

December 2020 Frontlines of Environmental Justice



Bayview Hunters Point: “We Can’t Breathe!” Stop Pollution, Gentrification & Racism!

Residents of Bayview Hunters Point, San Francisco braved smoke from wildfires and the dangerous pandemic to have a powerful, socially-distanced rally September 1st to tell government officials “We Can’t Breathe” and to demand an end to pollution and gentrification. Greenaction community members and the BVHP Mothers and Fathers Committee led the action that received extensive media attention.

Greenaction Responds to Coronavirus Crisis!

Greenaction wishes everyone good health in these challenging times. Greenaction’s staff and Board of Directors are working safely but as hard as ever on our many campaigns for healthy communities, a healthy planet, and environmental and climate justice.

Greenaction COVID-19 Relief Projects in Kettleman City & White Mesa Ute Community:

Thanks to a grant from the Sierra Health Foundation/San Joaquin Valley Health Fund, Greenaction joined with El Pueblo of Kettleman City to provide \$84,410 in relief funds to Kettleman City residents through credits on their water bills or pre-paid cards from a food store.

Thanks to support from the Indigenous Environmental Network and Honor the Earth, we supported the grassroots Indigenous group “White Mesa Concerned Community” in distribution of masks and sanitizer to White Mesa/Ute Mountain Ute Tribe members in Utah.

Greenaction Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples!

In 1997, Greenaction’s very first campaign was to join the Colorado River Native Nations Alliance in a 113-day occupation of Ward Valley in the Mojave Desert that led to defeat of a proposed nuclear waste dump. Today Greenaction continues our extensive work and solidarity with Indigenous people and Native Nations, including:

Gwich’in Nation: We continue to support the Gwich’in in their fight to stop Trump from opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling.

Cahto Tribe: We work with the Tribe and other residents of Laytonville, California where many have died due to pollution from old county garbage landfills where toxics were illegally burned and dumped.



Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians: We work with Pomo and other Mendocino County, California residents to stop pollution from a wood pellet production plant.

White Mesa Ute Community/Ute Mt. Ute Tribe:

We continue working with our Ute partners and allies to close Energy Fuels’ uranium mill next to the White Mesa Ute Community.

Climate Change & Sea Level Rise Threat to Flood Contamination Sites on San Francisco Bay

Greenaction is working with residents of Richmond, Treasure Island and Bayview Hunters Point to demand cleanup, not cover-up, of waterfront toxic and radioactive sites threatened by rising sea levels. We are challenging government to clean up the contamination and protect people and the Bay instead of protecting large corporations hoping to build upscale housing in low income, working class and communities of color.

Greenaction Youth Learn, Educate & Organize Against Pollution, Injustice and Racism!

Greenaction's Youth Environmental & Climate Justice Leadership Academies have been empowering youth in Kettleman City, Bayview Hunters Point, and the Salinas Valley of California, and the White Mesa Ute Community/Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in southern Utah.



This fall, eleven youth from frontline communities in California, Arizona and Utah participated in our first Urban, Rural & Indigenous Youth Climate Justice Leadership Academy, learning about climate change, sharing their communities' issues with pollution, injustice & resistance, and pledging to be EJ leaders!

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Greenaction and Kettleman City, Buttonwillow & Avenal Residents Demand End to Giant Landfills & Racism in Communities of Color!

The fight to stop the unjust and unhealthy dumping of waste at giant landfills in these farmworker communities in the Central Valley of California is heating up. Residents and Greenaction are challenging the State Department of Toxics over their policy allowing the giant toxic dumps in Kettleman City and Buttonwillow to operate on expired permits and in violation of civil rights laws. Avenal residents have erupted in protest against the odors and truck emissions from the regional solid waste landfill located next to homes.



Remember and Honor Marie Harrison!

It's been 18 months 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 fought for justice until her last breath.

We continue our work for environmental health and justice in Marie's honor, and in memory of all the environmental justice warriors who have lost their lives.

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