

EARTHWORKS JOURNAL



EARTHWORKS



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EARTHWORKS

Dedicated to protecting communities and the environment from the adverse impacts of mineral and energy development while promoting sustainable solutions.

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JOURNAL**

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Empowering Communities is the Way Forward

With Donald Trump as President, Scott Pruitt as Environmental Protection Agency administrator, and Ryan Zinke as Secretary of the Interior, you might feel justified in looking around for a Fourth Horseman of the Apocalypse.

But as someone who lives and works every day with the consequences of this Administration's decisions, believe me when I tell you there's good news too. Positive change is happening. I know this because Earthworks is helping make it happen.

Our expanded Community Empowerment Project (CEP) is a big part of that. You know what gets an oil and gas company's attention? An infrared video of its normally invisible pollution, shared with the impacted community, local news, and state regulators. Even in the most toxic of political environments, even with the oil and gas industry, shaming and complaining gets results.

We've expanded CEP with new hires in Pennsylvania, Colorado, and California. With our new team, we empower communities with the information and tools they need to pressure companies to shape up and remind regulators that their job is to protect citizens, not companies.

There's also good news in protecting our oceans. Our Ditch Ocean Dumping campaign has persuaded Citi to change its policies to prohibit investment in mining operations that dump their waste into marine environments.

I encourage you to learn more about the Ditch Ocean Dumping campaign, the Community Empowerment Project, and our new staffers Leann Leiter, Nathalie Eddy, Melissa Troutman, Tyler Rivlin, Ellen Moore, and Adrienne Bermingham at our snazzy redesigned website, earthworks.org. It's much easier to find things, especially using the much improved search tool.

Keep your chin up, despite the bad news in your feed, good things are happening and more are on the way.

Jennifer Krill,
Executive Director



EARTHWORKS

Expanding Our Reach

New Earthworks team members answering communities' calls for help

Melissa Troutman

*Research and Policy Analyst –
Coudersport, Pennsylvania*

Melissa analyzes the impacts of oil and gas operations and is focusing on co-writing an update to Earthworks' *Wasting Away* Report. Melissa first learned about fracking in 2010, upon moving to back to her hometown in Potter County, Pennsylvania.



MELISSA TROUTMAN

Unrelenting in the face of legal threats by the oil and gas industry, Melissa helped her community fight back a toxic fracking waste facility slated for the Allegheny River headwaters. The proposed plan was defeated in April, only three months after she sounded the alarm.

I couldn't work for an organization that didn't have such a huge commitment to helping people directly."

Ellen Moore

*International Mining Coordinator –
Washington, D.C.*

Ellen is spearheading Ditch Ocean Dumping campaign, working with allies in Norway, Papua New Guinea, and Indonesia.

Ellen works closely with organizations and communities in Latin America fighting harmful mining projects by providing technical, advocacy and communications support.

I'm looking forward to deepening community and ally organization relationships in the countries where Earthworks is focused."



ELLEN MOORE

Nathalie Eddy

*Colorado and New Mexico Field Advocate –
Leadville, Colorado*

Nathalie works directly with communities impacted by oil and gas development, joining Earthworks thermographers in the field to document emissions from oil and gas extraction.

Nathalie is an international environmental and human rights attorney, and after 20 years of international climate change advocacy, she decided to switch gears to work on a more local level in Colorado.

I'm looking forward to seeing stronger oil and gas regulations and enforcement in response to complaints filed by Earthworks community partners."



NATHALIE EDDY

Adrienne Bermingham

Digital Engagement Manager – Buffalo, New York

Adrienne manages our digital platforms, including our website, email communications, and social media accounts.

Adrienne most recently worked with the Jane Goodall Institute's Roots & Shoots youth program, establishing the program's strong brand identity by growing membership, improving member engagement, increasing social media following and reach, and building a sense of community among a vast, virtual network of supporters.

It is empowering to connect with like-minded individuals who, together, can truly have an impact on the course of our shared future."

ADRIENNE
BERMINGHAM

Leann Leiter

*Ohio and Pennsylvania Field Advocate –
Canonsburg, Pennsylvania*

Leann works with Earthworks' Community Empowerment Project – Responding to requests from fracking-impacted communities who want to learn more about the air pollution they live with. She is working to build relationships with state regulators and inspectors to ensure pollution complaints are investigated and resolved.



LEANN LEITER

Leann has already armed numerous communities with irrefutable optical gas imaging evidence of dangerous pollution, filed complaints in both Ohio and PA, and testified at hearings to support residents' demands for protections from gas facilities in their communities.

