



# 2014 Stakeholder Report





**2014 was an important year at Catskill Mountainkeeper.** We continued to promote and protect the Catskill Region, while growing our community of supporters, building up our network of partners, and maturing as an organization. But much more remains to be done, and the need for our unique combination of grassroots activism, high-level engagement and coalition-building is as pressing as ever.

**The fight to keep New York free of fracking goes on,** as the gas industry continues in its press to exploit our land, water and air for its own short-term gain. Fortunately, with each passing day a growing majority of New Yorkers understand the risks that fracking poses to our state and our communities, and are increasingly making their voices heard. At the same time, Catskill Mountainkeeper and our partners are bolstering the science against fracking, supporting towns as they seek to assert their own interests over those of industry, and pressuring elected officials and state agencies – through the courts of law and public opinion – to uphold their duties to safeguard the health of our people and ecosystems.

Recognizing the difficult economic situation facing so many residents of the Catskills and other communities throughout New York, **we're continuing to promote viable and sustainable alternatives for economic growth.** This includes encouraging growth in the agricultural and tourism sectors in the Catskill region, and working to tap into the potential of an expanding renewable energy sector statewide.

All of these activities and many more, as well as our plans going forward, are outlined in this year's report. We hope you enjoy reading it, and are as excited as we are about all that was accomplished in 2014. None of it would have been possible without our steadfast and generous supporters, and the efforts of the Mountainkeeper team and our many partners.

**Thank you for helping to make 2014 such a success.**

For additional information, please visit our website [catskillmountainkeeper.org](http://catskillmountainkeeper.org)



## PARKS & TRAILS

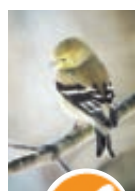
The Catskill Park is a unique resource with a rich and storied history. It is one of ten areas of over 50,000 acres east of the Mississippi containing wilderness area, habitats for numerous indigenous fauna and flora, and the starting point for some of the cleanest rivers in New York and the entire eastern U.S.

Protecting and preserving the park and encouraging its responsible use by area residents and visitors is vital to maintaining the heritage and integrity of the Catskills, and a way to stimulate sustainable development. This year brought important advances on both fronts.



### TRAILKEEPER NETWORK®

Our **Trailkeeper Network®** has continued to promote increased use of our region's many trails by residents and visitors alike, by making trail-related information available and accessible, and growing and improving the condition of the trail system. This year, we worked in Ulster County to facilitate the conversion of unused railways into accessible walking and biking trails as a way to expand the existing network of trails in the Catskill Park. We also marked the 2nd anniversary of **Trailkeeper.org**, a first-of-its-kind online resource for information about local hiking trails and other area attractions and amenities in Sullivan County.



In 2014, **Trailkeeper.org** matured as a platform for promoting environmental education, land stewardship, outdoor recreation, physical activity, and public land conservation. The site has received over 100,000 hits to date, and as many as 500 visits in a day. **Trailkeeper.org** partners hosted free monthly hikes that often included an educational component or, new this year, the opportunity to assist with trail maintenance. We also worked with the Sullivan County chapter of the Audubon Society to identify key birding areas in Sullivan County, and designed a birding logo to include on our trailmaps to assist birders in planning their hikes.



**Trailkeeper.org** has begun GIS mapping of trails in Delaware County, with the ultimate aim of expanding the online resource into neighboring counties. We are improving the website to include an advanced search bar, as well as an all-encompassing map to show the entire regional trail network and its location relative to area amenities. The latter is an important step in linking visitors with area businesses, and taking full advantage of the potential economic benefit from increased outdoor tourism and activity in the Catskills.

### CATSKILL PARK COALITION

Founded through a partnership between Catskill Mountainkeeper, the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), the Catskill Park Coalition is now in its second year, and continues to be the lead advocate for protecting, maintaining and growing the unique Catskill Park. In February of this year the coalition spearheaded Catskill Park Day, bringing 49 representatives from 28 Catskill-based environmental and community groups to Albany to meet and speak with one voice to elected officials about the vital importance of protecting the Park.

