

## A P P E N D I X A

---

# *Protests Against Coal*



### **2003**

AUGUST

**BLOCKADE AT ZEB MOUNTAIN.** On August 18, 2003, the Rocky Top Trio affinity group of Katúah Earth First! locked into concrete-filled steel barrels, blocking the entrance to the Zeb Mountain mine in Tennessee. The three protesters, John Johnson, Dan Anderson, and Matthew Hamilton, were arrested and released that day. Near the mine on the same day, the Banner Busters affinity group climbed a nearby 150-foot billboard off Interstate 75 and hung a banner reading “Stop Mountaintop Removal!”

### **2004**

NOVEMBER

**CHESAPEAKE CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK BLOCKADE OF DICKERSON POWER PLANT.** On November 10, 2004, a group of Chesapeake Climate Action Network activists, students, farmers, and religious officials held a protest against the coal-fired Dickerson Power Plant in Montgomery County, Maryland. During the protest, six people were arrested for blocking the entrance road to the plant. Protesters called on the plant’s owner, the Mirant Corporation, to stop opposing state and federal legislation against power plant pollution.

### **2005**

MARCH

**SAVE HAPPY VALLEY COALITION OCCUPATION OF SOLID ENERGY HEADQUARTERS.** On March 6, 2005, four Save Happy Valley Coalition

activists locked down at the corporate headquarters of Solid Energy in Christchurch, New Zealand, in protest of Solid Energy's plans to build a coal mine in Happy Valley. Supporters hung banners and pitched tents on Solid Energy's property. The occupation came one day after Solid Energy sued three activists for defamation.

JUNE

**MOUNTAIN JUSTICE SUMMER PROTEST AT NATIONAL COAL CORPORATION.** On June 7, 2005, approximately forty-five Mountain Justice Summer activists, some in animal costumes, surprised the first-ever shareholders meeting of Knoxville-based National Coal Corporation with a marching band, chants, drumming, and noise makers. Demonstrators demanded that National Coal stop mountaintop removal mining and distributed informational fliers to shareholders. The sheriff and National Coal Corporation security personnel responded by assaulting protesters with pain compliance and choke holds, and they arrested three on felony charges.

**WEST VIRGINIA CITIZENS OCCUPY MASSEY HEADQUARTERS.** On June 30, 2005, concerned parents, grandparents, and other citizens of Coal River Valley, with support from Mountain Justice Summer participants, delivered a list of demands to Massey Energy's headquarters in Richmond, Virginia. Two were arrested for trespassing when they refused to leave the premises until Massey responded to their demands. Citizens demanded that Massey shut down its preparation plant, coal silo, 1,849-acre mountaintop removal coal mine, and 2.8-billion-gallon coal sludge dam located uphill from Marsh Fork Elementary School in Sundial, West Virginia.

JULY

**FIRST NATIONS MOUNT KLAPPAN MINE BLOCKADE.** On July 16, 2005, representatives of three British Columbia First Nations tribes—the Telegraph Elders, the Tl'abânot'in Clan, and the Iskut First Nation—blockaded a road leading to the Mount Klappan coalfields in northwestern British Columbia. Tl'abânot'in tribe members had notified the mine's owners, Fortune Minerals, that their mine infringed upon Tl'abânot'in Aboriginal Title and Rights, as the company had failed to consult adequately with the tribe; Fortune Minerals had ignored the tribe's appeals. The blockade was maintained for seven weeks.

AUGUST

**SAVE HAPPY VALLEY COALITION COAL TRAIN BLOCKADE.** On August 13, 2005, twenty-five Save Happy Valley Coalition activists and allies blockaded train tracks leading from Solid Energy's coal mines to the port of Lyttelton, New Zealand, in protest of Solid Energy's plans to build a coal mine in Happy Valley. Two people locked

themselves to the tracks, while a third suspended himself from a tree a hundred feet in the air, attached to a support rope that was tied to the tracks. Four Solid Energy trains stood on the tracks for five hours while police cleared the blockade; the company claimed in court that the blockade cost it \$150,000. The three blockaders were arrested.

**EARTH FIRST! AND MOUNTAIN JUSTICE SUMMER BLOCKADE OF CAMPBELL COUNTY MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL SITE.** On August 15, 2005, Earth First! and Mountain Justice Summer activists blockaded a road leading to National Coal's mountaintop removal coal mine in Campbell County, Tennessee. Activists stopped a car on the road, removed its tires, locked themselves to the vehicle, and erected a tripod with a person perched on top of it. National Coal workers arrived and threatened protesters; one tried to ram the tripod with his car. Eleven people were arrested; the police treated the arrested activists roughly, endangering their safety.

## 2006

JUNE

**RIISING TIDE BOAT BLOCKADE OF NEWCASTLE, AUSTRALIA, PORT.** On June 5, 2006, seventy people from Rising Tide used small boats to blockade the port of Newcastle, which exports 80 million tons of coal each year. The protest aimed to call attention to a planned expansion that would allow the port to export twice that amount.

JULY

**EARTH FIRST!/RIISING TIDE BLOCKADE OF CLINCH RIVER POWER PLANT.** On July 10, 2006, seventy-five Earth First! and Rising Tide North America activists blockaded an access bridge leading to American Electric Power's coal-fired Clinch River Power Plant near Carbo, Virginia. Several people stretched a rope across the bridge and suspended themselves off the bridge's edge; others waved a coal truck onto the bridge, blockaded it, deflated its tires, and locked themselves to the truck. Protesters demanded that Clinch River and other outdated coal plants be shut down and that mountaintop removal coal mining be ended. After several hours during which coal trucks were unable to get into the plant, police agreed to make no arrests if the activists dismantled their blockades.

AUGUST

**DRAX POWER STATION BLOCKADE ATTEMPT.** On August 31, 2006, around six hundred people attempted to shut down the Drax Power Station in Selby, United Kingdom, in a widely publicized action that was organized by a variety of environmental groups and billed as

“the battle of Drax.” Several raiding parties of activists were arrested while trying to break through the perimeter fence. A larger crowd of people then pushed through police lines and were arrested as well. In a massive show of force, area police arrested thirty-eight people throughout the day. Many power plant staff didn’t show up for the day, and others locked their doors.

**DECEMBER** **DOODÁ DESERT ROCK BLOCKADE.** On December 12, 2006, members of the Diné tribe blockaded a road leading to the planned site of the Desert Rock coal-fired power plant near Farmington, New Mexico, in protest of Sithe Global’s failure to fully consult with members of the community. Ten activists with the group Doodá Desert Rock set up a campsite on the road. On December 22, under threat of arrest, the campsite was moved to a nearby location, and company vehicles were once again able to access the site. This second campsite was continually occupied for nearly a year. No arrests were made.

## 2007

**FEBRUARY** **RIISING TIDE BLOCKADE OF NEW SOUTH WALES LABOR PARTY.** On February 27, 2007, fifteen Rising Tide Australia activists blockaded the headquarters of the New South Wales Labor Party in a protest of the provincial government’s proposed plans to expand the Newcastle coal port. Activists blocked the door with several 44-gallon drums, and a woman chained herself to one of the blockades. They demanded that the provincial government announce whether or not the port would be expanded. Two people were arrested.

**MARCH** **SIT-IN AT WEST VIRGINIA GOVERNOR JOE MANCHIN’S OFFICE.** On March 16, 2007, dozens of West Virginia community members, together with activists from Mountain Justice Summer and Rising Tide North America, occupied the office of West Virginia governor Joe Manchin in protest of the State Mine Board’s approval of construction permits for a second coal silo near Marsh Fork Elementary School in Sundial. Community activists demanded that the state move the school. Eleven people were arrested at this action, and many were treated roughly by police.

**APRIL** **BLOCKADE OF ASHEVILLE MERRILL LYNCH.** On April 13, 2007, two people calling themselves members of the “Climate Justice League” entered a Merrill Lynch building in Asheville, North Carolina, dumped a sack of coal in the lobby, and used a bicycle lock to blockade the door. They demanded that Merrill Lynch stop funding mountaintop

removal coal mining companies such as Massey Energy. No arrests were reported.

