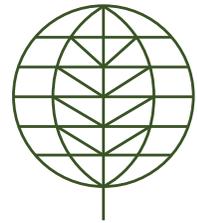


EARTHWORKS

2020 Campaign Plan



EARTHWORKS

Temperatures are rising. Storms are more intense. Flooding, drought, and wildfires are getting worse. Fracking and mining are polluting our air and water, harming public health, and damaging the ecosystems we rely on for life. We have no time to waste. We must transform our energy economy from dependence on fossil fuels to clean renewable energy. Now.

A more just and sustainable economy will value our health and natural resources over polluting industries' short-term profits. **We can transition to a clean, renewable energy future without leaving behind those who have experienced the worst impacts of pollution.**

Earthworks has exposed the harms of fossil fuels and hardrock mining for more than 30 years. We listen to communities and raise their voices in policy debates. In this era of climate change, our mission is more urgent than ever before.

Shift the Public Debate

Fossil fuel companies tout economic benefits while ignoring the costs. For decades the industry's political power has prevented policy changes required to protect public health, clean air and water, and the climate.

Earthworks builds public support for strong climate action by **exposing the harms caused by oil and gas and supporting communities' right to say no.** We amplify the stories of the more than 12.6 million Americans who live close to these dirty fuels. We bring the media with us to report on runaway air pollution from oil and gas sites. We expose how **current regulations and enforcement are not enough.** Policymakers are starting to take notice. Companies are feeling pressure to reduce their pollution. The public is becoming more aware of methane's role in climate change and the need to take stronger action today.

Stop the Expansion of Fossil Fuels and Plastics

The Permian Basin, straddling New Mexico and West Texas, is the world's second biggest oil field. **The infrastructure to produce, process, and transport Permian oil is expanding rapidly.** If it continues, it's game over for the climate. Permian production would use 10% of the entire world's carbon budget.

A byproduct of oil and gas is ethane, used to make plastic. Single use plastic products are causing another environmental catastrophe as they are dumped into landfills, incinerators, and oceans around the world. **Hundreds of petrochemical plants are planned,** many in Appalachia and the Gulf Coast. If built, they would lock in decades of further fossil fuel dependence.

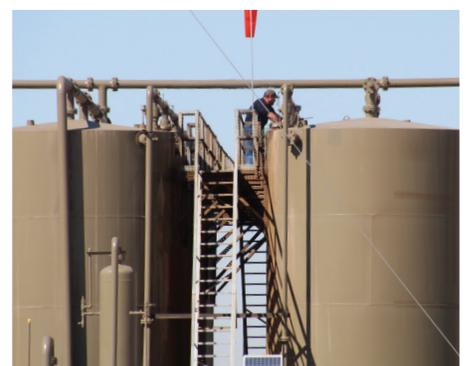
For communities on the front lines, the consequences are disastrous. Attacks on civil liberties and the dismantling of environmental protections are hitting rural, poor, and communities of color the hardest. **Earthworks is strengthening the grassroots and building a network to halt the expansion before it's too late.**

Slow Climate Change by Reducing Methane

Methane, the main component in natural gas, is the most potent climate pollutant—86 times more powerful than carbon dioxide over the short-term. **Reducing the amount of methane escaping into the atmosphere now will slow climate change.**

Earthworks' optical gas imaging cameras have recorded thousands of leaks from wells, compressor stations, pipelines, and other facilities all across the country. Because the U.S. is the world's largest producer of oil and gas and the second largest greenhouse gas emitter, we have a special responsibility to control these emissions.

Since the Trump administration announced rollbacks of federal air protections, states are playing an even more important role in controlling climate pollution. Earthworks is **focusing on the six states responsible for half of all methane emissions in the U.S.** California, Colorado, New Mexico, and Pennsylvania are advancing stronger climate protections. In Ohio and Texas, we are supporting impacted residents to build political will for action, and pressuring operators to clean up their act.