The coalition successfully lobbied for the acquisition and transference to the DEC for holding of over 560 acres of Balsam Mountain, and helped secure \$85,000 for building a fire tower and trails around the Catskill Interpretive Center, and another \$100,000 for the Catskill Association of Tourism Services (CATS) for marketing the Park. Additionally, the coalition was instrumental in seeing that three Assistant Forest Ranger positions were designated for the Catskills, which is essential for protecting both the forest and public. Looking ahead, the coalition is planning the 2015 Catskill Park Day in Albany, with the goal of bringing together at least 100 advocates from the area and making the Catskill Park a regular agenda item for state leaders. Visit [catskillparkcoalition.org](http://catskillparkcoalition.org) for more information.



### CATSKILL INTERPRETIVE CENTER

After years of working with our partners to raise support and funds for the construction of a new interpretive center for the Catskill Park, we were thrilled to celebrate the September groundbreaking for the Maurice D. Hinchey Catskill Interpretive Center. Located in the Town of Shandaken, Ulster County, the interpretive center will be a source of information for visitors to the 700,000-acre Catskill Park and the one million acre Catskill and Delaware drinking watershed, helping people to better understand and enjoy these treasured natural resources. A grand opening of the new building is expected for Summer 2015, and Catskill Mountainkeeper remains committed to staffing the center in partnership with the Catskill Center, the NY-NJ Trail Conference, Catskill Mountain Club, Friends of the Catskill Interpretive Center and Ulster County Tourism.



### CATSKILL PARK VIDEO

The short film "Catskill Park" was completed and made its debut at the Woodstock Film Festival in October. It combines a rich visual depiction of the Catskills with a narrative about the area's unique history, wilderness and waterways, and an original score. The film features interviews with Debra Winger, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., Jay Ungar, Theodore Roosevelt IV and many others, and is now being distributed more widely in an effort to raise awareness about the region and Park, the importance of protecting it from degradation, and the opportunities it offers for visitors and residents alike.



## CATSKILL FOOD INITIATIVE

Reinvigorating the Catskill's agricultural sector and ensuring the availability of local, healthy food for all area residents continues to be a core priority at Catskill Mountainkeeper, and some notable advances were achieved on both fronts over the past year.

### THE CATSKILL EDIBLE GARDEN PROJECT

Wrapping up its third year, the Catskill Edible Garden Project (CEGP) is a collaborative partnership between Catskill Mountainkeeper, Center for Workforce Development, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Green Village Initiative and Sullivan Renaissance that provides an interactive and approachable way for students, educators, and community members to learn about and participate in farming, food production, and healthy eating.



### SCHOOL GARDENS

The six gardens built on school campuses and one teaching garden located on the campus of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Sullivan County are invaluable learning tools for over 1,500 students from participating school districts, as well as for members of the surrounding communities.

In an effort to further increase garden stewardship within participating schools, this year select teachers were offered a stipend to serve as a "Garden Coordinator," and to take the lead in advocating for the integration of the garden and related topics into the curriculum and classroom activities. The coordinators have spearheaded garden clubs, and worked with school cafeterias to integrate produce from the gardens into student lunches and healthy in-classroom snacks. At Robert J. Kaiser Middle School in Monticello, the Garden Coordinator is working with students and other faculty to form a cooking club in conjunction with the existing garden club, to enable students to learn about the entire process of food production, harvest and preparation.

Participating schools have donated hundreds of pounds of produce to local food pantries, serving as an important food source for area residents and instilling in students a spirit of community service.



### YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

The CEGP's Youth Employment Program continued to train and inspire the next generation of growers and food entrepreneurs, and to date has provided paid summer employment for 19 area high school students, and agricultural and culinary experience to 31 students. Hands-on activities ensure that participating students gain exposure to the vital roles that agriculture and food play in our communities and our culture, and firsthand insight into potential career opportunities. A handful of graduates from the program now work in local restaurants and on farms,

and several other students have expressed interest in culinary arts or in establishing their own home gardens.

### FARMERS' MARKETS AND FOOD ACCESS

We started our Eat Healthy Farmers' Markets program to improve the health and well-being of Sullivan County residents by increasing their access to fresh, nutritious, and affordable food. This is especially important in an area such as ours, where the availability of such food is severely limited for many people, with numerous neighborhoods characterized as "food deserts" for their lack of supermarkets, grocery stores, and other fresh food outlets. To ensure that all area residents can benefit from the presence of a farmers' market, the program helped local farmers obtain certification to accept food benefit coupons from state and federal assistance programs such as Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP), and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP).