**JUNE** **ASEN BLOCKADE OF NEW SOUTH WALES DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING.** On June 8, 2007, Australian Student Environment Network activists blockaded the office of the New South Wales Department of Planning. They criticized the department's June 7 decision to allow the Anvil Hill coal mine to fully drain the Hunter River in order to supply its mine with water. One person dressed as a polar bear chained herself to the doors of the building.

**JULY** **GREENPEACE BLOCKADE OF NEW SOUTH WALES DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING.** On July 3, 2007, Greenpeace Australia activists dumped four tons of coal in front of the door of the New South Wales Department of Planning, blocking the entrance to the building. They criticized the department's June 7 decision to allow the Anvil Hill coal mine to fully drain the Hunter River, in order to supply its mine with water. The sign outside the office was changed to read "Department of Coal Approvals." No arrests were reported.

**AUGUST** **SOUTHEAST CONVERGENCE FOR CLIMATE ACTION OCCUPATION OF ASHEVILLE BANK OF AMERICA.** On August 13, 2007, 150 activists from Southeast Convergence for Climate Action occupied a Bank of America branch in Asheville, North Carolina. They condemned Bank of America's ongoing funding of mountaintop removal mining in Appalachia. Two people locked themselves to the main lobby, while others blockaded the entrance to the branch and delivered coal to the bank's managers. Five people were arrested.

**SEPTEMBER** **OCCUPATION OF LOY YANG POWER PLANT.** On September 3, 2007, activists from Real Action on Climate Change occupied the coal-fired Loy Yang Power Station in Traralgon, Australia. Two people chained themselves to the coal conveyor belt and others hung several large banners from the plant. The action, which took place several days before an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Sydney, was intended to draw attention to Prime Minister John Howard's failure to limit Australian carbon emissions. Four people were arrested.

**ASEN OCCUPATION OF NEWCASTLE COAL PORT.** On September 4, 2007, twenty activists from the Australian Student Environment Network occupied the coal port in Newcastle, Australia. Five people chained themselves to machinery at the Carrington Coal Terminal. The action took place several days before an Asia-Pacific Economic

Cooperation summit in Sydney; it was intended to draw attention to Prime Minister John Howard's failure to limit Australian carbon emissions. Eleven people were arrested.

**OCTOBER GREENPEACE OCCUPATION AT BOXBURG PLANT CONSTRUCTION SITE.** Beginning October 1, 2007, thirty-four activists occupied the construction site of a new coal-fired power plant in Boxburg, in eastern Germany. The activists, ten of whom remained camped atop cranes on the site for sixty hours, demanded that Vattenfall, the utility sponsoring the plant, stop building coal plants and instead invest in renewable energy. A giant banner hung from a crane read "Vattenfall: Stop building! Climate protection instead of brown coal!" Six smaller banners reading "Stop CO<sub>2</sub>" hung from other cranes. Volunteers painted "Stop CO<sub>2</sub>" onto a smokestack under construction.

**GREENPEACE OCCUPATION OF KINGSNORTH POWER PLANT.** On October 8, 2007, fifty Greenpeace UK activists occupied the Kingsnorth Power Station near Kent, United Kingdom. One team of people shut down the conveyor belts carrying coal into the plant and then chained themselves to the machinery. Another team scaled the plant's chimney, upon which they painted the phrase "Gordon Bit It." Greenpeace held the action to protest plans by the plant's owner, E.ON, to build two new coal-fired plants at the site, which would be the first coal-fired power plants built in the United Kingdom in twenty years. Police arrested eighteen people during the action.

**RAINFOREST ACTION NETWORK BANNER HANG AT BANK OF AMERICA CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS.** On October 23, four activists with Rainforest Action Network scaled a fifteen-story crane across the street from Bank of America's corporate headquarters in downtown Charlotte, North Carolina. Reading "Bank of America: Funding Coal, Killing Communities," the banner hang protested the bank's funding of mountaintop removal and new coal plant development. The banner hang disrupted traffic for several blocks until police and firefighters brought down the activists. All four were arrested.

**NOVEMBER RISING TIDE BOAT BLOCKADE OF NEWCASTLE PORT.** On November 3, 2007, a hundred people from Rising Tide again blockaded the port of Newcastle, Australia, which exports 80 million tons of coal each year. The protest aimed to call attention to a planned expansion that would allow the port to double the tonnage exported. Participants attempted to block ships from entering the port for four hours, but police boats managed to escort three ships into the port. At one

point, a police Jet Ski rammed a woman's kayak, resulting in her hospitalization.

**RAINFOREST ACTION NETWORK ACTIVISTS AND ALLIES BLOCKADE A CITIBANK BRANCH IN WASHINGTON, D.C.** On November 5, 2007, activists from Rainforest Action Network, Coal River Mountain Watch, and the Student Environmental Action Coalition joined hundreds of student activists in blockading a Citibank branch in Washington, D.C., to protest Citibank's ongoing funding of new coal power plant development. RAN activists performed a "die-in" and delivered a wheelbarrow full of coal to the bank's managers. Police shut the branch down for the day, and no arrests were made.

**RAINFOREST ACTION NETWORK DAY OF ACTION AGAINST COAL FINANCE.** On November 15, 2007, Rainforest Action Network activists—acting with allies from Coal River Mountain Watch, Appalachian Voices, Rising Tide North America, Mountain Justice Summer, Student Environmental Action Coalition, and Energy Justice Network—staged dozens of actions against Citibank and Bank of America branches in cities across the country in protest of the two companies' refusal to stop funding new coal power plant development and coal mountaintop removal mining. In San Francisco, RAN activists attached caution tape—reading "Global Warming Crime Scene"—to dozens of Bank of America and Citibank ATMs and held "cough-ins" in several branches. Similar ATM closure actions were held in New York City; Davis, California; Los Angeles, California; Portland, Oregon; and St. Petersburg, Florida. Protests against the two companies were held in numerous other cities.

**STUDENT BLOCKADE OF DUKE ENERGY HEADQUARTERS.** On November 15, 2007, two Warren Wilson College students—dressed as polar bears—chained themselves to the door of Duke Energy's headquarters in Charlotte, North Carolina, in protest of Duke's plans to build the Cliffside coal-fired power plant in western North Carolina. Several dozen people held a rally in support of their blockade, dressing as Santa Claus and elves and presenting a stocking full of coal to the company. The two students were arrested on charges of trespassing and disorderly conduct.

**GREENPEACE OCCUPATION OF MUNMORAH POWER STATION.** On November 15, 2007, fifteen Greenpeace Australia activists occupied the Munmorah coal-fired power plant near Wyong, Australia. Two teams of five people—including engineers—switched off the conveyor belt that brings coal into the plant and then chained themselves to

the machinery. Another team painted “Coal Kills” on the roof of the plant and hung a large banner inside. The action took place several days before Australian parliamentary elections; it was held in protest of the climate change policies of both major Australian political parties. Police arrested all fifteen people.

**RISEING TIDE KOORAGANG COAL TERMINAL RAIL BLOCKADE.** On November 19, 2007, several Rising Tide Australia activists blocked a train carrying coal to the Kooragang Island coal terminal, from which 80 million tons of coal are exported each year. One person chained himself to the train; he was later arrested. Protesters demanded that the Australian government begin to reduce the country’s reliance on coal.

DECEMBER **BLOCKADE OF FFOS-Y-FRAN COAL MINE CONSTRUCTION SITE.** On December 5, 2007, about thirty local residents and activists from a variety of environmental groups—many dressed as polar bears—occupied the Ffos-y-fran coal mine construction site in South Wales, being built about forty yards from several homes. Activists dressed as polar bears chained themselves to bulldozers, while other people hung a banner from one bulldozer criticizing Prime Minister Gordon Brown’s ongoing support for coal power. The action was timed to coincide with the Bali climate change negotiations.

