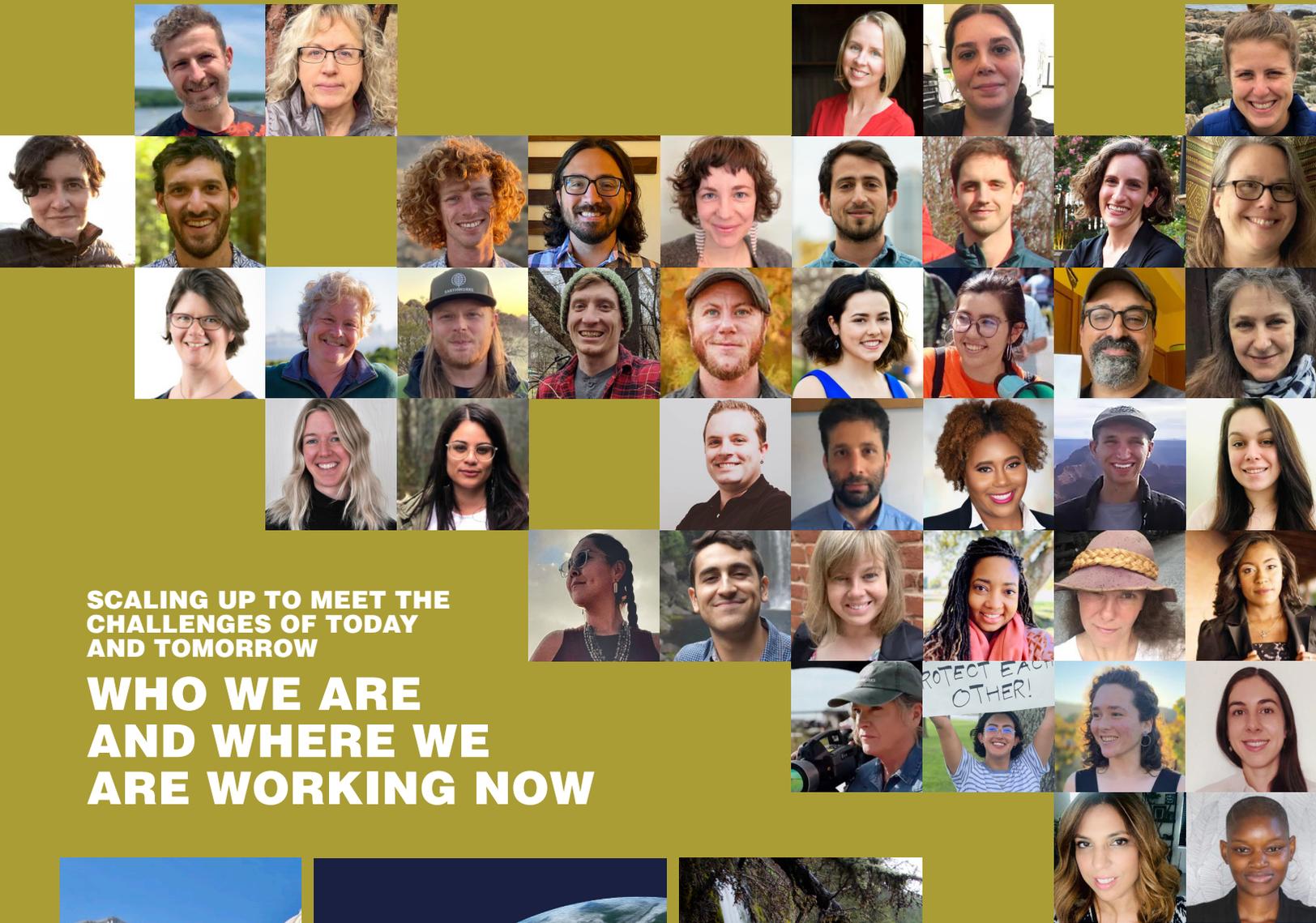


EARTHWORKS JOURNAL



**SCALING UP TO MEET THE
CHALLENGES OF TODAY
AND TOMORROW**

**WHO WE ARE
AND WHERE WE
ARE WORKING NOW**



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- Mining Reform Progress
- It's Time for Biden to Get Serious about Climate
- Calling out the Tricks of the Trade
- How I Stopped Drilling Under My Home



EARTHWORKS.ORG

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

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EARTHWORKS JOURNAL

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Lauren Pagel

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We are closer than ever to achieving one of our founding goals: rewriting federal hardrock mining policy.