Over the past year we expanded the Monticello market to include more area farmers, and launched a new pilot farmers' market in the community of Wurtsboro, NY. Both of these markets brought fresh, healthy local produce to communities that need it, and provided a venue for distributing healthy seasonal recipes and information about nutrition. The Monticello market did so well that

area WIC offices had to request more vouchers from state authorities to keep up with the increased demand from qualified families eager to use them at the market.

For the 2015 season, we plan to increase the frequency of the Monticello market, and will begin accepting Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. This will increase access to fresh vegetables for low-income residents, and generate additional income for participating farmers.



## EXPANDING FARMING IN THE CATSKILLS

The obstacles to building a viable farm-based business can be formidable. Catskill Mountainkeeper is working with existing and prospective farmers to help them gain the knowledge, skills and resources to be effective and profitable. This includes linking them with other established farmers through Catskills CRAFT (Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farmer Training), which was co-founded by Mountainkeeper, and has grown into a network of 23 farms that actively cooperate to provide farmer-to-farmer learning through farm visits, demonstrations, and other activities. Visit the website [www.catskillscraft.org](http://www.catskillscraft.org) for more information.



### CAPITAL ACCESS AGRICULTURAL LOAN PROGRAM

This program was founded on the principle that the best way to make local farm operations more profitable and sustainable is to increase producer and farmer access to capital through farm-friendly lending. We provide free business planning consultation services to qualified applicants, and connect loan participants with a myriad of other supports and resources to help them refine their business model. Lending is administered by program partner Jeff Bank, and coordinated by a Loan Advisory Committee and Business Planning Assistance Referral Network made up of stakeholder agencies and representatives from the government, agriculture, education, business, finance, and environmental sectors.

**Our first loan was issued this year to Catskill Food Company in Delhi, NY** which produces gourmet sausages using sustainably farmed pork and other high-quality local ingredients. The loan has enabled the Catskill Food Company to increase production and supply an expanding number of restaurants and grocers in the Catskills and other parts of the state. Over a dozen applications for additional loans are currently being considered, and it is our hope to issue several more loans in the year ahead.



#### CATSKILL FOOD COMPANY'S FIVE YEAR BUSINESS PLAN PROJECTS:

- The creation of over 25 full-time jobs
- To be a steady buyer of locally raised heritage breed hogs
- To be responsible for over \$4 million in regional economic growth





## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

"Community" is at the heart of everything we do at Catskill Mountainkeeper, whether we're working to protect and strengthen our communities here in the Catskills and throughout New York, or building new communities of concerned citizens and activists. We continue to combine consistent engagement on the ground with a vigorous online outreach and presence.

### VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT



**Jeff Yin, Ph.D.**

is an internet marketing consultant and former climate scientist who coaches professionals in the corporate and non-profit sectors on how to align their careers with their desire to have a positive impact on climate change. Jeff volunteered his time to help Catskill Mountainkeeper optimize our use of Google Ad Grants, which provides \$10,000 per month in free Google ads to 501(c)(3)s. By helping us build and manage an effective Google Ads campaign, Jeff has helped us to connect with thousands of new people who are likely to support our mission and join in the movement to prevent fracking and support the transition to renewable energy.

*"Catskill Mountainkeeper was originally introduced to me as an organization that was making a big difference in the fight against fracking, but I quickly realized that they have a broad range of programs that address climate change. It was a no-brainer for me to volunteer for an organization that is as committed to reducing climate change as Catskill Mountainkeeper is."*

**ON THE GROUND** we're educating, raising awareness and mobilizing support through events, rallies and workshops, as well as by providing expert testimony at hearings and spearheading petition drives. We maintain relationships with editorial boards, regularly submit articles for publication, and are frequently interviewed for expert input on environmental and energy-related matters.

**IN THE DIGITAL SPHERE**, our online community of activists continues to grow, with **over 38,000 supporters**. Social media is increasingly our primary forum for interaction and communication. Our Facebook "Likes" have increased nearly 300% to 8,800, and our Twitter following has grown to over 12,000 people.



**8,800  
Likes**



**12,000  
Followers**



### WEB-SITE REDESIGN

As this report reflects, Catskill Mountainkeeper has evolved significantly since we first started. To keep pace with our growth and to ensure that information about our work and related resources is current and easily accessible, we have updated our website. If you haven't visited the new site yet, please do. It's the best way to learn about what we're doing and how you can get involved.

