

EARTHWORKS

2018 Campaign Plan



Last year saw some of the biggest threats to our environment we've seen in decades. The Trump administration and Congress have aggressively rolled back bedrock protections and undermined the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of the Interior, and other agencies. Dangerous deregulation would give corporations free rein to destroy our natural heritage, increase pollution, and harm public health.

Defend Our Values

Conservation and a Healthy Environment

A series of policy proposals put private profit over public benefit:

- Reducing the size of federal monuments like Bears Ears to allow leasing for oil, gas, and mining
- Undoing long-established processes to withdraw public land from mineral development
- Preventing new rules to require companies to clean up mine waste
- Ending environmental reviews of projects

The battle to preserve Obama-era federal regulations to reduce air pollution and climate impacts from methane continues in the courts. A new infrastructure bill is under development designed to fast-track permitting and exempt approved projects from our bedrock environmental laws – promoting unchecked fossil fuel development and mining.

Public Participation in Policy Decisions

The public's right to have a say is fundamental to American democracy. Many of our environmental laws require public comment before decisions are made. Several proposals would curtail or eliminate Americans' right to be heard by weakening the National Environmental Policy Act.

Protect Nature

Ditch Ocean Dumping NEW!

Each year mining companies dump over 220 million tonnes of hazardous mine waste directly into our oceans, rivers, and lakes. The result: polluted water, illness and disease, and a loss of livelihoods. It's dirty. It's unnecessary. And it's wrong. The Ditch Oceans Dumping Campaign will pressure banks to stop investing in mines that poison our water.

Bristol Bay, Alaska

One of the world's last intact wild salmon ecosystems is still under threat from gold and copper mining. The Pebble mine's permitting process is moving forward, and we're lining up experts to explain the irreparable damage it would cause. Meanwhile, mining company First Quantum Minerals is considering investing in the project. We're asking investors to stay away.

Cabinet Mountains, Montana

One of the nation's first designated wilderness areas and home to rare grizzly bear and bull trout is also the site of two proposed copper and silver mines. Earthworks continues to fight in court to stop them under both federal and Montana state laws.

Balmorhea State Park and San Solomon Spring, Texas

Pristine artesian springs in West Texas' High Desert are threatened by 5,000 planned oil and gas wells as well as the Trans-Pecos and other proposed pipelines. We're helping residents of Alpine and Marfa to protect the clean air and water that locals treasure and that form the basis for tourism.



Advance Progress Locally

Community Empowerment Project

Earthworks supports communities harmed by fracking to hold regulators and energy companies accountable for air pollution. Our optical gas imaging cameras have documented methane emissions and volatile organic compounds at hundreds of oil and gas facilities across 15 states as well as in Canada and Mexico. This evidence contributed to new rules at the federal level (which remain the law of the land despite aggressive rollback attempts), as well as state regulations in California, Colorado, and soon in Pennsylvania and New Mexico. Now, we're working with communities to file formal complaints with regulators and push for enforcement. Nearly 100 complaints have been filed so far, resulting in violation notices, leak repairs, and more stringent reporting and monitoring requirements for facilities. With new field staff on board, we are expanding our reach to even more communities.

Mining Reforms in Colorado and Montana

While the federal government is trying to gut laws that protect the environment from mining pollution, two states are considering setting stronger standards. These proposals would reject permits for mining projects that create water pollution that requires treatment for generations.

NEW! Earthworks Action Fund

Earthworks Action Fund is a new 501c4 organization affiliated with Earthworks in order to build political support for protecting communities and the environment from the adverse impacts of oil, gas, and mining. Earthworks Action Fund can legally endorse and oppose candidates and engage in more expansive advocacy and lobbying activities than Earthworks can as a 501c3, such as voter registration, get-out-the-vote, ballot measures, and influencing legislation. While donations to Earthworks Action Fund are not tax deductible, they are so important in this political climate!

**ACTION
FUND
501c4**

Solidarity with Communities at Risk

Fighting Fossil Fuel Infrastructure

The energy industry is proposing to create a giant network of pipelines and other facilities around the country to further expand oil and gas production, distribution, and export. Fracking wet shale gas produces ethane, used to make plastics, and new petrochemical plants proposed in the Gulf Coast and Appalachia are part of this infrastructure expansion plan. Earthworks is organizing a grassroots exchange tour to bring anti-plastics campaigners from the Philippines to the U.S. to meet people living in communities where new plants are proposed.

Communities are rising up to oppose infrastructure projects such as Bayou Bridge in Louisiana, Mariner East in Pennsylvania, and Rover across Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. We are standing by their side, providing technical assistance, training, and coordination to strengthen leadership and amplify community voices to delay and defeat new fossil fuel infrastructure. We are also pressuring banks and other investors to stop financing these projects.

Solutions for a Sustainable Future

Helping Impacted Communities Switch to Renewables **NEW!**

Communities living near oil and gas production know firsthand the health and environmental impacts. Residents tell us they'd like an alternative to dirty fossil fuels to heat and power their homes. This year, we are piloting several projects to do just that. In Colorado, we're supporting rural electricity coops to switch to 100% renewable energy, while in Karnes County, Texas, hit hard by fracking pollution, we're working with Latino residents to install residential solar.

Making Clean Energy Clean **NEW!**

The best way to stop climate change is a quick transition to renewable energy. Solar and wind power technology require minerals like cobalt and copper. Yet mining pollutes water, air, and soil, and threatens the health of ecosystems. To avoid trading climate benefits for pollution, the Making Clean Energy Clean Campaign will promote recycling, reuse and substitution to reduce the need for new mining. In cases where new mining cannot be avoided, we will ensure companies source from independently certified responsible mining operations that meet high standards for greenhouse gas emissions, water, environmental protection, and human rights.



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What do you think of these campaign plans? Take the survey: earthworksaction.org/survey



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