## 2008

MARCH **MOUNTAIN JUSTICE SPRING BREAK ACTION AT AMP-OHIO HEADQUARTERS, COLUMBUS, OHIO.** On March 28, 2008, activists participating in Mountain Justice Spring Break occupied the lobby of American Municipal Power–Ohio’s headquarters in Columbus and demanded a meeting with AMP’s CEO Marc Gerken. Several people stated their intention to conduct a sit-in in the office if their demands weren’t met; about forty people protested outside. After thirty minutes, Gerken met with protesters and agreed to schedule a meeting of the Board of Trustees at which community members could present their concerns with AMP-Ohio’s proposed coal-fired power plant in Meigs County, Ohio. No arrests were made.

APRIL **RISEING TIDE AND EARTH FIRST! OCCUPATION OF CLIFFSIDE CONSTRUCTION SITE.** On April 1, 2008, as part of the Fossil Fuels International Day of Action, a group of North Carolina activists with Rising Tide and Earth First! locked themselves to bulldozers to prevent the construction of the Cliffside coal-fired power plant



proposed by Dominion in western North Carolina. Others roped off the site with “Global Warming Crime Scene” tape and held banners protesting the construction of the plant. Police used pain compliance holds and tasers to force the activists to unlock themselves from the construction equipment. Eight people were arrested.

**RAINFOREST ACTION NETWORK BLOCKADE OF A CITIBANK OFFICE IN NEW YORK CITY.** On April 1, 2008, as part of the Fossil Fools International Day of Action, twenty-five Billionaires for Coal blockaded Citibank’s Upper West Side headquarters in New York City. Two people chained themselves to the door, while others—dressed in tuxedos and top hats—drew attention to Citibank’s funding of new coal power plant development and mountaintop removal mining. Police cut through the chains locking the two billionaires to Citibank’s door and arrested them.

**RISING TIDE AND RAINFOREST ACTION NETWORK BLOCKADE OF BOSTON BANK OF AMERICA BRANCH.** On April 1, 2008, as part of the Fossil Fools International Day of Action, four activists used lockboxes to block the entrance to a Bank of America branch in Boston, in protest of BofA’s investments in mountaintop removal mining and new coal power plant development. Others held banners and signs in support of the action, which was organized by Rising Tide North America and Rainforest Action Network. Police used saws to cut through the lockboxes and arrested the four blockaders.

**OCCUPATION OF FFOS-Y-FRAN COAL MINE CONSTRUCTION SITE.** On April 1, 2008, as part of the Fossil Fools International Day of Action, dozens of local residents and activists from a variety of environmental groups occupied the Ffos-y-fran coal mine construction site in South Wales. Protesters arrived at 6 a.m., scaled a coal washery and dropped a 100-foot banner, took over construction machinery, and locked themselves to the front gate, shutting down major work at the site for the day. Police made two arrests, and the other activists left without incident.

**EASTSIDE CLIMATE ACTION BLOCKADE OF E.ON HEADQUARTERS, NOTTINGHAM, UNITED KINGDOM.** On April 1, 2008, as part of the Fossil Fools International Day of Action, thirty activists with Eastside Climate Action blockaded the front entrance of E.ON UK’s headquarters in Nottingham. Two people used U-locks to lock themselves to the front door, while others blockaded the back entrance; other protesters poured green paint on themselves to simulate E.ON’s “greenwashing.” The action was in protest of E.ON’s

plans to build the Kingsnorth coal-fired power plant, the first new coal plant in the United Kingdom in fifty years. Police made two arrests, and the building was shut down for the day.

**RISING TIDE OCCUPATION OF ABERTHAW POWER STATION.** On April 3, 2008, as part of the Fossil Fools International Day of Action, members of Bristol Rising Tide occupied the Aberthaw coal-fired power plant, operated by RWE Power in South Wales. Activists entered the facility, chained themselves to conveyor belts, and occupied several buildings; others locked themselves to the facility's front gates. The action was in solidarity with the protests at the Ffos-y-fran mine construction site in South Wales; coal from Ffos-y-fran will be used to fuel Aberthaw for seventeen years. Police arrested eleven people.

**BLUE RIDGE EARTH FIRST! BLOCKADES DOMINION POWER'S HEAD-QUARTERS.** On April 15, 2008, fifteen activists with Blue Ridge Earth First! blockaded the entrance of Dominion Power's headquarters to protest Dominion's planned coal-fired power plant in Wise County. Three activists locked themselves to trash cans filled with concrete and blocked both lanes of the only road in and out of the office complex. The blockade, established just before 8 a.m., held for almost two hours and backed up traffic almost a mile. The locked-down activists were eventually dragged to the side of the road by police and given citations for impeding the flow of traffic.

**RISING TIDE BLOCKADE OF COAL TERMINAL CONSTRUCTION SITE IN NEW SOUTH WALES.** On April 19, 2008, fifty Rising Tide Australia activists stormed the gates of a coal terminal construction site in Newcastle, New South Wales. Once inside, about twenty of the protesters locked arms and refused to leave; eighteen were arrested. They were protesting the planned expansion of the facility.

JUNE

**ACTIVISTS HALT COAL TRAIN ON ITS WAY TO UNITED KINGDOM'S LARGEST POWER PLANT.** On the morning of June 13, 2008, forty Camp for Climate Action activists, a small number disguised as railway workers, flagged down and stopped a coal train on its way to Drax Power Station, the United Kingdom's largest power plant. Some protesters climbed onto the train and unloaded almost 20 tons of coal onto the tracks, while others chained themselves to the train. A banner was unfurled reading "Leave It in the Ground!" Riot police stormed the train and removed protesters around midnight, arresting twenty-nine.

**PROTESTERS UPSTAGE BRISBANE COAL CONFERENCE.** Protesters rallied outside while two campaigners infiltrated a major coal conference in Brisbane, Australia. Once inside, the two activists took the floor and addressed the Queensland Coal08 conference, which was held to discuss the future of the coal-mining industry in the largest coal-exporting state in the largest coal-exporting country in the world. No arrests were made.

**ACTIVISTS DEMONSTRATE OUTSIDE BANK OF AMERICA HEADQUARTERS.** On June 26, 2008, activists from Rainforest Action Network demonstrated outside Bank of America's headquarters in Charlotte, North Carolina, carrying a banner that read "Divest from Coal!" The group distributed fliers to employees about the bank's investments in the coal industry and local residents. Police were on hand, but no one was arrested.

**ACTIVISTS BLOCKADE DOMINION HEADQUARTERS.** On June 30, 2008, twenty activists with Blue Ridge Earth First! and Mountain Justice Summer blockaded the entrance to Dominion's corporate headquarters to protest the company's plan for the new coal-fired Wise County Plant in southwest Virginia. Four protesters formed a human chain with their hands encased in containers of hardened cement and a fifth dangled by a climber's harness from the Lee Bridge footbridge. After several hours police made their way through miles of backed-up traffic to cut the activists out of the lockboxes and barrels. The climber came down on his own. Police also detained eight others standing on the sidewalks supporting the lockdown team. Thirteen people were arrested.

JULY

**GREENPEACE ACTIVISTS SHUT DOWN A PORTION OF AUSTRALIA'S MOST POLLUTING POWER STATION.** At dawn on July 3, 2008, twenty-seven Greenpeace activists entered the 2,640-megawatt Eraring Power Station site north of Sydney to call for an energy revolution and the end of coal. Twelve protesters shut down and chained themselves to conveyors while others climbed onto the roof to paint "Revolution" and unfurled a banner reading "Energy Revolution—Renewables Not Coal." The action preceded the delivery by Australian climate change advisor Professor Ross Garnaut of his Draft Climate Change Review on July 4. Police arrested twenty-seven people. Eraring Power Station, near Sydney, releases nearly 20 million metric tons of greenhouse pollution into the atmosphere every year.

**EARTH FIRST! ACTIVISTS LOCK DOWN AT AMERICAN MUNICIPAL POWER HEADQUARTERS, COLUMBUS, OHIO.** On July 7, 2008,

approximately seventy-five Earth First! activists gathered outside American Municipal Power (AMP) headquarters in Columbus to protest the company's plan to build the new 960-megawatt coal-fired American Municipal Power Generating Station in Meigs County, Ohio. Two protesters climbed flagpoles in front of the building and hoisted banners that read "No New Coal!" and "We won't stop until you do." Around twenty activists entered the building and occupied the lobby as five protesters connected themselves to each other using lockboxes. Police used pepper spray on protesters and arrested eight when they refused to leave.