To see beautiful, agrarian places like the one I grew up in getting wrecked spurred me to action."

Tyler Rivlin

*Community Empowerment Project Assistant –
Washington, D.C.*

Tyler inputs data, plans trips to impacted communities and communicates with community members.

As an undergrad, Tyler studied Earth Systems, a program that emphasizes acknowledging and embracing the complexity of environmental problems and developing effective and feasible solutions. She also interned with the EPA – giving her unique insight into regulatory questions Earthworks often grapples with.

I love how community-focused Earthworks is and how its projects include, benefit, and support real people."



TYLER RIVLIN



Why would a bank that touts itself as a moral leader want to be associated with one of the most notorious bad actors in America?

World's most ethical bank? Hardly.

The #StopETP campaign holds U.S. Bank's feet to the fire

By Ethan Buckner

The stakes couldn't be higher

In Louisiana, landowners are being trampled upon, and ancient cypress trees are being obliterated in the Atchafalaya

Basin as ETP barrels ahead with its Bayou Bridge pipeline project. In Pennsylvania, construction of ETP's Mariner

East II pipeline has already caused over 100 documented spills, poisoning residents' well water along the pipeline route.

In Ohio, regulators are still battling to hold ETP accountable for spilling millions of gallons of toxic drilling fluid into sensitive wetlands.

Just yesterday we updated our environmental responsibility policy to say that we do not finance construction of oil or natural gas pipelines." That was Andrew Cecere, CEO of U.S. Bank at last year's annual meeting of shareholders. The pronouncement came in response to intense pressure from indigenous leaders and allies calling on the bank to distance itself from Energy Transfer Partners' (ETP) Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) during the height of indigenous-led resistance to the pipeline at Standing Rock.

Earthworks lauded U.S. Bank's seemingly groundbreaking new policy. Was this an indicator of a broader shift in the banking sector away from dangerous and unnecessary fossil fuel infrastructure projects? Not quite.

When U.S. Bank made its commitment on pipelines in 2017, it used very careful language, stating in its new policy that "the company does not provide project financing for the construction of oil or natural gas pipelines." That distinction – project finance as opposed to all financing activities – created a loophole allowing U.S. Bank to claim a moral high ground while continuing to lend hundreds of millions of dollars to ETP. According to a report from Oil Change International, since last year's shareholder meeting

U.S. Bank has raised over \$2 billion for oil and gas pipeline companies, including an estimated \$480 million to ETP.

This is the same ETP that has destroyed sacred sites, bullied and lied to landowners, violated environmental law, and harassed peaceful opposition. Why would a bank that touts itself as a moral leader

want to be associated with one of the most notorious corporate actors in America? Profit.

With each dirty deal, U.S. Bank raked in hefty fees – while selling itself as leader in social responsibility.

U.S. Bank executives may have thought they could get away with this hypocrisy, but Earthworks and the StopETP coalition are holding their feet to the fire. The campaign is gaining momentum, calling on U.S. Bank to #DefundETP and get out of the pipeline business. In February, hundreds rallied ahead of Super Bowl LII at U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis. We've bird-dogged executives at speaking engagements, held call-in days, spread petitions, rallied at bank branches, and challenged its receipt of an ethics award.

At this year's shareholder meeting, CEO Andrew Cecere seemed to dig in his heels. The question-and-answer period went so poorly for him that the bank left the entire session off the published audio of the meeting – a session usually publicly disclosed.



A surveillance tower on the easement of the Mariner East 2 Pipeline on the property of Elise Gerhart, who never gave ETP permission to build a pipeline on their land.

Our coalition left the shareholder meeting more resolved than ever. U.S. Bank knows we are not going away, and we will continue to escalate our campaign until it does the right thing. Other banks may be taking the lead: In December, the World Bank Group announced it would end all financing of upstream oil and gas projects by 2019. This is the type of bold commitment that the world needs from the banking industry. U.S. Bank best follow suit or get left behind with the fossils.





CEP team members Pete Dronkers (far left) and Priscilla Villa (second from right) in Argentina.

Seeing is Believing: Documenting oil and gas pollution

By Molly Dunton

Earthworks field staff and certified thermographers have worked alongside local residents to investigate oil and gas facilities in 15 U.S. states and three foreign countries. As both our audience and collection of videos grow, Earthworks receives an increasing number of inquiries about the Community Empowerment Project. Here are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions.

