

# EARTH ETHICS NEWS

## EXPLORING ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL ISSUES

Volume 2, Issue 1

December 2017

### A YEAR IN REVIEW

## EVENTS and ACTIONS

January 16 - Permanent Protection for the Eastern Planning Area of the Gulf of Mexico (GOM)

Earth Action worked with other Northwest Florida groups to educate and encourage residents to sign and share a petition seeking permanent protection in the Eastern Planning Area of the GOM and to support S. 74 S. 74: Marine Oil Spill Prevention Act (Introduced by Senator Bill Nelson) to amend language to extend the existing moratorium from June 30, 2022 to June 30, 2027.

January 23 - Holding Government Accountable - Tallahassee

In 2016, Earth Action held several events educating and calling to action the public on the concerns of the Dakota Access Pipeline, Bayou Bridge Pipeline, and Sabal Trail Pipeline. This event and action was a call to hold regulatory agencies accountable to failing to properly exercise their legal obligations to protect and conserve. By not doing so they are impacting our public health, the environment, and wildlife. This was a call to shut

down the Sabal Trail Pipeline and the Florida Southeast connection fracked gas pipeline projects.

January 26 - Public Service Commission Meeting

This was a call to action to encourage the public to speak in opposition to Gulf Power's request to increase our electric bills by 7%. Earth Action Board of Director Elizabeth MacWhinnie spoke in opposition to this request and was quoted in the Pensacola News Journal.

February 12 - Pensacola Stands in Solidarity II

Earth Action coordinated and hosted a stand for solidarity in saying NO to the Dakota Access Pipeline, Keystone Pipeline, Sabal Trail Pipeline, and Bayou Bridge Pipeline. There was ceremonial dancing, drumming, and singing. Prayer, music, and speakers followed by a march from Plaza De Luna to Dr. Martin King, Jr. Memorial Plaza.

March 2 - Overview of the NRDA process, where things stand, and what is expected



Earth Ethics in partnership with Environmental Law Institute hosted a workshop to discuss the Natural Resource Damage Assessment process and the distribution of funding and projects associated with the BP Oil Spill.

March 10 - The 11th Hour! Movie Viewing

Earth Ethics partnered with Pensacola Cinema Art as part of the Pensacola Film Festival to show the movie The 11th Hour. Narrated by Leonardo DiCaprio, specialist reveal how human actions impact the Earth's ecosystems and what can be done to reverse or slow the damage before it is too late to save the planet.

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### Special points of interest:

- Turning the Sunshine State into the Solar State!
- No to offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling—Hands Across the Sands.
- Let's talk about race baby, let's talk about you and me...

## EVENTS and ACTIONS



### March 23 - Our Environmental Legacy

Earth Ethics coordinated and hosted an event to discuss the environmental issues that plague our community. Specific to the time, Scott Pruitt was appointed as the Administrator to the EPA and Matt Gaetz wanted to abolish the EPA (still does), Earth Ethics felt it was time we come together and take a stand for the environment and our public health. Speakers from Okaloosa, Santa Ross,

and Escambia County were present to discuss what's happening in our community and what people can do to become actively engaged in helping address these issues.

### March 25 - Earth Hour

Earth Action partnered with World Wildlife Fund to encourage people and businesses to switch off their lights and make noise for climate change action! This is annual event so stay tuned for 2018.

**Earth provides  
enough to satisfy  
every man's  
needs, but not  
every man's greed  
— Mahatma  
Gandhi**

### April 7 - Stand in Solidarity for Mother Earth

Earth Ethics partnered with Episcopal Peace Fellowship in a silent vigil in opposition to President 45's attack on the Earth and our public health.

### May 1 - Another Gulf IS Possible

Attended the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) public

meetings in Escambia and Okaloosa Counties to provide comments in opposition the two 2018 Gulf Lease Sales on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

### NOV 8 - Protect the Arctic Refuge

Earth Action partnered with the Alaska Wilderness League to encourage the public to contact

U.S. Congressman Brian Mast, 18TH District of Florida to ask that he sign on to a letter protecting the Arctic from oil and gas exploration and drilling.

## CAMPAIGNS

**Offshore drilling** - Continue to push for municipalities to sign resolutions that support extending the existing moratorium until 2027 and opposes the exploration and drilling of oil and gas (including seismic testing) in the Eastern Planning Area of the Gulf of Mexico:

**Solar** - Establishment of Pensacola Bay Area Solar Energy Committee and the Choctawhatchee Bay Area Solar Energy Committee to conduct outreach and education to citizens, businesses, and government on the environmental and economic benefits of the use of solar energy and the estab-

lishment of co-ops for solar installation.

**Hydraulic Fracturing** - Partnership with State and Federal organizations to ban fracking in Florida. Current 2018 legislation is being proposed with bills in the house (HB 237) and senate (SB 462).