**MOUNTAIN JUSTICE ACTIVISTS PROTEST APPROVAL OF COAL GASIFICATION PLANT, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.** On July 10, 2008, nearly fifty Mountain Justice Summer activists gathered in opposition to a coal project in Massachusetts, donning haz-mat suits and delivering a pile of coal while displaying "Global Warming Crime Scene" caution tape on the front steps of the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs in Boston. The action was in response to the office dismissing an appeal of the state's approval for a coal gasification project in Somerset, Massachusetts.

**GREENPEACE ACTIVISTS OCCUPY COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT SMOKESTACK FOR THIRTY-THREE HOURS.** On July 11, 2008, four Greenpeace activists climbed the 462-foot smokestack of the Swanbank power station near Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. While the smokestack climbers hung a "Renewables Not Coal" banner, two other activists climbed onto the roof of the plant and unfurled a banner reading "Energy [R]evolution." The four remained on the smokestack overnight in near-freezing temperatures. On July 12, one of the protesters painted "Go Solar" in huge lettering down the side of the smokestack. After thirty-three hours of occupation, all four climbers descended voluntarily.

**AUSTRALIA CLIMATE CAMP STOPS COAL TRAINS AT WORLD'S LARGEST COAL EXPORT PORT.** On July 13, 2008, approximately a thousand activists stopped three trains bound for export at the Carrington coal terminal in Newcastle, Australia, for almost six hours. Dozens of protesters were able to board and chain themselves to the trains while others lay across the tracks. Hundreds were held back by mounted police. Police arrested fifty-seven. The actions were organized as part of the Australian Camp for Climate Action.

**BLOCKADES AT KOORAGANG AND CARRINGTON COAL TERMINALS.** On July 14, 2008, five activists stopped coal loading at the Kooragang

coal terminal for more than two hours by chaining themselves to a conveyor belt. Later that afternoon four protesters padlocked themselves to the tracks at the Carrington coal terminal, stopping all train traffic until police were able cut the group free. All nine were arrested. The direct actions, organized as part of the Australian Camp for Climate Action, were an attempt to bring worldwide attention to coal's role in climate change and the expansion of Australian coal exports.

**UK ACTIVISTS TARGET COAL-FIRED PLANT'S PR AGENCY.** On July 16, 2008, activists with Oxford Climate Action blockaded the headquarters of public relations giant Edelman Public Relations. Several protesters gained access to the firm's offices while others climbed onto the roof to unfurl a banner reading "Edelman: Spinning the Climate Out of Control." Edelman provides public relations services for E.ON, the world's largest investor-owned energy service provider. E.ON UK is proposing to upgrade its coal-fired Kingsnorth Power Station to use supercritical coal technology. Kingsnorth is currently considered to be a conventional coal plant, but under the European Union's Large Combustion Plant Directive, the plant would eventually have to be closed without the upgrade. According to activists, Edelman PR is engaging in a campaign to "greenwash" E.ON's continued investment in burning coal.

**FOUR ARRESTED AT TENNESSEE STRIP MINE.** On July 20, 2008, residents from coal-impacted communities throughout Appalachia gathered for a march at Zeb Mountain, the largest surface coal mine in Tennessee. The march, organized by United Mountain Defense, Mountain Justice Summer, and Three Rivers Earth First!, included political theater, life-sized puppets, and speeches. In an act of civil disobedience, four citizen activists walked across a line marked with police tape designating National Coal Corporation's property. The four were arrested without incident.

**AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS BLOCKADE FARM TO STOP COAL EXPLORATION.** On July 21, 2008, nearly two hundred residents and landowners in northern New South Wales blockaded a farmer's driveway to prevent a BHP Billiton drilling rig from entering the property to explore for coal deposits. Local residents are asking for an independent study into the effects of exploration and coal mining on underground water reserves. A court had previously issued an injunction against the landowner when he drove a grader across his driveway to prevent the exploratory team from entering his property.

**GREENPEACE PAINTS ANTI-COAL MESSAGES ON TWENTY COAL SHIPS.** Using inflatable rafts, nine Greenpeace activists painted anti-coal messages on twenty coal ships waiting to enter the world largest coal export port in Queensland, Australia. The action was intended to highlight the contradiction between the Australian prime minister's stated goals of reducing greenhouse pollution and doubling Australia's coal exports. All nine activists were arrested.

**AUGUST ACTIVISTS GLUE THEMSELVES TO COAL GIANT'S HEADQUARTERS.** On August 11, 2008, nine activists glued themselves to the revolving door and windows at BHP Billiton's headquarters in central London. The protesters also scattered coal across the floor of the lobby. According to one activist, the protest was to highlight that the "expansion of the coal industry is unacceptable in the face of impending climate chaos." The protest ended peacefully after ninety minutes and there were no arrests.

**SOUTHEAST CONVERGENCE FOR CLIMATE ACTION LOCKS DOWN AT BANK OF AMERICA, RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.** On August 11, 2008, fifty activists began marching at Monroe Park around noon and made stops at the offices of coal-mining giant Massey Energy, Virginia's Department of Environmental Quality, and Dominion Virginia Power and ended at Bank of America, a major funder of coal. Two activists were arrested after locking themselves to a Bank of America sign. The march and lockdown culminated a week of environmental and climate justice training, networking, and strategizing at the Southeast Convergence for Climate Action. The march included jesters, larger-than-life puppets, banners, and signs to raise awareness about the climate crisis.

**SEPTEMBER GREENPEACE RAINBOW WARRIOR LAUNCHES "QUIT COAL" PROTEST CAMPAIGN IN ISRAEL.** On September 9, 2008, two Greenpeace activists painted "Quit Coal" in English and Hebrew on the hull of a ship unloading coal at the Ashkelon power plant. The action was in opposition to the Israeli government's plan to build a new coal power plant in Ashkelon. Police with support from the Israeli navy arrested the captain, crew, and passengers of the *Rainbow Warrior*.

**SEPTEMBER TWENTY PROTESTERS LOCK DOWN AT DOMINION COAL PLANT CONSTRUCTION SITE IN WISE COUNTY, VIRGINIA.** In the early morning of September 15, 2008, around fifty protesters entered the construction site of Dominion Virginia's coal-fired Wise County Plant. Twenty protesters locked themselves to eight large steel drums, two of which have operational solar panels affixed to the top illuminating

a banner reading “Renewable jobs to renew Appalachia.” In addition to those locked to the construction site, over twenty-five protesters from across the country convened in front of the plant singing and holding a 10-by-30-foot banner, which said, “We demand a clean energy future.” Police arrested eleven people. On the same day, in San Francisco, activists with Rainforest Action Network infiltrated Dominion CEO Thomas F. Farrell’s presentation at Bank of America’s Annual Investment Conference. Farrell’s PowerPoint presentation was replaced with a slideshow of the Wise County Plant protest.

**PRIME MINISTER’S OFFICE OCCUPIED.** On September 15, 2008, constituents occupied Australian prime minister Kevin Rudd’s Brisbane electorate office, staging a peaceful sit-in for several hours and demanding a discussion on the government’s lack of response to proposals for phasing out of the coal industry. The action was the first in a week of national climate emergency protest events, which targeted the Queensland government and coal-mining corporations.

**PROTESTERS SHUT DOWN A CITIBANK BRANCH IN CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS.** On September 27, 2008, students, members of community groups, and climate activists held a public rally outside Bank of America’s Harvard Square branch, protesting both Bank of America’s and Citibank’s risky investment strategies, which have contributed to the current economic crisis and are jeopardizing the global climate. Demonstrators then marched to a nearby Citibank branch, where four activists wearing T-shirts reading “Not with Our Money” locked themselves to the entrance.

OCTOBER

**GREENPEACE “QUIT COAL” TOUR VISITS SPAIN, BOARDS COAL SHIP.** On October 6, 2008, four Greenpeace activists boarded a cargo ship importing coal from Colombia into Spain. Others painted “Quit Coal” in English and Spanish on the ship. The action was in protest of the Spanish government’s heavy reliance on coal for the country’s energy supply and its subsidies to the coal industry.