What kind of camera does Earthworks use?

Earthworks has three Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) optical gas imaging (OGI) cameras. The FLIR GF320 camera is the oil and gas industry standard for leak detection and repair, and is used by federal and state regulatory agencies to monitor emissions from operations.

Do your videos show heat and steam?

The FLIR GF320 camera was designed to detect hydrocarbon and volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions in the oil and gas sector. Earthworks' certified thermographers have been trained how to properly use the camera to detect gases, as well as how to distinguish between heat sources or steam and health harming pollutants. Each video we publish is rigorously reviewed by our team to ensure it is in fact showcasing harmful emissions.

How much do these cameras cost?

A new FLIR GF320 camera, related accessories, an extended warranty, and the thermography certification required to operate the camera total well over \$120,000. Thanks to the generous support of our donors, Earthworks has the privilege of offering this technology to frontline communities free of charge.

What are the videos used for?

Seeing is believing. Our optical gas imaging videos have been used in national news stories, formal complaints to state and federal regulators, legal proceedings, meetings with elected officials, town hall events, university classrooms, social media, and more.

When will the Community Empowerment Project be in my area?

Earthworks thermographers and field staff are on the road nearly every week investigating oil and gas operations from California to West Virginia, and from Canada to Argentina. If you live in an area experiencing oil and gas development, or if your state is part of the extreme energy infrastructure buildout, there is a good chance we have a team headed your way!

How can I get in touch with you?

Anyone interested in inviting CEP to their area may send us a request using our online form at cep.earthworks.org, or call us at 202-887-1872.

In 2014, Earthworks started the Community Empowerment Project (CEP) to:

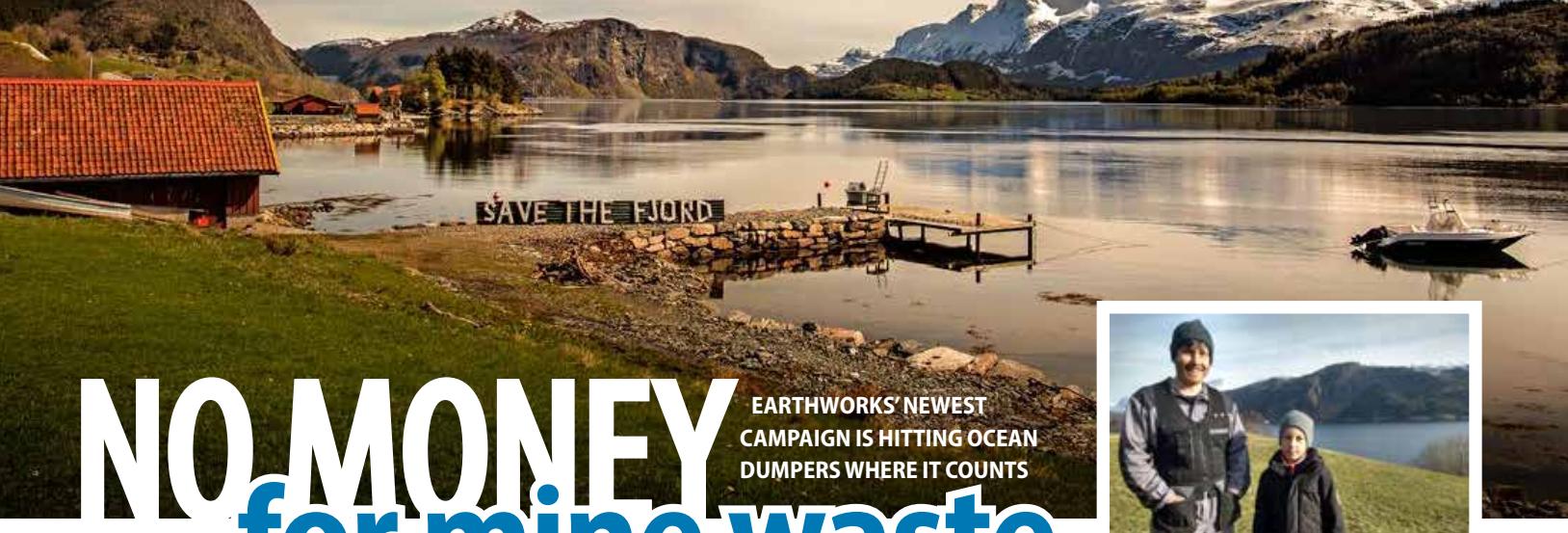
- Make visible otherwise invisible methane pollution from oil and gas facilities
- Put the same cutting-edge Optical Gas Imaging (OGI) technology used by industry and regulators in the hands of communities
- Pressure regulators, legislators, and companies to reduce air pollution by systematically and transparently reporting and publicizing the pollution
- Create positive change even in places that are hostile to regulation

