Greenaction Responds to Coronavirus Crisis! The Work for Environmental Health and Justice Continues! Be Safe and Healthy!
Greenaction wishes everyone good health in these challenging times. Despite having to work remotely from our homes, Greenaction’s staff and Board of Directors are working as hard as ever on our many campaigns for healthy communities, a healthy planet, and environmental and climate justice. Please take care of yourselves and loved ones, and please support Greenaction however and whenever you can!

Spring 2020 Frontlines of Environmental Justice

Victory! Kettleman City Gets Clean Drinking Water! Community Garden Project to Start!
Thanks to years of work by El Pueblo of Kettleman City and Greenaction, kids in Kettleman City can drink clean water in their homes for the first time in their lives. Residents suffered with toxic drinking water for decades, as their water supply was contaminated with arsenic as well as benzene from old oilfield operations. We kept the pressure on local, state and federal officials – and our historic civil rights settlement with CalEPA and Department of Toxic Substances Control forced the state to use their best efforts to make clean water a reality. El Pueblo and Greenaction are moving forward with a Community Garden – an important effort as the nearest grocery store is 32 miles away.

On the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, Let’s Stop Trump’s Attacks on Clean Air, Clean Water, and Our Communities and Planet!
Just when we thought Trump could not get any worse, he is using the coronavirus crisis as an excuse to undo already inadequate environmental laws and regulations that are supposed to protect peoples’ health and environment. Call or email your US Senators and Congresspersons and tell them to reject Trump’s attacks on our environment that put all of us at risk. Every day is Earth Day!

Greenaction Joins Native Nations to Celebrate 22nd Anniversary of Ward Valley Victory!
In February, Greenaction joined with the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, Colorado River Indian Tribes and many others at the 22nd Annual Ward Valley Spiritual Gathering to celebrate the epic victory over a proposed nuclear waste dump in the Mojave Desert. Greenaction was graciously hosted by the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, and both Board and Staff were inspired by community members, elders, youth and allies who continue to protect the land and water from pollution and desecration of sacred significant areas. The 113-day occupation and stand off against federal police and the nuclear company in 1998 resulted in defeat for the dump project – and was Greenaction’s very first action.

Remember and Honor Marie Harrison!
It has been a year since our dear friend and Greenaction environmental justice warrior Marie Harrison passed away on May 5, 2019. Marie, a non-smoker who as a young woman worked at the contaminated Hunters Point Shipyard, battled lung damage. A strong and powerful woman of color, Marie spoke truth to power and continued fighting for justice until her last breath. We continue our work for environmental health and justice in Marie’s honor!
Greenaction Youth in Salinas Valley Learn, Educate and Organize Residents Against Pesticide Exposure – and for Health & Justice!

Greenaction Community Organizers Agustin Angel and Karen Crespo Triveño have been co-leading the Salinas Valley Environmental and Climate Justice Leadership Academy since January 2020. Gonzales High School students Magaly Santos and Vanessa Trujillo are Greenaction’s Gonzales Youth Organizers, taking on this important role after participating in our previous Youth Academy programs. Our team is working with Salinas Valley youth to collectively generate knowledge around environmental justice, cumulative impacts of environmental racism, and environmental health concerns including pesticide drift, landfills, water contamination, and diesel truck idling. Our Salinas Valley Environmental Justice Youth Leaders are educating farmworkers and other residents about their right to report and prevent pesticide drift exposure. Greenaction continues to work with youth in rural, urban and indigenous communities, and we support them with their leadership development as environmental justice leaders of today. We have active Youth Environmental and Climate Justice Leadership Academy programs in the Salinas Valley, Kettleman City in the San Joaquin Valley, Bayview Hunters Point in San Francisco, and the White Mesa Ute Community of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in southern Utah. With your support, we are working to expand the Youth Academy programs in these and other frontline communities impacted by pollution, climate change, and injustice.

Community Air Monitoring in Bayview Hunters Point and Kettleman City Moving Forward!
Bayview Hunters Point and Kettleman City are moving forward. Using portable and stationary air monitors, we have begun community-led efforts to identify particulate pollution hot spots. With the information gathered, we will be able to strengthen the effectiveness of our community campaigns to reduce air pollution.

Our “Marie Harrison Bayview Air Monitoring Project” is going full speed ahead. The Community Steering Committee established by Greenaction and our community partners is finalizing selection of ten sites in Bayview Hunters Point where we will place Dylos air monitors to measure particulate matter 2.5. Exposure to PM 2.5 can cause serious problems including asthma and heart attacks. Once the air monitors are in operation, residents will be able to view the particulate matter data on www.bvhp-ivan.org, the website of our Bayview Hunters Point Environmental Justice Response Task Force. Due to the COVID-19 situation, April’s Task Force meeting will be virtual and focus on problem solving repeated environmental complaints.

News from Indigenous Lands Campaigns:
Greenaction is working closely with Native Nations to stop pollution that is harming their health and environment. We continue our work with the Cahto Tribe and residents of the Laytonville Rancheria, the Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians, the White Mesa Ute Community and Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, Navajo/Dine groups, Gila River Indian Community, Colorado River Indian Tribes, and Native Hawai’ins at Mauna Kea.
Stay tuned for updates!