**CITIZENS RALLY AT STATE CAPITOL AGAINST NEW COAL USE, LITTLE ROCK.** On October 18, 2008, citizens from across the state of Arkansas rallied at the state capitol building in Little Rock to protest two new coal-fired power plants proposed for the state. Protesters asked for investment in wind energy and a ban on new coal plants.

**PREMIER OF QUEENSLAND’S OFFICE OCCUPIED.** On October 31, 2008, the community group Friends of Felton occupied Premier

of Queensland Anna Bligh's office. The twenty-five participants demanded legislation to protect farmland from mining. The action was promoted as "Lunch with Anna," and outside the office a mock lunch of coal and polluted water was served to a Bligh impersonator. Friends of Felton formed after Ambre Energy announced plans to build a "clean coal" gasification plant and open pit mine.

**ZOMBIE MARCH ON TOP COAL INVESTORS, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.** On Halloween, zombies descended on Copley Square to visit local Bank of America and Citibank branches to protest their funding for new coal power plants. The action was organized by Rising Tide Boston. Similar events were held in North Carolina and California.

NOVEMBER **RISING TIDE ACTIVISTS SHUT DOWN BAYSWATER POWER STATION, NEW SOUTH WALES.** On November 1, 2008, a large group of people from Rising Tide Newcastle walked onto the site of Bayswater Power Station, the biggest source of greenhouse gas pollution in Australia. Four people locked onto both conveyors, shutting down coal input into the station for six hours. An additional twenty-five people walked onto the coal piles outside the power station, disrupting operations, and were arrested for trespass. The group called on the government to begin phasing out coal as quickly as possible, peaking carbon emissions by 2010 and taking the strongest possible position to the United Nations Council of Parties (COP) negotiations in Poznan and Copenhagen.

**ACTIVISTS SHUT DOWN COLLIE POWER STATION, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.** On November 5, 2008, two activists chained themselves onto a conveyor belt at Collie Power Station, which produces 300 megawatts of Western Australia's electricity and consumes around a million metric tons of coal per year. Lee Bell, a spokesperson for the group, said that the protest was part of nationwide action against the government's inaction on climate change and the failure to phase out coal-fired power.

**ACTIVISTS SHUT DOWN HAZELWOOD POWER STATION.** On November 6, 2008, a group of activists walked onto the site of the Hazelwood power station, one of the most inefficient power stations in the industrialized world, to protest Australian inaction on climate change. Two people chained themselves to the conveyor belts that carry coal to the power station. The station was due to be decommissioned in 2009 but instead is undergoing rapid expansion.



**ACTIVISTS SHUT DOWN TARONG POWER STATION, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA.** On November 7, 2008, two activists locked onto a conveyor belt and forced the evacuation of Queensland's 1,400-megawatt Tarong Power Station. The action was the fourth in seven days targeting the coal industry in Australia and calling for the phaseout of coal-fired power. The action also served to highlight the risk to Queensland's world heritage icon, the Great Barrier Reef, posed by climate change. Three people were arrested.

**NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST COAL FINANCE (NOVEMBER 14–15, 2008).** Thousands of activists around the United States mobilized to protest coal mining, coal-fueled power plants, and coal financiers. Groups involved in the action included Rainforest Action Network, Greenpeace, Rising Tide, Mountain Justice, Student Environmental Action Coalition, Coal River Mountain Watch, Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, the Southern Energy Network, and Earth First! Activists placed anti-coal banners in strategic locations across the country, protested at Bank of America and Citibank branches, shut down ATMs with crime scene tape, and infiltrated Bank of America's Energy Conference.

**GREENPEACE ACTIVISTS PROTEST OUTSIDE MINE, POZNAN, POLAND.** On November 25, 2008, about two dozen Greenpeace activists protested at a new opencast mine and waved "Quit Coal!" banners before being forcefully removed from the area by miners. The incident drew attention to the United Nations Council of Parties on climate change, held in the city of Poznan.

**ACTIVIST SHUTS DOWN KINGSNORTH POWER STATION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.** On November 28, 2008, in full view of security cameras, a single activist climbed two 10-foot razor-wired and electrified security fences at E.ON's coal-fired power plant and crashed a huge 500-megawatt turbine, leaving behind a banner that read "No New Coal." The plant was down for four hours, cutting the United Kingdom's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions during the outage by an estimated 2 percent. Police were unable to find the perpetrator of the outage.

**DECEMBER SANTA PROTEST AT TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY HEADQUARTERS IN KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE.** On December 5, 2008, with help from United Mountain Defense and Three Rivers Earth First! Santa Claus and his elves came armed with coal and switches for the largest purchaser of coal in North America: TVA. Santa read letters from sad children who could not go outside and play sometimes because of days when it is literally unhealthy to breathe in Knoxville, letters

from children sad that their grandparents are dying slow deaths of extended asphyxiation while lugging around bottled oxygen, and letters from children complaining that mountains are being blown up to get at that coal. The children said they felt that the drinking water was important and that they liked playing in the forest. After being asked to leave the premises, the North Pole-based environmental group proceeded outside to sing anti-coal carols and hand out information sheets.

**SANTA DETAILED AT TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY OFFICES IN CHATANOOGA, TENNESSEE.** On December 11, while attempting again to deliver letters from sad children, Santa was detained by the TVA police for an hour and half and issued a warning citation for supposedly disrupting a board meeting which had officially ended. The arresting TVA officer became concerned when he discovered that Santa had switches concealed in his britches. Santa was released after being detained without milk and cookies. Santa told reporters: “I am depending on all the little activist elves to deliver more coal to federal agencies in hopes to influence the first 100 days of president-elect Obama’s administration through the newly appointed agency heads. This new administration must make stopping strip mining and addressing the destructive impact of coal on Santa’s children its first priority. Ho Ho Ho.” At 4 p.m. on December 12, while Santa and his elves were dancing and singing, TVA sent out one of its head PR people, Gill Francis. Mr. Francis wanted to meet and negotiate with Santa but Santa was too busy and took a number. After finishing the dance, Santa had his head elf call Mr. Francis to come back out and negotiate. When Mr. Francis appeared, slightly out of breath, Santa said he was sorry and put coal and switches in Mr. Francis hands saying, “This is the least favorite part of my job Mr. Francis—but TVA has been veerrrrry naughty.” As Mr. Francis stormed off, Santa and his elves resumed dancing.

## 2009

### JANUARY

**SLUDGE SAFETY LOBBY DAY, CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA.** On January 31, 2009, residents of southern West Virginia descended on the state capitol, bringing along jars of black water taken from their wells in Boone and Mingo counties. They spent the day lobbying legislators to stop slurry injections into sludge ponds until studies could show what toxic materials the slurries contain.

**FEBRUARY** **COAL RIVER MOUNTAIN ACTIVISTS ARRESTED, PETTUS, WEST VIRGINIA.** On February 3, 2009, five Coal River Mountain Watch activists were arrested and charged with trespassing after locking themselves to a bulldozer and a backhoe at a Massey Energy mountaintop removal site. The activists planted a banner for the Coal River Wind Project in protest of the impending 6,600-acre mountaintop removal mine. Later in the day, eight more activists were arrested during a demonstration against Massey Energy's preparations to blast the mountain. Environmentalists contend that the mountain would be better used for a wind energy project and that the blasting could destabilize the world's largest toxic coal slurry impoundment.

**RISING TIDE BOSTON CRASHES ARCH COAL CEO LECTURE, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS.** On February 5, 2009, seven activists from Rising Tide Boston disrupted a lecture given by Arch Coal CEO Steve Leer at Harvard University. Leer was speaking about the future of "clean coal" technology. The activists interjected information on the impacts of coal extraction, including their final question, "What gives you the right to gamble the future of civilization on a magic technology that doesn't exist?" While Leer ignored the question, two members of Rising Tide carried a banner on stage that read "The coal bubble is bursting—clean coal is a dirty lie." The lecture was funded by Bank of America, the single largest financial backer of mountaintop removal.