CEP Q&A



Request a visit to your community at cep.earthworks.org





NO MONEY for mine waste

By Ellen Moore

This March, Earthworks launched the Ditch Ocean Dumping campaign to demand financial institutions cut ties with companies that dump mine waste into the ocean. Each year mining companies dump 220+ million metric tonnes of mine waste into natural water bodies threatening the health and livelihoods of coastal communities in Indonesia, Norway, Papua New Guinea, and Turkey. That's roughly equivalent to 55 stadiums filled with mine waste, dumped onto fragile marine life and pristine reefs.

In coordination with 40 organizations across the globe, the Ditch Ocean Dumping campaign zeroed in on proposed projects in Norway and Papua New Guinea where a handful of companies are pushing ocean dumping as a cheap option to deal with mine waste, which industry calls tailings.

It did not take long for Citigroup, our first target, to recognize that ocean waste dumping is dirty, unnecessary and wrong. The global financial firm agreed to amend its policies to ban financing for ocean dumping. Citi will also include dumpers on its watchlist, an internal document used to identify industry outliers and flag them for additional social and environmental review. It's an exciting early victory and gives us momentum as we push the campaign forward!

Now we are shifting our focus to call on other financial institutions to ditch the dumpers and develop similar policies. Our goal is to see that the practice is phased out once and for all.

“Sacrificing our fjords to dump mine waste simply does not make sense, but even in Norway, money talks.”

— Anne-Line Thingnes Førsund, Community leader from Veiring

In April, we visited Veiring, Norway, a small community located on the edge of the pristine Førdefjord and in close proximity to Nordic Mining's proposed Engebø mine. If built, it would cut off the top of Engebø Mountain and dump 250 million metric tonnes of waste into the fjord.

Veiring resident, Lars Gunnar Thingnes, explained, “The fjord provides all the fish that we eat – and that’s a lot! The mine dumping would destroy everything. The fish will die, and there won’t be any birds. I think our local community will also die. Nobody can live with such a mess.”

Photos do not do justice to the expansive, breathtaking beauty of this place – a National Salmon Fjord, regularly visited by sea eagles and orcas. Nor do they convey the connection residents have with the fjord, which goes far beyond its beauty to an essential part of who they are. It is an integral part of their family economy and source of pride.

Money talks. So it makes sense that the Ditch Ocean Dumping campaign's focus is to cut off financing for the Engebø mine and other proposed projects in Norway and Papua New Guinea. Banks and financial institutions need to know that we will not forfeit the future of our oceans so that mining companies and shareholders can make more money today. Visit earthworks.org/campaigns/ditch-ocean-dumping for stories from communities threatened by mine waste dumping, and about the ecosystems and marine life they are fighting to save.

EARTHWORKS' NEWEST CAMPAIGN IS HITTING OCEAN DUMPERS WHERE IT COUNTS



Photos top - down — View of Førdefjord from Veiring. Photo by Wim Lassche

Lars Gunnar Thingnes and son Joar Valdemar at their home at Førdefjord.

The bolocera tuediae, a type of North Sea anemone, growing in the area where Nordic Mining plans to dump mine waste. Photo by Erling Svensen



Tell JPMorgan Chase to Ditch Ocean Dumping at earthworks.org/TakeAction/JPMorgan



DEFENDING THE RIGHT TO HAVE A SAY

→ **Why we need NEPA**

By Aaron Mintzes

Politicians remind us all the time that Washington, D.C. (“The Swamp”) is not the source of all wisdom. And they’re right. The government should listen to people’s wisdom. Trusting the community voices helps governments and mining companies make better decisions. In March, Norm Harry, Harvey Young, and Steve Caldwell came to D.C. to tell their Senators why we need to preserve public input in mining decisions. Listening to the people most affected by mining development is the heart of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

NEPA, often called the environmental “Magna Carta,” guarantees mining-affected communities their voice and requires our government to take a hard look at the environmental impacts of its decisions.

