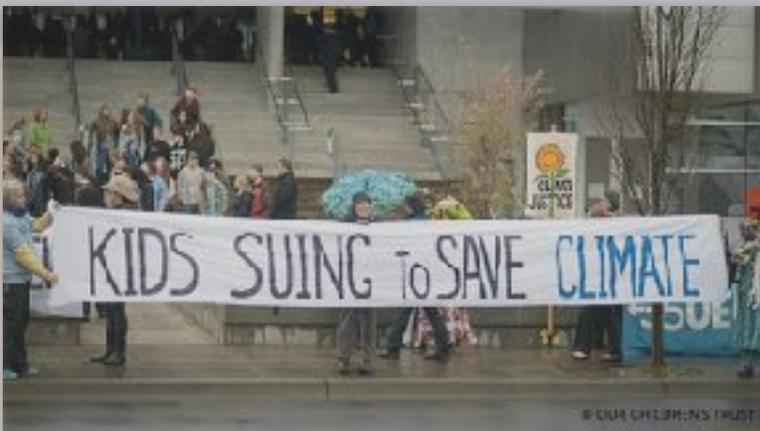
BY: Kristen Ivy Moses & Justin Boyan

On Thursday, May 10th, over 25 youth and adults gathered at the URI Providence campus for the Youth and Climate Justice Conference. The program featured Mary Wood, an environmental law professor at the University of Oregon who works with kids who are suing the government over climate change. She was so clear about the climate peril we face and the reason for a judicial branch approach to fighting it.

The Our Children's Trust case elevates the voice of youth to

secure the legal right to a stable climate and healthy atmosphere for the benefit of all present and future generations. Nature's Trust RI is building a similar case in Rhode Island. Three local youth spoke at the conference—Carmen, Chloe, and Alex. You can read more about them by clicking on their names. Mary Wood, the lawyer from Oregon, said she was greatly inspired by them. View the live feed of the event [here](#).

You can learn more about Nature's Trust RI at Resist Hate RI's Spring Activist Expo on Sunday, May 20, 2-4 pm at Nathan Bishop Middle School.



Events Covered Locally

Fall River City Council condemn water deal with Invenergy, opposes plant construction

ISO-New England used unreasonable assumptions in its Operational Fuel Security Analysis - we do not need fracked gas

RI's Turn off 10 boycotts Sinclair Broadcast Group's Trump propaganda May 12th protest

Rhode Island's Poor People Campaign - Monday, May 14th kickoff to a six-week season of nonviolent direct action

End Corporate Rule & Legalize Democracy

BY: Nicole DiPaolo

Move to Amend, a national coalition to dismantle systems of oppression drew the attention of people from RI and MA at April 30's speaking engagement. Providence's Bell Street Chapel was full as Keyan Bliss took participants through a timeline of corporate personhood that extended nearly the length of the room.

The coalition was born out of born out of the 2010 supreme court hearing *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*,

through which corporations gained first amendment rights. The result is the corporatocracy whose evil grip squeezes evermore tightly as corporate control over elections and policy more rapidly makes toxic the very air that we breathe.

That is why Move to Amend proposes a 28th "We the People" Amendment to eliminate corporate personhood by way of a 2/3 vote from both houses.

When I approached Senator Whitehouse about this issue the next day as he walked into

Complex for a public meeting the following day, he claimed passing a law that requires campaign donations to be transparent would solve this problem and I should "trust the process."

I trust the process as far as I can throw the process because, well, I can't. As long as towns have to nearly bankrupt battling transnational corporations like Nestle in court for control over their own water just over two hours away from Flint, MI that hasn't had safe water for over four years, I don't trust the process. As long as the Koch brothers are donating 750 million dollars to political elections (8.7% of the total; the same percent of the total US population represents 26 million people), I don't trust the process. As long as fossil fuel companies are funding anti-science campaigns, I don't trust "the" process.

There is a process I trust though. That is our process. The people's process. The democratic process. The very process that we will not stop fighting to restore.

LEGISLATION

WATER

The City of Providence is seeking to privatize water to pay off city pensions underfunded due to decades of corruption. Similar bills have been opposed in the past. This time, Gina appoints Senate Speaker's son Charles Ruggerio to the Narragansett Bay Commission the same day the NBC bill S.2803 which eliminates regulatory oversight of the public. The hearing for the bill was May 2nd. It is currently being held for further study.

ENERGY

ENERGIZE RI - H7400

Hearing was scheduled for May 15. Sponsor Aaron Regunburg postponed the hearing.

FOREST CONSERVATION - H8141

The bill prevents state incentives for **only RENEWABLE** energy developing or converting forest land over 250 acres.

The hearing was May 10th. The bill is being held for further study.

BIOMASS INCINERATION - H8020

Senate companion passed May 2nd

This bill would allow biomass incineration to qualify for net-metering and be incentivized as a renewable energy even though it worse for the environment than burning fossil fuels.

This hearing was April 24th and the House Committee vote was May 16th. CARI members lobbied committee members and sponsors. Vote was recommended for passage. Only one representative voted in opposition - Tim O'Grady. We can still send emails to the reps to encourage them oppose on the floor vote.

Express opposition [here](#).

EFSB OVERHAUL - H8120A

This bill provides communities where power plants are proposed great protections expanding the EFSB from three members to seven. It passed the house on May 16th on a vote 69-0. It still needs to pass in the Senate.

2018 ELECTIONS

MATT BROWN FOR GOVERNOR

Matt Brown launched his campaign on May 15th at the Southside Cultural Center in Providence. Quoting the civil rights hero John Lewis, he said that a corrupt system that has all the power demands people get in the way. He delivered a powerful speech, emphasizing the need for morality in politics.

Brown was welcomed to the stage by three women who introduced his character as humanitarian, environmentally conscious, populist. Among his ambitions were powering RI by 100% clean energy, securing state healthcare, and a working wage of \$15/hour. He expressed his opposition to National Grid's LNG facility proposed at Field's Point in South Providence, as well as the Invenergy power plant in Burrillville. He even signed the #NoFossilFuelMoney pledge to not take contributions from the fossil fuel industry.

CARI will be hosting a campaign party as well as several other members. My party will be on June 3rd in East Providence, the CARI party will be on June 5th in Providence, Kristen Ivy Moses' party will be on June 16th in Riverside, and Kendra Anderson's will be on June 17th in Warwick. Tim DeCristopher is hosting as well. Stay tuned for more details.



Upcoming Events

SustainPVD Fair

Saturday, May 19th, 10 am - 4 pm

Southside Cultural Center - 393 Broad St. Providence, RI

Events include: Compost Workshop, Rain Barrel Workshop, and A Just and Fossil Fuel Free PVD with REJC

Resist Hate: Activist Expo

Sunday, May 20th, 2 pm - 4 pm

Nathan Bishop Middle School - 101 Sessions St. Providence, RI

Hear from: Rhode Island ACLU, AMOR RI - Alianza para Movilizar Nuestra Resistencia, Climate Action RI • 350 RI, Common Cause Rhode Island, Direct Action for Rights and Equality, George Wiley Center, Indivisible RI, Keep Rhode Island Beautiful, Moms Demand Action - RI, Nature's Trust Rhode Island, People's Power & Light, Planned Parenthood Votes! Rhode Island, RI Interfaith Power & Light, Rodrigo Pimentel (Defending Dreamers), Swing Left, The Woman Project, Rhode Island Working Families Party, Young