**BILLIONAIRES FOR COAL VISIT DOMINION HEADQUARTERS IN RICHMOND, VIRGINIA.** On February 7, 2009, about two dozen people identifying themselves as Billionaires for Coal gathered outside the headquarters of Dominion to lampoon the coal industry. The activists wore formal dress and sipped from wine glasses, while shouting pro-coal, anti-environment slogans including "Up with sea levels, up with profits." Bluegrass musicians also performed, calling themselves the We Love Money String Band. Although the group's signs and chants stayed on message with the billionaire facade, the activists distributed leaflets revealing that the demonstration was organized by Blue Ridge Earth First!

**GRASSROOTS EFFORTS FORCE RADIO HOST ED SCHULTZ TO CONSIDER ANTI-COAL VIEWPOINTS.** On February 6, 2009, radio host Ed Schultz interviewed Joe Lucas, senior vice president of communications for the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity. After three and a half hours of grassroots pressure through e-mails and phone calls, Schultz agreed to invite an anti-coal guest on his show. Schultz

is admittedly pro-coal, but he acknowledged the pressure he was under to provide the other side of the story.

**RESIDENTS PROTEST PROPOSED SANTEE COOPER PLANT, FLORENCE COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA.** On February 12, 2009, more than a hundred residents of Florence County brought an inflatable smokestack to the courthouse to protest the permit that was granted to Santee Cooper to build the Pee Dee Generating Facility on the banks of the Great Pee Dee River. The plant would emit over 11 million tons of carbon dioxide per year, as well as sixty different toxic pollutants, including arsenic, dioxins, heavy metals, mercury, and selenium.

**ACTIVISTS CLOSE ACCOUNTS WITH BANK OF AMERICA, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.** On Valentine's Day, February 14, 2009, more than twenty-five activists from Rising Tide Bay Area in San Francisco served Bank of America a "foreclosure notice" for "failing to pay its social and environmental debts." Activists closed accounts with the bank, pulling out over \$10,000. The action was part of a nationwide campaign against Bank of America organized by Rising Tide North America.

**TWO ARRESTED FOR HALTING BLASTING AT MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL SITE, RALEIGH COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA.** On February 16, 2009, two protesters were arrested for interfering with mountaintop removal blasting on Massey Energy's Edwight mine site near the Shumate sludge dam in Raleigh County. The Shumate sludge dam holds back 2.8 billion gallons of toxic sludge, the waste by-product of chemically cleaning coal, and sits directly above the Marsh Fork Elementary School.

**HUNDREDS GATHER FOR COAL PROTEST IN FRANKFURT, KENTUCKY.** On February 17, 2009, hundreds of activists from I Love Mountains and Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, as well as actress Ashley Judd, gathered outside the state capitol building to protest mountaintop removal mining and rally for proposed legislation that had been stuck for several years in the House Natural Resources and Environment Committee. The bill, sponsored by Congressman Don Pasley (D-Winchester), would prohibit mining operations from dumping refuse into adjacent streams, but coal interests in the legislature had managed to keep the bill from getting a vote on the floor.

**MARCH IN CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS.** On February 19, 2009, over two hundred citizens wearing respirators marched along the Corpus

Christi bay front to protest the proposed Las Brisas Energy Center. The marchers included local doctors, who warned that the plant would worsen asthma rates, heart attacks, cancer, neurological and behavioral problems, and failed births. Estimates suggest that the plant would produce over 21,000 tons of air pollution a year, more than the annual emissions of all the surrounding counties combined.

## MARCH

**ACTIVISTS RALLY AGAINST COAL IN MASSACHUSETTS.** On March 1, 2009, citizens across Massachusetts rallied outside the state's three major coal plants to show support for the Capitol Climate Action protest in Washington, D.C. The largest demonstration was in Somerset, where residents gathered to protest the Somerset Power Generating Station. Groups also convened in Holyoke and Salem Harbor.

**THOUSANDS GATHER TO PROTEST COAL AND GLOBAL WARMING, WASHINGTON, D.C.** On March 2, 2009, in the largest U.S. protest to date against global warming, several thousand demonstrators convened outside the Capitol Power Plant, calling on Congress to pass legislation to reduce greenhouse gases. Around 2,500 people blockaded the gates to the plant. No arrests were made. Just days before the planned protest, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid announced that the plant would be taken off coal and switched to natural gas. Many viewed the announcement as a victory for grassroots activism, but the rally went forward to call attention to coal issues around the country. Also on March 2, organizers of the Power Shift 2009 conference spearheaded a grassroots lobbying drive described as "the biggest lobbying day on climate and energy" in the history of the United States, with approximately four thousand students visiting almost every congressional office.

**UNITED MOUNTAIN DEFENSE VOLUNTEER ARRESTED BY TVA.** On March 4, 2009, United Mountain Defense volunteer staff person Matt Landon was arrested while driving a blind grandmother home after a public meeting through an unstaffed illegal TVA roadblock following the TVA Kingston Fossil Plant coal ash spill on December 22, 2008.

**ACTIVISTS PROTEST MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL, PETTUS, WEST VIRGINIA.** On March 5, 2009, five activists were arrested for protesting at Massey Energy's Edwight mountaintop removal mine on Cherry Pond Mountain, unfurling a banner that read "Stop the blasting. Save the kids." The protesters were calling attention to the blasting

taking place near a dam that holds 2.8 billion gallons of sludge and lies just a few hundred yards above the Marsh Fork Elementary School. All five were arrested.

**“FREEZE ON COAL” AT MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE, VERMONT.** On March 10, 2009, following the lead established by students at Santa Clara University, who convinced the school’s president to divest the university from Massey Energy stock, forty students froze in place while getting lunch in the busiest cafeteria on campus. The activists held pieces of charcoal in their hands. The “freeze” lasted for two minutes, after which the students continued with their meal, explaining to onlookers what had just happened.

**COUNCIL BUILDING BLOCKADE IN BRUSSELS, BELGIUM.** On March 10, 2009, more than three hundred Greenpeace protesters blocked the entrances of the Council Building in Brussels to urge finance ministers to fix the climate. Protesters from twenty countries locked themselves to gates and fences while large contingents of anti-riot police and European Union security forces detained and arrested participants and secured the entrances.

**PROTESTERS MARCH AGAINST COAL IN PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA.** On March 14, 2009, more than fifty people marched through downtown Palm Springs to call attention to the need for a moratorium on the construction of new coal-fired power plants. Protesters carried signs reading “Quit Coal Now!” The march was part of the Power Past Coal campaign, a hundred-day national action running from January 21 to April 30.

**FOURTEEN ARRESTED AT TVA HEADQUARTERS IN KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE.** On March 14, 2009, local residents joined dozens of activists from across the country in a demonstration at the Tennessee Valley Authority headquarters. Police arrested fourteen individuals who staged a “die-in” in front of the building. This event was held in solidarity with communities affected by the destructive impacts of mountaintop removal coal mining and the survivors of the coal ash disaster in Harriman, Tennessee. The demonstration began with a rally in Market Square, where organizers from United Mountain Defense and Mountain Justice spoke about coal’s impact from cradle to grave on communities in Appalachia and the surrounding area. The crowd then marched through downtown Knoxville and ended at TVA headquarters. At the end of the march, those participating in civil disobedience gave a statement about why they wanted to take this action. With the support of a singing crowd each

participant fell to the ground, representing the deaths caused by the coal industry. After a few minutes Knoxville law enforcement informed participants that they were blocking the sidewalk and that they needed to remove themselves from the area. All fourteen people were arrested and cited for loitering.

**ANTI-COAL PROTESTERS GATHER OUTSIDE STATEHOUSE IN TOPEKA, KANSAS.** On March 19, 2009, over two hundred Kansas residents rallied on statehouse grounds to protest legislation that would resurrect two coal plants proposed for western Kansas. The group included environmentalists opposed to coal, steelworkers pushing to build wind turbines, rural advocacy groups, and Christian clergy. Bill 2182 would strip the Department of Health and the Environment of its power to regulate industry based on air quality concerns. The bill was vetoed by the governor.