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Mining Reform Progress!

May marked an exciting milestone towards mining reform. After thirty-five years of dedicated advocacy — both on our end and from allies and our committed supporters — we are closer than ever to achieving one of our founding goals: rewriting federal hardrock mining policy, which has been ripping off taxpayers, destroying fragile ecosystems, and trampling on Indigenous communities' rights for 150 years.

AN ANTIQUATED LAW

Signed into law by Ulysses S. Grant, the Mining Law of 1872 is essentially unchanged a century and a half later. Intended to encourage expansion of the West, it opened the door to prospectors eager to exploit earthly minerals in vast quantities. Anyone was able to locate, mark, and stake a

claim on found gold, silver, copper, lithium, and other minerals — all without paying any royalties to the public.

While achieving the goal of Westward expansion, the 1872 law has given mining companies free rein for the last 150 years on nearly any land of their choosing, including locations that infringe upon Indigenous lands or threaten national parks. The mines themselves inflict often irreversible damage on the environment with open pits and contaminated groundwater.

Reform would not be moving forward without long years of dedicated leadership from Earthworks and our supporters.



Earthworks Executive Director, Jennifer Krill, with U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland at the White House.

YOUR ACTION NEEDED

In an effort to improve hardrock mining laws and regulations, the Administration's interagency working group is soliciting comments from the public through July 31.

Add your voice to this critical effort
earthworks.salsalabs.org/reform1872



White House Acts to reform 1872 Mining Law

From our beginning in 1988, Earthworks has passionately worked to reform this archaic law. But as the demand for lithium and other minerals essential for electric vehicles, solar panels, and other sustainable energy infrastructure spikes higher, the need for reform becomes even more urgent. Our clean energy future cannot be built on dirty mining.

Fortunately, we are seeing real momentum build for much-needed change, in both the Administration and on Capitol Hill. In May, exactly 150 years after the 1872 law was passed, an interagency working group formed by the Biden-Harris administration convened over 20 stakeholders, including Earthworks Executive Director Jennifer Krill, to discuss potential regulatory reforms. This was the first of what will likely be a series of meetings with communities around the country to inform the rulemaking process.

Just a few weeks earlier, House Natural Resources Committee Chair Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ) and Senator Martin Heinrich (D-NM) introduced the Clean Energy Minerals Reform Act, which would require mining companies to pay royalties on new and existing operations on federal lands, set stronger environmental standards, and require the government to consult with Indigenous communities before permitting mining operations near tribal land. And, for the first time, it would require federal land managers to balance mining interests with recreation, habitat conservation, and other public land uses. Earthworks immediately fired off a joint letter urging passage of the legislation. We are leading the coalition to build support in Congress.

Where We Work

SCALING UP TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF TODAY AND TOMORROW



ALASKA

Alaska's magnificent wilderness is threatened by mining proposals in places such as Bristol Bay, the Bering Sea region, Central Yukon, and Gates of the Arctic National Park. We oppose mining where it doesn't belong and promote sustainable land management plans.

OREGON

We are promoting legislation to permanently protect the Siskiyou region from mining.

CALIFORNIA

California's reputation as an environmental leader belies the devastating damage hardrock mining and oil production have inflicted — and continue to inflict. We are building relationships with communities in desert ecosystems at risk from mining, such as Conglomerate Mesa, Indian Pass, and the Salton Sea.

NEVADA

"The Silver State" is facing a renewed mining rush for minerals such as lithium, copper, and vanadium used in renewable energy technologies. We collaborate with frontline communities struggling against long-term toxic impacts from abandoned and existing mines, while pushing for alternatives to new lithium mining. We support the Fort McDermitt Tribal community opposing lithium mining in Peehee Mu'huh, also known as Thacker Pass.