Unfortunately, others in Congress have instead sought to undermine NEPA. The 115th Congress has considered over 60 attacks on NEPA so far that outright exclude the public, limit our role, or narrow the scope of review. And yet despite this, support is growing for mining reform. In May, Congressman Grijalva (D-AZ) introduced a landmark bill that modernizes the antiquated mine claims system. The new bill would treat mining in a similar way as coal, oil, and gas. This change would allow our federal land managers – and the public – to balance hardrock mining against other land uses. Another reform measure led by Senator Udall (D-NM) and others will also grant the public power to decide whether hardrock mining occurs on public lands.

While almost any environmental bill’s chance for passage this year seems unlikely, the public support Norm, Harvey, Steve, and others have built remains incredibly important. That’s why we’ll be back next year. As conditions improve, so will responsive governance and respect for public engagement.



Thompson Creek Mine, Idaho.

Stories of NEPA Success

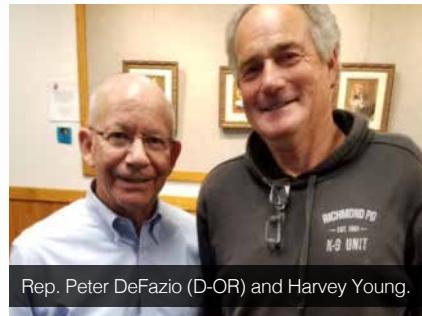
Norm Harry, from Nevada, served three terms as Tribal Chairman for the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. Over three decades, Norm has lent his vast experience to benefit and strengthen tribal programs, government relationships, and protect natural resources. A few years ago, he organized his community against a proposed “kitty litter” mine near Reno. He



Norm Harry and Sen. Catherine Cortez-Masto (D-NV).

taught policy makers to acknowledge and respect the gifts that sustain all life, including the water we drink, the air we breathe, and plants, foods, and medicines. Norm called for tribal sovereignty and consultation, and the community won!

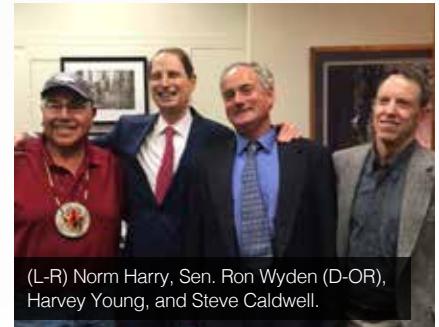
Harvey Young shared his experience with Oregon’s Senators. Harvey owns Fishhawk River Co. in Brookings, Oregon. For nearly 40 years, he’s run anglers from all over the world up and down the wild and scenic rivers of southwestern Oregon. Harvey’s fishing and recreation business is his livelihood. When a mining company proposed a nickel mine near these rivers, Harvey joined with neighbors from across the political spectrum to urge our government to choose the region’s rivers and fish over the mine. They



Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and Harvey Young.

listened. In 2016, the Interior Department withdrew the region’s minerals from mining, preventing future projects.

Steve Caldwell worked for thirty years in the mining industry; he now serves as a County Commissioner in Park County, Montana, near Yellowstone. Steve thanked Senator Tester (D-MT) for his support of S. 941, the Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act, a bill that would perma-



(L-R) Norm Harry, Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR), Harvey Young, and Steve Caldwell.

nently protect 30,000 acres of public land at the Gateway to Yellowstone from new mining claims. The Interior Department is now considering temporarily protecting this area. This process includes NEPA, which allows Steve’s views, and those of other local elected officials, to impact this decision.



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Why I Keep Fighting the Good Fight

Candace Key's first gift to Earthworks was in 1999, back when Earthworks was called the Mineral Policy Center. She is one of a small group of donors who have made more than 100 gifts to Earthworks. We are grateful to Candace, and all of the donors, who keep the wind in our sails. It's your support that keeps us going! Thank you.

I'm old school. Once I start believing in an organization, I want to stay involved... I love Earthworks!

I have been a monthly contributor for some time, which I do for very few groups. I feel Earthworks is more focused on the mining and extraction issues which are covered by others, but not in the depth that Earthworks seems to.



ON THE COVER

The Ditch Ocean Dumping campaign kicked off in Vevring, Norway, on the edge of the pristine Førdefjord.

Photo by Ellen Moore

Reading about the environmental devastation that these industries/projects can wreak makes me sick. Long term health and environmental consequences are just overwhelming and I think we need a strong voice that keeps bringing the public's attention to the greed and wanton destruction that is part and parcel to these activities. The danger of a project like what is being considered in Bristol Bay is terrifying.

Please keep fighting the good fight. I'll do what I can to spread the word.

— Candace Key, San Rafael, CA

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