**“BLUEGRASS AT THE BANK” HITS BANK OF AMERICA BRANCH IN SARASOTA, FLORIDA.** On March 20, 2009, Mountain Justice members and Earth First! activists from Florida and Appalachia disrupted the lobby of a Bank of America branch in Sarasota to protest the bank’s continued funding of mountaintop removal mining and the construction of new coal-fired power plants. While several protesters distributed informational handouts about Bank of America’s investments in coal to tellers and account holders, one individual played bluegrass banjo to celebrate the culture of the Appalachian region that the bank’s investments threaten. The activists’ signs read “Bank of America: still funding coal, killing communities.”

**PROTESTERS BLOCKADE COAL TERMINAL IN NEWCASTLE, AUSTRALIA.** On March 21, 2009, hundreds of activists shut down the world’s largest coal terminal to send a message to Australia to stop exporting coal. The blockade prevented coal carriers from entering Newcastle. The protesters paddled kayaks and boats made from milk crates and inner tubes.

**RISING TIDE DISRUPTS COAL-TO-LIQUIDS CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.** On March 26, 2009, activists with DC Rising Tide interrupted an industry conference to denounce coal-to-liquids technologies. The protesters stood in the audience and gave loud speeches refuting the statements of executives from Chevron, CONSOL Energy, the World Coal Institute, and the World Petroleum Council. Displaying banners including “Coal kills” and “Renewable energy now,” activists called for an end to fossil fuels and for adoption of clean, renewable energy sources.

**STUDENTS RALLY OUTSIDE CAPITOL IN AUSTIN, TEXAS.** On March 30, 2009, student activists from ReEnergize Texas gathered at the capitol to rally for clean energy projects and green jobs. Members of the state legislature were also in attendance. The group expressed support for proposed legislation that would enact a temporary moratorium on coal plants without carbon capture and sequestration. After the rally, activists visited seventy-five legislative offices to lobby for the bill.

**INANIMATE ACTIVIST WITH MANNEQUINS FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE SHUTS DOWN BANK OF AMERICA BRANCH IN BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.** On March 31, 2009, a member of Mannequins for Climate Justice was found chained to the doors of the Kenmore Square Bank of America, preventing the bank from opening. Pinned to the protester was the following note: “Even a dummy like me can see that Bank of America’s massive loans to coal companies and support for the epidemic of foreclosures and evictions have to stop now.”

APRIL

**GREENPEACE ACTIVISTS HOLD A “COAL CIRCUS” ON BOSTON COMMON.** On April 1, 2009, as part of the global Fossil Fools Day campaign, about twenty Greenpeace activists staged a “coal circus” to refute the coal industry’s claims that coal plants can produce energy without significant greenhouse gas emissions. Protesters wore clown suits and put up a banner that read “The Coal Circus. It’s So Clean! (April Fools).”

**OVER A HUNDRED ARRESTED FOR ALLEGEDLY PLANNING DIRECT ACTION AGAINST COAL PLANT IN NOTTINGHAM, UNITED KINGDOM.** On April 14, 2009, police carried out what may be the largest preemptive strike on environmental activism in British history, arresting 114 for allegedly planning a direct action at E.ON’s Ratcliff-on-Soar plant. Caroline Lucas, leader of the Green Party, said, “Confidence in policing of protests like this has just about hit rock bottom. Peaceful protest is a civil liberty we need to uphold, even more in the context of the lack of government action on climate change. We have tried all the usual channels.” The activists were charged with conspiracy to commit criminal damage and aggravated trespass.

**ACTIVISTS ARRESTED AT MASSEY ENERGY MINE IN WEST VIRGINIA.** On April 16, 2009, five people were arrested when activists from Climate Ground Zero unfurled a 40-foot-tall banner reading “EPA stop MTR” (mountaintop removal) at Massey Energy’s Edwight mountaintop removal site. Massey had recently started blasting at the mine directly above the town of Naoma. Activists are concerned



because the blasting is near a slurry dam, which poses a risk to the local Marsh Fork Elementary School.

**HUNDREDS PROTEST IN CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, AGAINST DUKE'S PROPOSED CLIFFSIDE PLANT.** On April 20, 2009, hundreds of people marched and rallied against Cliffside in Charlotte, North Carolina. More than a dozen environmental, faith-based, and social justice groups organized the demonstration. Speakers called on Duke Energy and the state of North Carolina to cancel construction of the Cliffside plant. Forty-four activists were arrested.

**ACTIVISTS BEGIN FAST TO URGE IMMEDIATE ACTION ON GLOBAL WARMING.** On April 20, 2009, more than two hundred people from thirty states and six countries began fasting for up to forty days, in order to call attention to the need for the United States to demonstrate world leadership on climate change. The Fast For Our Future action called for legislation mandating a 25–40 percent or higher decrease in greenhouse gas emissions over 1990 levels, a moratorium on building new coal-fired power plants, and strong climate legislation containing no giveaways to polluters.

**GREENPEACE ACTIVISTS HANG BANNER AT INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE MEETING IN WASHINGTON, D.C.** On April 27, 2009, activists from Greenpeace USA hung a huge banner from a crane across the street from the State Department to urge action from ministers of the seventeen largest greenhouse gas emitters. The ministers were in D.C. to discuss climate change as part of the Major Economies Forum. The banner read “Too Big to Fail: Stop Global Warming—Rescue the Planet.” Seven activists were arrested.

MAY

**ACTIVISTS PROTEST CLIFFSIDE PLANT AT DUKE ENERGY SHAREHOLDER MEETING.** On May 7, 2009, activists dominated Duke Energy's annual shareholder meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina. About twenty-five protesters gathered outside the company's headquarters, calling for Duke to cancel its proposed Cliffside Plant. Inside the meeting, activists owning shares in the company grilled CEO Jim Rogers about Duke's coal and nuclear investments.

**SEVEN ARRESTED AT MASSEY ENERGY COMPLEX IN WEST VIRGINIA.** On May 23, 2009, more than seventy-five residents of the Coal River Valley and members of a coalition that includes Mountain Justice and Climate Ground Zero picketed the entrance to Massey Energy's Marfork mining complex. The actions were in protest of the company's plans to blast 100 feet away from the Brushy Fork

coal sludge impoundment. The demonstration began with a prayer and sermon by Bob “Sage” Russo of Christians for the Mountains. Referencing the Sermon on the Mount, he called upon citizens to be stewards of the Earth and to move towards sustainable, stable jobs. Protestors stood in front of the gates of the mine facility with signs including “7 billion spilled, 998 killed.” “Passersby on Route 3 were overwhelming supportive with honks, waves, and thumbs up signs,” Rock Creek (Raleigh County) resident Julia Sendor said. During the protest, seven people approached the entrance to the dam facility and the Whitesville detachment of the West Virginia State Police asked them to leave. When the seven refused, the State Police arrested them. After the arrests, former U.S. Congressman Ken Hechler, a longtime opponent of strip mining, gave a speech. He underscored the responsibility of citizens to safeguard their freedoms and stand up for their rights. The protest came just hours after activists carried out two non-violent direct actions to protest mountaintop removal and coal sludge impoundments. State police arrested eleven activists at two civil disobedience actions in West Virginia. In one action, six people locked themselves to mining equipment at a Patriot Coal mine on Kayford Mountain. Another group raised a 20-by-60-foot banner at Massey Energy’s Brushy Fork coal slurry impoundment near Pettus. Protesters were part of a coalition that included Mountain Justice, Climate Ground Zero, and concerned citizens.

**TWO PROTESTERS IN BOATS ARRESTED ON BRUSHY FORK IMPOUNDMENT, WEST VIRGINIA.** On May 23, 2009, two protesters wearing hazmat suits and respirators were arrested after boating onto the Brushy Fork impoundment and floating a banner that read, “No More Toxic Sludge.” State Police charged the activists with littering and misdemeanor trespass and transported them to the Southern Regional Jail. Bail has been set at \$2,000.

**POLICE REMOVE SIX ACTIVISTS FROM MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL EQUIPMENT IN WEST VIRGINIA.** Six people raised a “Never Again” banner and locked themselves to mining equipment at Massey Energy’s Patriot Coal mine on Kayford Mountain. State Police arrived on site to find three people chained to the main axle of the truck and three others chained outside the truck’s cab. The police removed the six activists, who, along with two others supporting them, were transported to the Madison County Courthouse, where they were reportedly processed and released. The protesters are part of a coalition that includes Mountain Justice, Climate Ground Zero, and concerned citizens.