IDAHO

Earthworks is holding mining operators accountable for cleaning up old mines and working to protect communities and ecosystems from new mines, such as the proposed Stibnite Mine in the Salmon River headwaters. We also work with communities to reduce downstream selenium pollution from the Smoky Canyon phosphate mine.

MONTANA

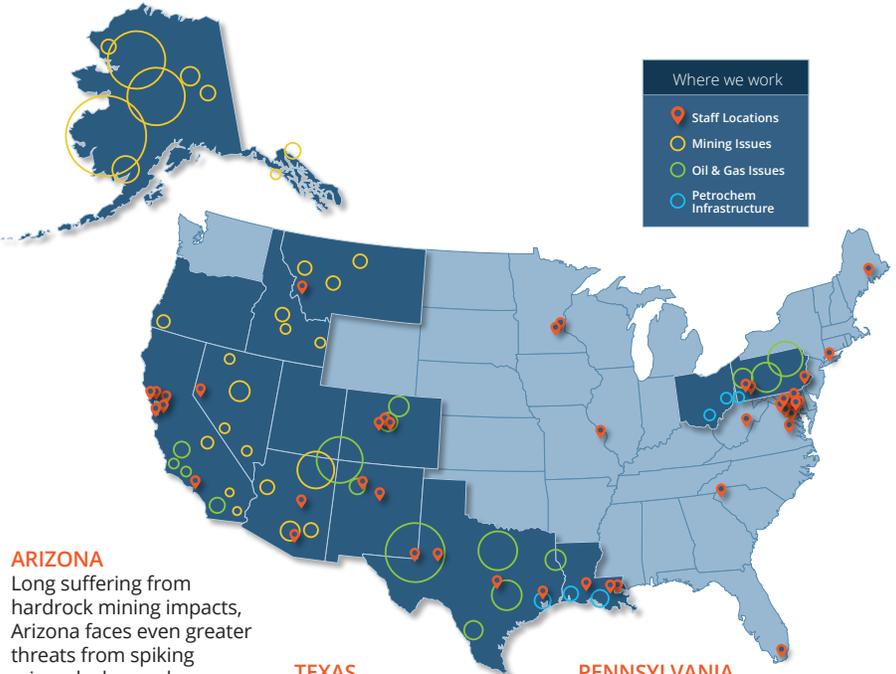
Earthworks holds mining companies accountable for their historic pollution from abandoned mines, while opposing new mines that would threaten animal species and despoil natural treasures such as the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness and the Smith River. We also support the Fort Belknap Indian Community to protect the Little Rocky Mountains from new mining claims on reclaimed land from the abandoned Zortman Landusky cyanide leach gold mine.

FOUR CORNERS

Earthworks partners with local Navajo organizations for clean air and the Greater Chaco Coalition for creating a 10-mile buffer zone from oil and gas drilling around the Chaco Culture World Heritage Site.

COLORADO

We deploy optical gas imaging technology to help local communities stay safe from oil and gas pollution and to win tougher safeguards from lawmakers and regulators. We advocate for the state to meet its ambitious climate targets by fixing an inadequate enforcement system to hold operators accountable and to ensure that taxpayers are not left with the cost of clean up.



ARIZONA

Long suffering from hardrock mining impacts, Arizona faces even greater threats from spiking minerals demand. Earthworks confronts these threats, from the Patagonia Mountains to Oak Flat in the Tonto National Forest, known as Chi'chil Bildagoteel to the Western Apache, to Ha'Kamwe' in northwest Arizona on the traditional lands of the Hualapai.

NEW MEXICO

Along with Texas, New Mexico is home to the Permian Basin "climate bomb." While the state has recently improved industry regulation and enforcement, air pollution remains a big problem, as our optical gas imaging shows. We are helping to bring air monitoring stations to communities and advocating against the state investing in false climate solutions like gas-powered hydrogen production.

TEXAS

Frontline communities face serious health risks from oil and gas pollution while state policymakers put oil industry profits above all else. We expose the failure of Texas regulators and educate the media and the public about the Permian Basin's threat to the climate. The Permian Gulf Coast Coalition brings together activists opposing fossil fuel and petrochemical infrastructure projects across the region, including the Sea Port Oil Terminal, Texas GulfLink, and the Matagorda Bay Ship Channel dredging projects in Texas.