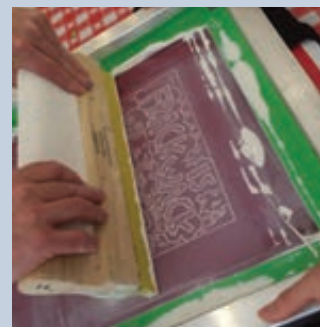
## MAJOR EVENTS OF 2014



**BARNFEST** Having joined forces with the Taste of the Catskills Festival, this year's annual Barnfest celebration may well go down as the best one yet. Held on Columbus Day Weekend, Barnfest 2014 included the hallmarks of past events – local food, music, art and culture, as well as educational workshops and activities – on a larger scale than ever before. We honored renowned musician **Natalie Merchant** and filmmaker **Jon Bowermaster** for their longstanding commitment to the environmental movement, and offered a sneak preview of Jon's new film "Dear President Obama." With thousands of people in attendance, we connected with longstanding supporters and made some new ones, and raised awareness about our work and opportunities for people to get involved.



**NEVERSINK FARM-TO-TABLE SUPPER** In July we held our third annual Mid-Summer Supper at Neversink Farm, an opportunity for friends and supporters to come together to celebrate the seasonal bounty of the Catskills. Over 200 people attended, and enjoyed fresh, locally sourced foods creatively prepared by chef Patrick Connolly, winner of the James Beard award, as well as music by the Poison Love string trio.



**"FRACK IS WACK" SILK SCREENING PARTY** Organized as a fundraiser and precursor to the People's Climate March, the "Frack is Wack" silk-screening party in Livingston Manor brought together CMK supporters and anti-fracking activists for a fun afternoon of silk-screening t-shirts and a slideshow by photographer Les Stone. Steve Ellis, the artist who created the Keith Haring homage, was also in attendance and helping to make t-shirts. They've been hugely popular; if you didn't get your "Frack is Wack" t-shirt, they are **available for purchase from the CMK headquarters for \$20.**

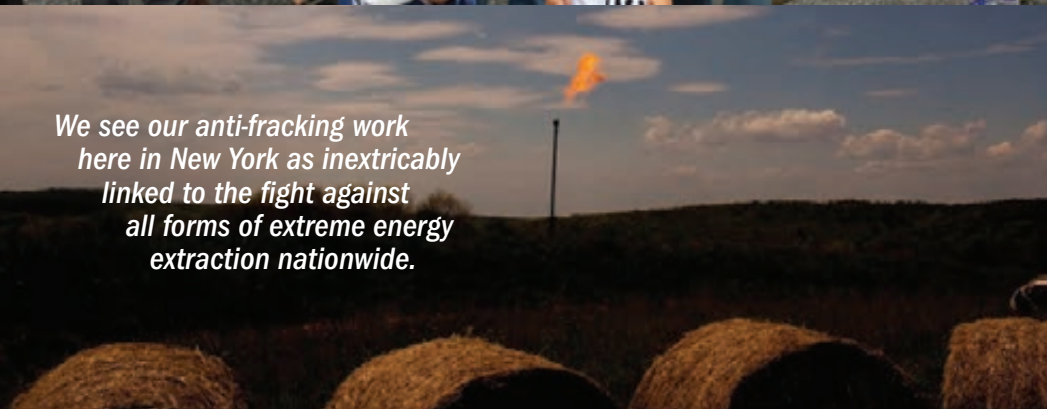




## FRACKING

This past year Catskill Mountainkeeper remained at the forefront of the long and on-going battle to keep fracking out of New York. While there is still no final decision on the future of fracking in our state, some important gains were made and there is positive news to report. This year marks the sixth anniversary of the unprecedented *de facto* fracking moratorium, gas production in New York is at record lows, and the state's highest court has ruled that municipalities have the legal authority to ban fracking within their borders.

Meanwhile, Catskill Mountainkeeper and our partners in the movement have been turning up the pressure on state leaders, by building the scientific record on the health and environmental impacts of fracking, shining a light on the build-out of fossil fuel related infrastructure statewide, assisting towns and local groups in their efforts to oppose fracking and infrastructure development, and strengthening cooperation among anti-fracking groups in New York and nationwide.



*We see our anti-fracking work here in New York as inextricably linked to the fight against all forms of extreme energy extraction nationwide.*



(photos courtesy of Les Stone, [www.lesstone.com](http://www.lesstone.com))

## HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Catskill Mountainkeeper has long called for a comprehensive Health Impact Assessment (HIA) as a prerequisite to any final decision on fracking in New York. In 2012, Governor Cuomo instead called for a "review" of the health impacts of fracking by the State Department of Health (DOH). Information about the scope and nature of the DOH's as yet unreleased review has been highly secretive, but through freedom of information requests we have learned that the agency has materials relating to most (if not all) of the completed, ongoing and prospective studies nationally.