**4,000 PROTEST PROPOSED COAL PLANT IN MAINZ, GERMANY.** On May 23, 2009, thousands of activists gathered in Mainz to protest an 820-megawatt coal-fired power plant being built on the banks of the Rhine river. The protesters carried banners and marched through the city to display their opposition to the new plant, which is expected to be operational by 2013. The group included local farmers, environmental activists, residents, students, and politicians.

JUNE

**ACTIVISTS SCALE 20-STORY DRAGLINE AT MOUNTAINTOP REMOVAL SITE IN TWILIGHT, WEST VIRGINIA.** On June 19, 2009, fourteen protesters visited the Massey Energy Twilight mountaintop removal site in Boone County, West Virginia, and climbed a twenty-story strip mining machine called a dragline. The activists unfurled a 15-by-150-foot banner reading, “Stop Mountaintop Removal. Clean Energy Now!” All fourteen protesters were arrested.

**ACTIVISTS BOARD COAL SHIP IN KENT, ENGLAND.** On June 21, 2009, ten Greenpeace activists boarded a ship delivering coal to the Kingsnorth Power Station. The group used inflatable speedboats to target the boat as it sailed up the River Medway. All ten protesters were arrested and charged with conspiring to commit criminal damage and having an unauthorized presence on a ship.

**DOZENS ARRESTED PROTESTING AT MASSEY ENERGY SITE IN COAL RIVER VALLEY, WEST VIRGINIA.** On June 23, 2009, 29 protesters including 94-year-old former United States congressman Ken Hechler, NASA climate scientist James Hansen, Goldman Prize Award winner Judy Bonds, Rainforest Action Network director Michael Brune, and actress Daryl Hannah were arrested at the entrance to a Massey Energy coal processing plant near the Marsh Fork Elementary School in Sundial. After being blocked from entering the facility by a crowd of Massey employees, the protesters sat down on state highway 3 and were arrested. Massey employees on scene behaved aggressively, heckling speakers at a rally preceding the march to the plant entrance. One woman was arrested and charged with battery after striking Judy Bonds, co-director of Coal River Mountain Watch.

**MORE THAN 700 PEOPLE TURN OUT AGAINST CARBON SEQUESTRATION PROJECT IN GREENVILLE, OH.** On June 29, 2009, more than 700 people attended a meeting organized by opponents of a proposed \$92.8 million carbon capture and storage project in Ohio. The project would inject carbon dioxide from a nearby ethanol plant more than 3,000 feet underground. The group included local

residents, activists, and politicians. A representative of the Ohio Environmental Council commented that he had “rarely seen a community that well organized and that strong.”

**BANNER DROP AT EPA HEADQUARTERS, BOSTON, MA.** On June 29, 2009, activists with Rising Tide draped a 25-foot banner reading, “Mountain Top Removal Kills Communities: EPA No New Permits. MountainJustice.org” at the downtown offices of the Environmental Protection Agency. The group is urging the agency to block over 150 pending permits for mountaintop removal coal mining in West Virginia, Kentucky, and Virginia.

JULY

**GREENPEACE ACTIVISTS CLIMB MOUNT RUSHMORE.** On July 8, 2009, several Greenpeace activists climbed Mount Rushmore in South Dakota to hang a banner calling for action on climate change. The banner, which was sixty-five feet high by thirty-five feet wide, featured a portrait of President Obama and read, “America Honors Leaders Not Politicians: Stop Global Warming.” The action was part of an effort to send a message to world leaders at the G8 meeting in LAquila, Italy.

**GREENPEACE ACTIVISTS SPRAY-PAINT COAL SHIP AND POWER STATION IN ITALY.** On July 10, 2009, a group of Greenpeace activists spray-painted the message “G8: Failed” on a ship carrying 25,000 tons of coal bound for the Civitavecchia power station near Rome. Farther south, activists in Brindisi painted “Stupid” on Italy’s largest coal plant. The actions were intended to protest the G8 meeting on climate change, which UN official Yvo de Boer described as “disappointing.”

**MORE THAN 200 PEOPLE TURN OUT FOR RALLY AGAINST COAL PLANT IN BOULDER, CO.** On July 14, 2009, more than 200 Boulder residents attended a rally opposing the Valmont Station. Activists from Greenpeace and Clean Energy Action planned the rally to draw attention to a hearing on renewing Valmont’s air permit. Many Boulder residents are pushing for the plant to stop burning coal and switch to cleaner energy.

**HUNDREDS RALLY FOR CLEAN ENERGY IN LANSING, MI.** On July 29, 2009, hundreds of individuals gathered at the Michigan State Capitol to rally for the development of wind, solar, and other renewable energy sources instead of building new coal plant projects in the state. The rally was hosted by a coalition of environmental groups, including Clean Water Action, Michigan Interfaith Power and Light,

the Michigan Land Use Institute, and the Sierra Club. Organizers said they hoped to convince lawmakers to expand investments in the state that support clean, renewable energy.

AUGUST

**PROTESTERS BLOCK HAY PT. COAL TERMINAL IN AUSTRALIA.** On August 5, 2009, Greenpeace activists used the group's largest ship to block BHP Billiton's coal terminal on the northwest coast of Australia. The action halted loading and shipments for more than 36 hours.

**ACTIVISTS DUMP COAL OUTSIDE SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS IN HAMILTON, UK.** On August 10, 2009, activists protesting plans for a new mine near Douglas, UK, dumped piles of coal outside the headquarters of South Lanarkshire Council. A damaged conveyor belt, which was suspected to be another action by climate change protesters, disrupted coal deliveries at an existing mine in the area. The protesters, organized by the Camp for Climate Action Scotland, said they wanted to call attention to the environmental and health issues of open cast mining.

**ACTIVISTS LOCK DOWN WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN CHARLESTON, WV.** On August 11, 2009, four protesters locked themselves to the entrance at the West Virginia DEP, displaying signs that read, "Closed Due to Incompetence" and "Department of Encouraging Pollution." The activists demanded that the EPA and the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement take over of the agency's programs. They also called for Secretary Randy Huffman's resignation.

**"GOING AWAY PARTY" FOR NATIONAL COAL CORPORATION IN KNOXVILLE, TN.** On August 13, 2009, an employee with National Coal Corporation forcefully removed a non-violent anti-mountaintop removal protester from the National Coal headquarters in West Knoxville. The protester was part of a group participating in "Love and Hug National Coal Month," part of a series of protests organized by United Mountain Defense every Thursday in August at National Coal's office. The protesters had organized a "Going Away Party" for NCC after the coal company defaulted on \$60 million of loans in Alabama in July 2009. To mark this event the protestors brought balloons and cupcakes reading "Bye National Coal" and "Take a Hike." Wearing party hats and dancing to festive music, the volunteers entered the National Coal Headquarters in order to deliver the cupcakes. Within 30 seconds an employee of National Coal Corporation wrapped his hand around the video camera,

contorted the cameraman's wrist, and escorted the peaceful group back outside, at which point he stated that NCC did not want to call the police. The non-violent protesters complied with the National Coal employee's request and moved to the public right of way in front of the office building. They educated passing motorists, gave away the unwanted cupcakes, danced, and had a fun time in the hot sun.

**ACTIVISTS OCCUPY TREES TO STOP BLASTING IN COAL RIVER VALLEY, WV.** From August 25 to 31, 2009, protesters from Climate Ground Zero and Mountain Justice occupied treetops at the edge of Massey Energy's Edwight mountaintop removal site in Raleigh County, West Virginia. The activists unrolled banners reading "Stop Mountain Top Removal" and "DEP: Don't Expect Protection." They were less than 30 feet from the mine and less than 300 feet from the blasting activity, which was forced to stop because of their close proximity. On the sixth day of the protest, the last activist finally descended and was arrested. A spokesman for Climate Ground Zero said sleep deprivation had been endangering the protesters.