LOUISIANA

A cluster of petrochemical plants along the Mississippi River and a long legacy of environmental racism have given the region an infamous nickname: "Cancer Alley." Earthworks supports grassroots leadership fighting against the proposed Formosa Plastics complex, while helping coordinate activists opposing petrochemical and fossil fuel infrastructure projects across the Permian Gulf region.

PENNSYLVANIA

Home to the US' first oil well, Pennsylvania is littered with abandoned wells from drilling's past as well as those from the last decade's fracking boom. Pennsylvania faces further buildout of fracking infrastructure as well as new projects like the Shell Ethane Cracker Plant and the Falcon Ethane pipeline, expanding the industry's footprint and its climate pollution. We advocate for reducing methane and VOC emissions across the oil and gas supply chain and cleaning up the pollution they've caused.

Earthworks Across the U.S. and Around the World



UNITED STATES

See more details of our fights in the U.S. at left, and meet the staff, below.

GUATEMALA

Earthworks supports the Xinka Indigenous community's efforts to ensure they are properly consulted and their human rights respected by the Guatemalan government and Pan American Silver, about the fate of the Escobal Mine. This case could set an important precedent for the country and Latin America.

BRAZIL, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, SOUTH AFRICA

Mine waste dam failures have destroyed lives, communities, and ecosystems. Earthworks is leading global efforts to develop new standards for mine waste (tailings) dams. We bring community representatives into the process, seek to deny permits to unsafe facilities, and hold companies accountable for the damage they cause.

MEXICO

We support efforts to protect Ulloa Gulf from the Don Diego seabed mining project off the coast of Baja California Sur, and expose the risks of deep seabed mining to ocean ecosystems.

INDONESIA, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, NORWAY

Our Ditch Ocean Dumping campaign is working with local organizations to end the practice of disposing of mine waste in the ocean by pressuring governments to ban it and financial institutions not to invest in projects that use it.

- 1 Ethan Buckner Senior Manager, Energy Infrastructure (CA) • Bonnie Gestring Northwest Program Director (MT) Rachel Kerr Energy Program Director (MN) Kelsey Crane Senior Policy Advocate (VA) Jan Morrill Tailings Campaign Manager (ME)
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- 6 Sharon Wilson Senior Field Advocate (TX) Angel Ulloa Permian Gulf Coalition Coordinator (TX) • Tyler Rivlin Video, Data, and Operations Associate (DC) Paulina Personius Mining Digital Campaign Organizer (CA)
- 7 Camila Ruiz-Gallardo Communications Director (FL) • Vuyisile Ncube Making Clean Energy Clean, Just, and Equitable Advocate (South Africa)

The Faces of Earthworks



Recent Wins!

Halting reckless mining in Guatemala

After successfully halting harmful mining on their territory, the Xinka, an Indigenous community in Guatemala, are now joining forces with other Indigenous and frontline communities from Argentina to stop another reckless mining project from Pan American Silver. In May, Earthworks helped deliver a petition signed by more than 85,000 people to the mining company's annual meeting demanding respect for community self-determination.

Texas oil export terminal in "time out"

After Earthworks' intense organizing with local community groups, the U.S. Maritime Administration and U.S. Coast Guard issued a Stop Clock letter. This letter pauses the review process for a massive offshore crude oil export terminal, citing concerns over the project's possible impacts on the environment and climate.

Montana's Smith River protected

A Montana district court ruled that the approval of foreign-owned Sandfire Resources' potential copper mine near the Smith River was unlawful as safety and environmental concerns were not adequately addressed. This is a huge win towards

protecting the river and its ecosystem, a fight Earthworks has been involved in since we filed a lawsuit challenging the mine's exploration permit in 2013.

Biden administration acknowledged problems with Alaskan mining road

The Department of Interior suspended a permit to begin construction of a 200-mile-long Alaskan industrial corridor, known as Ambler Road, that would disrupt Arctic land and water, harming wildlife and Indigenous rights. While a step in the right direction, we will continue fighting for the permit to be revoked rather than just suspended.