PHOTOS, TOP - BOTTOM:

Protesters in front of the Capitol at the D.C. Climate Strike March in September 2019.

Rep. Ocasio-Cortez (R) joined Earthworks' Pete Dronkers (L) and Nathalie Eddy in the field with Earthworks' optical gas imaging camera, September 2019.

Tanks on a well site in New Mexico, with the infrared photo showing the pollution invisible to the naked eye.

Make Polluters Pay

Oil, gas, and mining companies cause large-scale environmental damage, yet they are not required to pay for the true costs of extraction. Instead, they pass the cost of cleanup onto taxpayers.

- Toxic, often radioactive waste from oil and gas operations is disposed of near homes, schools, and watersheds. Most of this waste is transported on public roads, risking dangerous spills. We will **close the loopholes in hazardous waste regulations in Pennsylvania and other states.**
- Hundreds of thousands of abandoned oil and gas wells present health and climate risks as they continue polluting the air. We are developing policy solutions to **address the long-term clean up of the 1 million wells operating today** before they prepare to shut down due to the energy transition.
- The 1872 Mining Law gives away public minerals for free without requiring companies to clean up abandoned mine sites. Its legacy is 500,000 abandoned mines and water pollution across the West. **A reform bill in Congress is the best chance in more than a decade to change this for good.**
- Recent mine waste dam failures like those in Mt. Polley, Canada, and Brumadinho, Brazil, killed hundreds of people, destroyed communities, and polluted rivers. Experts predict that many of the 18,000 such dams worldwide are at risk of failure. We are developing a plan that **puts the safety of communities and the environment first.**

Protect Nature

U.S. Public Lands — The Trump administration and the mining lobby are proposing more deregulation that would open public lands to mining “critical minerals”. They want to undermine the *magna carta* of environmental law, the **National Environmental Policy Act**, to fast-track infrastructure projects without public review. This is a battle we can’t afford to lose.

Bristol Bay, Alaska — The proposed Pebble Mine would destroy more than 80 miles of streams and create a toxic pit lake in the world’s largest remaining pristine wild sockeye salmon habitat. We persist in our 15-year battle to save this precious ecosystem.

Cabinet Mountains Wilderness, Montana — Two proposed mines threaten rare bull trout and grizzly populations in one of America’s first designated wilderness areas. We have won two court cases to stop them. The fight continues.

Salmon River, Idaho — The wild salmon habitat of one of the longest undammed rivers remaining in the U.S. is threatened. A Canadian mining company wants to mine for gold on federal public lands at the river’s headwaters. We are challenging their proposal.

Norway and Papua New Guinea — Norway’s fjords and Papua New Guinea’s Basumuk Bay and reef ecosystems are threatened by toxic mine waste dumping. We will stop this practice globally by pressuring mining companies and their investors.

The Earth’s Oceans — All the world’s oceans are at risk from deep seabed mining. We are pushing for international regulations that protect the oceans and the life they contain.

Make Clean Energy Clean, Just and Equitable

Clean energy technology – from wind and solar to battery storage for electric vehicles – relies on metals and minerals that are mined, such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, copper, and so-called rare earths. Mining poses dangers to the environment, health, and human rights. Our goal is to minimize the damage to people and the environment from mining without slowing the pace and scale of the renewable transition.

We will urge renewable energy companies to **advance more responsible sourcing that is not dependent on toxic mining, by encouraging recycling, reuse and efficiency.** Where new mining is unavoidable, we will advocate for sourcing from independently audited mines operating under strong standards like those of the Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA).



PHOTOS, TOP - BOTTOM:

Waste water at the Berkeley Pit, a former open pit copper mine in Butte, Montana, the country’s largest Superfund site.

A grizzly bear in Montana’s Cabinet Mountains wilderness.

Norway’s Sognefjord. Ryhør Bruyeu/stock.adobe.com

Renewable solar and wind. Soonthorn/stock.adobe.com



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