Needless to say, this evaluation has fallen far short of the comprehensive, participatory and transparent process required to fully assess the health and environmental implications of fracking. We continue to advocate, publically and at the highest levels in Albany, for the completion of a comprehensive fracking HIA by an independent and impartial entity.

Once the health review has been completed it is anticipated that the state will publish the final Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS), to include the rules governing fracking in New York. Given the deficiency of the process thus far, we are not optimistic that this document will adequately account for the health and environmental impacts of fracking. As such, Mountainkeeper has retained our partners at Earthjustice to develop a legal strategy to respond, and we are ready to litigate as needed.

## RESEARCH AND SCIENCE

Catskill Mountainkeeper has taken advantage of the regulatory delays in 2014 to strengthen the scientific record on fracking – both to inform the public and to increase pressure on the governor and other state leaders to enact a statewide ban. We supported Concerned Health Professionals of New York, a network of leading health professionals, in producing and releasing the *Compendium of Scientific, Medical and Media Findings Demonstrating Risks and Harms of Fracking*, a compilation of recent studies and other information on fracking. The Compendium was delivered earlier this year to the governor with a letter signed by over 200 physicians, nurses, researchers and public health professionals, including Mountainkeeper Research Director, Dr. Kathleen Nolan.

(photo courtesy of nyfriendsofcleanairandwater.blogspot.com)



### RESEARCH AND SCIENCE (CONT.)

This year we also commissioned a study to record and assess the air impacts of natural gas compressor stations. We are collecting samples around a newly operational station in Hancock, NY and are conducting baseline and follow-up health surveys in the local community. We gathered valuable data following a compressor “blowdown” incident, when gases from nine miles of pipeline were vented into the air. The data was published as part of the report *Warning Signs: Toxic Air Pollution at Oil and Gas Development Sites*, released in

October. The full Hancock study is on-going and should be completed in early 2015.

Also, to bring increased attention to what is not known about the dangers of fracking, we carried out a review of the existing research on radium, radon and other radioactive materials associated with fracking infrastructure. Finding significant gaps in the science, we convened eight leaders of the scientific and medical communities, including Dr. Helen Caldicott and the American Lung Association, to send a letter to Governor Cuomo and the relevant state agencies calling for a full review of the effects of radium, radon and radioactivity from the well head to the point of consumption.

(photo courtesy of Morguefile.com)



### INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

The build-out of natural gas infrastructure is an increasingly critical issue for New York, presenting immediate and serious risks to the health of New Yorkers and our natural resources, and raising the pressure on state authorities to permit fracking in the state. We have worked hard over the past year to raise awareness about this little known trend, highlighting the very real dangers it poses and mobilizing partners and concerned citizens to respond.

As industry ramps up the transportation of fracked gas, oil and tar sands from neighboring states through New York to markets in the Northeast, infrastructure projects – including numerous gas pipelines and at least one new oil pipeline, compressor stations, and multiple storage and processing facilities – are being proposed and approved at an accelerated rate. With industry pushing to increase export of oil and gas to foreign markets, many more such infrastructure projects can be expected.

In response, Mountainkeeper organized in late 2013 a first meeting of over thirty leading environmental policy and legal experts from New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania to outline a strategy for addressing the complex issue of infrastructure development. Working groups were formed to map NYS infrastructure proposals, identify leverage points for litigation, develop a tool kit for communities, and build an activist base against fracking infrastructure. Mountainkeeper leads the activism group, and the Community Fracking Defense Project is developing the tool kit for communities.

### NEW YORKERS AGAINST FRACKING (NYAF)

As a member-based coalition made up of over 250 diverse organizations, NYAF cuts across regional and social lines to bring together opponents of fracking from all walks of life. As was intended when

Catskill Mountainkeeper co-founded NYAF in 2012, this year the organization continued to grow in its unique role of working with diverse grassroots efforts and coordinating actions and messaging throughout New York. With this in mind, and to strengthen NYAF's downstate presence, this year Mountainkeeper secured funding to hire a NYAF Downstate Coordinator.