Gas drilling denied in Arlington, Texas

A request by energy giant TotalEnergies to drill three wells near a preschool in east Arlington was struck down by City Council members. Aided by multiple speakers voicing concerns against the drilling, the win sent a clear message that community members are not afraid to stand against drilling companies and the politicians who support them.



Smith River, Montana by DH Brown



Smith River, Montana by B. Pfeiffer

Global declaration on mining and clean energy

When world leaders gathered in Scotland last November for COP26, the United Nations climate conference, Earthworks and a coalition of allied organizations from around the globe made sure they heard one message loud and clear: *Climate solutions must center the human rights of Indigenous and frontline communities.*

In a formal Declaration on Mining and the Energy Transition, Earthworks and more than 175 other organizations and frontline community groups told climate negotiators that as the transition from fossil fuels to low-carbon energy becomes more urgent, so too does the need to ensure that the skyrocketing demand for minerals to fuel that transition is not met by reckless mining that devastates communities and ecosystems.

DEMAND IS ALREADY RISING — The demand for lithium, cobalt, nickel, copper, and other minerals to build the solar panels and electric vehicles of our clean energy future are projected to increase. Unfortunately, metals mining is arguably the world's dirtiest industry, with a long track record of environmental degradation, corruption, human rights abuses, destruction of sacred sites, and dangerous working conditions.



COP26 protest: Mining Can't Power Energy

Our declaration stressed the need to move away from dirty mining practices that have caused harm for over

a century and urged negotiators to make a binding commitment to source transition materials responsibly and to prioritize circular-economy solutions. The declaration showcased a united front against outdated mining practices.

WE MUST PRIORITIZE RECYCLING OVER EXTRACTION

— A part of sourcing materials responsibly entails the reutilization of materials that have already been mined and prioritizing recycling over extraction. Europe has already put forth a proposal that would make supply chain due diligence mandatory, establish carbon footprint rules, minimum recycled content, performance and durability criteria for batteries used in EVs and other light means of transportation. It's time the U.S. put forth similar legislation and requirements to create a responsible circular economy of our own.

IT'S TIME For the Biden Administration to Get Serious on Climate

It's time for the Biden administration to stop trying to have it both ways on the climate crisis. For every positive step taken, including proposing new EPA rules to cut methane, the Administration has also pushed measures that take us backwards.

For example, the President's plan to use the Defense Production Act to secure a reliable supply chain for minerals used in electric vehicles and other clean energy infrastructure could inflict additional harm on Indigenous and other frontline communities that bear the environmental cost of reckless mining projects — unless federal mining reforms are put in place first.



It's time to declare a climate emergency and go all-in on ending our addiction to oil and gas.

The President is also proposing a massive increase in American export of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to help Europe reduce its dependence on Russian gas. But that increase would require the construction of major new LNG export terminals on the Gulf coast, locking in fossil fuel infrastructure for decades. And since it takes years to build an export terminal, the proposal would have little impact on the immediate crisis caused by the war in Ukraine.

Earthworks will continue to push President Biden to declare a climate emergency — and finally go all-in on ending our addiction to oil and gas.

Sounding the Alarm

RECENT EARTHWORKS REPORTS MAKING AN IMPACT

The Permian Basin Climate Bomb — A six-part series developed with Oil Change International and the Center for International Environmental Law that powerfully demonstrates the massive threats development of the Permian Basin poses to local communities and any hope we have of avoiding climate catastrophe.

Oil & Gas Threat Map — An interactive tool that helps families discover if they're at risk from oil and gas pollution. The map was just expanded to include petrochemical facilities.

Fatal Vapors — How Texas oil and gas regulators cause avoidable deaths by hydrogen sulfide gas.

Alaska Mining Spills — Compares the predicted versus actual spills of hazardous materials at the five largest mining operations in Alaska.