## CAMPAIGNS

Plastics - Working with state and local partners, Earth Action has been working to obtain resolutions signed from municipalities to Support SB 1014 "Recyclable Materials" and HB6039 "Auxiliary Containers" that would restore "home rule" by repealing the preemption on local regulation of single - use plastic bags and give local governments the ability to protect their communities from the harmful impacts of single-use plastics.

[www.facebook.com/timesaredrasticbantheplastic](http://www.facebook.com/timesaredrasticbantheplastic)

Photos courtesy of everything connects and Surfrider.



**The poetry of the  
earth is never dead**  
- John Keats



## QUICKBITS

Signed on to at least 25 letters (national) in opposition to negative impacts to the environment, public health, and wildlife.

Letters to the Editors in the Northwest Florida Daily News and Pensacola News Journal on plastics, fracking, and climate change.

Had a late night fracking call with state partners and Mark Ruffalo (woo hoo!).

Traveled to Texas to work with partners, Another Gulf IS Possible, to brainstorm projects and ideas

to save our Gulf now and in the future.

Traveled Northwest Florida to get municipalities to sign resolution supported local rule on plastics and to support extending the moratorium on offshore drilling (including seismic testing).

Working at national level to address issues associated with Climate Change. It's trickling down to the state and local levels.

Comments to the Escambia County Commission in opposition to the Escambia County Land

Conveyance Act. Comments to Senator Bill Nelson with regards to language. Conservation with USAF about the potential impacts to the Navarre Pass area.

Letter of opposition to the FDEP for a permit application for Spooner Petroleum Corporation for oil and gas exploration and drilling in Calhoun County with potential for hydraulic fracturing.

Part of an Environmental Coalition standing with Dreamers at Greens for a Clean Dream Act Visual Demonstration.

Letter of opposition to the FDEP for a permit application for Waste Management's request to deep well inject leachate at Springhill Landfill in Jackson County.

Letter urging Congress to stand against Trump's pro fossil fuel agenda, including ongoing tax bill.

Environmental and Conservation statement in support of a clean DREAM Act.



**"TREAT THE EARTH WELL: IT WAS NOT GIVEN TO YOU BY YOUR PARENTS, IT WAS LOANED TO YOU BY YOUR CHILDREN. WE DO NOT INHERIT THE EARTH FROM OUR ANCESTORS, WE BORROW IT FROM OUR CHILDREN." -NATIVE AMERICAN PROVERB**

### **INTERESTED IN BECOMING ENGAGED?**

Become a member!

Send checks made payable Earth Ethics for \$25 to

Earth Ethics  
P.O. Box 12027  
Pensacola, FL 32591

All memberships and donations are tax-deductible.

Volunteer!

We need volunteers to help with Earth Day Fort Walton Beach, Hands across the sands Okaloosa Island, and more. Email Mary Gutierrez at [earthethicsaction@gmail.com](mailto:earthethicsaction@gmail.com) if you're interested in helping!

*The MISSION of Earth Ethics is to educate the public and increase awareness about environmental and social issues at local, regional, and global levels in an effort to engage, empower, and encourage public involvement towards positive resolutions.*

*The VISION of Earth Ethics is to be a leader in identifying and resolving environmental and social issues while creating a positive, sustainable, and healthy way of thought and life.*

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Earth Ethics, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 tax-exempt organization created to engage, empower, & encourage public involvement towards positive resolutions with regards to environmental & social issues. All monetary donations are welcomed. To donate please visit: <http://earthethics.us/donations/>

Earth Action, the legislative and action arm of Earth Ethics, is a 501 (c) (4) organization.

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS and EVENTS 2018**

Join the League of Women Voters on **January 3rd** beginning at 10 a.m. for a discussion on the Constitution Revision Commission with a presentation from Dr. Carol Weissert, Florida State University. The meeting is being held at Pensacola's Downtown library located at 239 N Spring Street.

Okaloosa/Fort Walton Beach 2018 Events Meeting Tuesday, **January 9th** beginning at 9 a.m. at Synergy Organic Juice Bar and Café 120 Miracle Strip Pkwy SE, Fort Walton Beach, 32548. Discussion will include Choctawhatchee Bay Area Solar Energy Committee, Earth Day, & Hands across the Sands.

Pensacola Bay Area Solar Energy Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, **January 16th** at 1:00 p.m. at Pensacola's downtown library located at 239 N. Spring Street, Meeting Room "C".

The Constitution Revision Commission will host a public hearing on **February 27th** from 1 p.m.-7 p.m. at the University of West Florida's Conference Center, Building 22. For more information about the current proposals, visit <http://flcrc.gov/Proposals/Commissioner>.

Earth Day 2018 – Fort Walton Beach Landing - Saturday, **April 28th** from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Hands across the sands – Okaloosa Island - Saturday, **May 19th** from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Stay tuned as details unfold for an upcoming workshop on race including the ugly truth about American Genocide.

Visit [www.earthethics.us](http://www.earthethics.us) for our calendar of events.

*As always, we will continue our fight to create a world that is just and equal for humans and non-humans alike while protecting our Earth.*