While NYAF has continued over the past year to push Governor Cuomo to impose a statewide fracking ban, it has also increasingly collaborated with and supported various other grassroots efforts in opposition to the on-going build out of fossil fuel infrastructure throughout the state. This includes working with activists in Westchester in opposition to the Algonquin Incremental Market pipeline expansion project, as well as groups and individuals in Long Island working to stop approval of the Port Ambrose Liquefied Natural Gas facility. NYAF is also helping to develop a statewide infrastructure working group to improve the gathering and sharing of information, and begin to outline organizing strategies to assist and guide local groups.

## The Community Fracking Defense Project

(photo © West Virginia Sierra Club)



The current uncertainty about the future of fracking in New York and the widespread build-out of fossil fuel related infrastructure remind us that we cannot count on state authorities to safeguard our health or the environment. We formed the **Community Fracking Defense Project (CFDP)**, in partnership with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), to provide local communities with legal and policy assistance as they fight to protect their land, air and water.

This collective effort reached a high point in June of this year, when New York's Court of Appeals affirmed the right of the towns of Dryden and Middlefield to apply their land use authority to prohibit gas drilling, including fracking, within their borders. The landmark decision opens the door for any town to use its zoning authority to prevent fracking in their community. And by reducing the likelihood of expensive legal challenges, many more towns are empowered to enact such laws.

The CFDP is currently working with communities across New York. Among these is the Town of Mamakating in eastern Sullivan County, which is currently working to develop and pass a local ban against fracking and fracking waste.

This year the CFDP also expanded its mission to include providing locally based groups with professional legal counsel and assistance in their struggle against the development of fossil fuel-related infrastructure in New York. We are now working with a coalition of groups throughout New York to develop a guide and toolkit for towns to oppose harmful natural gas and oil infrastructure projects. We expect it to be ready sometime in 2015, and it will be made available on the project's website, [frackingdefense.org](http://frackingdefense.org).



## OIL BY RAIL

Mountainkeeper is drawing attention to the risks of transporting highly volatile crude oil through New York by train, barge and ship. In increasing amounts, fracked oil from the Bakken fields in North Dakota and tar sands from Canada are shipped along the railroad corridor connecting the major population centers of northern New York, from Buffalo to Albany, and transported south along the Hudson River to refineries between New York City and Philadelphia. This fracked oil contains a toxic and explosive mix of chemicals not generally present in other oils, including butane, ethane, and propane.

Yet state authorities and industry have failed to assess and mitigate the threat to our communities and environment from accidents, which are not uncommon in crude oil transportation. We've written to the DEC urging it to require environmental impact statements with public comment before granting air permits for industry applicants involved in oil transport, and we're preparing to litigate in the event that the DEC fails to abide by its own environmental justice policy. This is an emerging and critical issue for New York, and we will continue to monitor developments and hold state authorities accountable, while keeping our supporters and partners informed about opportunities to take action.



(photo courtesy of Morguefile.com)



(photo courtesy of Jessica Riehl, [www.jessicariehl.com](http://www.jessicariehl.com))





# THE NEXT ONE WON'T BE BIBLICAL

**GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION**  
**PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH**  
**9.21.2014** [peoplesclimatemarch.org](http://peoplesclimatemarch.org)

## PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH

Catskill Mountainkeeper was proud to play a central role in conceiving and organizing the watershed People's Climate March that took place in New York City on September 21st on the margins of the UN Climate Summit meeting.

Never before has such a diverse gathering of organizations from throughout New York, the U.S., and indeed the world come together to voice our shared opposition to the policies and practices that perpetuate fossil fuel-based economies and cause climate change.

Besides the sheer numbers, what made this march so special was the diversity of the coalition of organizations it brought together, including New Yorkers Against Fracking, 350.org, Avaaz, the Climate

Justice Alliance, and numerous other groups focused on issues ranging from climate change to fracking to food and social justice, as well as faith-based and indigenous groups, and unions.

It was a call to action unlike any prior, with over 310,000 people taking to the streets to tell U.S. and world leaders that the time is now for serious action on climate change. It was also an opportunity for those of us in the anti-fracking fight to spread the important message that fracking equals methane which equals climate change. Catskill Mountainkeeper and our partner organizations in the host committee group continue to meet regularly to leverage the momentum of the march to propel other campaigns in New York forward.