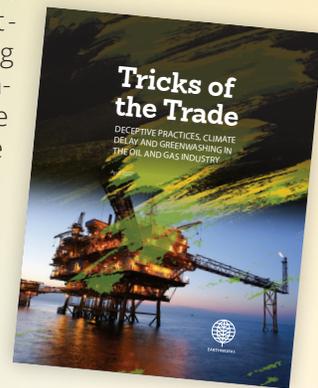


calling out TRICKS OF THE OIL & GAS TRADE

When an oil and gas company tells you it's committed to fighting the climate crisis, it's wise to be skeptical—very skeptical. That's the lesson of our special report, *Tricks of the Trade: Deceptive Practices, Climate Delay and Greenwashing in the Oil and Gas Industry*.

After comparing the climate commitments eight leading oil and gas companies have made with actions they're actually taking, the report reveals a number of alarming findings:

- ▶ Most of the claimed reductions from oil and gas companies are from selling polluting assets — which merely passes pollution off to another company without having any effect on total emissions.
- ▶ Every company is calculating emissions reductions using a process that underestimates methane emissions by as much as 100%.
- ▶ Every company's climate plan falls far short of the 50% emissions reduction target because the companies don't count emissions that result from burning their product.



Earthworks will continue to expose the truth and hold companies accountable for treating climate change like a PR problem to be managed rather than a crisis to be confronted.

Read the full report at earthworks.org/resources/tricks-of-the-trade-oil-and-gas-report-2022/



Earthworks IN THE NEWS



Exposing Big Oil's scorched earth campaign against action on climate

Sharon Wilson is featured prominently in Part 3 of "The Power of Big Oil," Frontline's exposé of the industry's decades-long success in blocking action on the climate crisis.

“ The industry was saying one thing, and I was presenting this evidence that showed that what they were saying was not true. It was never true.”

Keeping the pressure on the Biden administration

When the Biden administration proposed new methane rules in November, Earthworks pushed for even stronger action.

“ Lauren Pagel, policy director at Earthworks, an environmental group that travels the country detecting leaks with infrared cameras, said Biden's proposals are 'an important step forward' but not sufficient.”

The
Washington
Post

How I stopped drilling under my home | by Ranjana Bhandari

Earthworks Board Member

When fracking started in Texas' Barnett Shale, I refused to give permission for drilling under my home.

Chesapeake Energy, one of the largest drilling companies at the time, filed a claim with the state to overrule me. Going up against Chesapeake and the Railroad Commission was a real education in how powerful fossil fuel interests are, polluting not just our shared commons, but also our government and political processes.

As drilling continued to expand, I founded Livable Arlington. Fracking was causing serious pollution, health issues, and property damage. It threatened the very livability of our community. It was also accelerating the climate crisis. Organizing is difficult here because many people see gas extraction as a good thing, and are often unaware of the risks and harms. But it is possible to find common ground around our children's health and clean water and air.



PHOTO: Ranjana Bhandari

Arlington doesn't have many restrictions on fracking, but we do have a ban on wastewater injection wells. An Oklahoma company applied for an injection well permit next to Lake Arlington and the Railroad Commission approved it. We organized the Save Lake Arlington campaign and enlisted nearly 3,000 residents to request standing in the public hearing process for granting the permit. That became such a nightmare for industry and politicians that they eventually withdrew the permit application.

Then French oil company Total applied to drill behind a preschool where all the students are Black and Latino. We framed fracking

as an environmental justice issue and stopped them. Our campaign was widely covered by national media. After a new city council and mayor were elected, Total applied again, and got the permit. We sued the city for violating its rules and won.

When I started organizing more than 10 years ago, Earthworks was one of only a few national organizations providing information on its impacts. I used Earthworks' information to learn about everything from health issues, chemicals used, water contamination, well failure, and more. I met Sharon Wilson, who has come out many times to film drilling pollution in Arlington with her optical gas imaging (OGI) camera.

Earthworks staff and board have been very generous with their time and expertise in helping me with everything from media strategy to legal analysis. For a small grassroots group, this has been very valuable.

We are at a critical juncture. The window for meaningful action is closing. We are looking at doom for the next generation. It's now or never. I am glad to be on the board of Earthworks. I came to organizing from an academic background, but **what interests me most is how to use what we know about the harms of fossil fuel extraction and consumption to effectively push the levers of power to make a rapid transition to renewable energy.**

JOIN THE CONVERSATION AND SPREAD THE WORD