Immediately on the heels of the march, in response to the failure of the United Nations climate process to adequately address the challenges before us, Catskill Mountainkeeper co-organized and led, in collaboration with numerous other grassroots and frontline environmental activist groups, the People's Climate Justice Summit. The overarching theme of the summit was environmental justice, with panels covering a range of topics including: frontline community struggles such as relocation due to rising sea levels; oil and gas expansion; fracking and oil trains; farming and agriculture; environmentally sustainable economies; and countering false promises like carbon trading.



## EXTREME ENERGY

While the specific methods of fracking for natural gas, mountaintop removal for coal, tar-sands extraction, or deepwater drilling may differ, they are all forms of extreme fossil fuel extraction that pose serious risks to our communities and the environment. And they are all falsely touted by industry and many elected officials as sensible solutions to our energy needs.

We see our anti-fracking work here in New York as inextricably linked to the fight against all forms of extreme energy extraction nationwide. The goal for all of us involved in this fight is the same – the shift from fossil fuels to renewable, sustainable energy. Ultimately, to be successful here in New York and everywhere else in the country, those of us working to bring about that transition need to coordinate our efforts and messaging nationally. Mountainkeeper launched the Extreme Energy Extraction Collaborative (E3C) to bring together frontline, community-led organizations fighting extreme energy extraction nationwide. Now entering its third year, the E3C has a new website - [www.stopextremeenergy.org](http://www.stopextremeenergy.org) - and has grown to include over 100 organizations. The group has gathered for three summits so far, in New York, Minnesota, and New Mexico. At the most recent one in May, participants discussed goals and tactics, explored how best to coordinate individual and collective actions, and formed new working groups to address issues related to infrastructure and oil trains. We are currently planning a fourth summit to take place in Biloxi, Mississippi in late January 2015.

The Fourth E3C SUMMIT  
will take place in Biloxi, Mississippi  
in late January 2015.  
For updated information visit:  
[www.stopextremeenergy.org](http://www.stopextremeenergy.org)

## EXTREME ENERGY EXTRACTION COLLABORATIVE E3C

## CLIMATEKEEPER

Although industry and too many government officials continue to tout the benefits of fossil fuels, the scientific community and a growing majority of Americans know better. We recognize that the greenhouse gas emissions from the extraction and consumption of fossil fuels are the primary driver of global warming and climate change, and are unsustainable. We know that the only viable and sensible path forward – the only solution that can meet our energy needs *and* preserve the health of our environment and communities – is a green energy revolution based on conservation and the development of clean, renewable energy sources.

The overarching mission of Climatekeeper and its component projects – Renewable NY, and Save Energy, Save NY – is to spread this message, and to help communities, businesses and individuals make this energy revolution a reality. Equally important, we're committed to ensuring that the shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy be a just transition, wherein no communities or people, for lack of voice or influence, are made to shoulder a disproportionate part of the burden or are excluded from the benefits of an expanding green economy.

Much of the current climate policy discussion revolves around the potential impact of climate change on cities and high population areas. But rural communities throughout the U.S. and worldwide are also feeling the brunt of climate change. The voice of these communities needs to be represented and accounted for in state, regional and national climate policy discussions. To help see that it is we joined the Rural Climate Network, comprised of groups and organizations from rural areas around the U.S., and participated in a meeting in Washington D.C. where network members discussed advancing the rural climate agenda. This year Mountainkeeper was also invited to join the Climate Justice Alliance, which reflects our belief that the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy should be just, and involve broad representation from diverse communities, including those frontline communities with the longest history of opposing energy exploitation.



### RENEWABLE NY

Transitioning from fossil fuels to clean, renewable energy requires informing the public about renewable energy opportunities and growing the movement of people working to implement these new technologies in their local communities. This is what Renewable NY is all about – making information and resources available to the public, supporting groups that are working to promote renewable energy development, and engaging at the policy level to push for reforms that encourage and facilitate the transition to, and investment in, renewable energy.



## RENEWABLE NY (CON'T)

In 2014, we also launched an educational website ([www.renewableNY.com](http://www.renewableNY.com)) containing a wealth of useful information and resources, including proven solutions for implementing renewable energy technologies at the community level. We've worked throughout the state to mobilize and coordinate among local groups and organizations promoting renewable energy development, and to increase pressure on elected officials to take the lead on the transition to renewables.



**A notable success in 2014 was the launch of Southern Tier Solar Works (STSW)**, a community-based solar marketing and bulk-buying program which in two months doubled the number of residential solar installations in Broome and Tioga Counties compared to all of 2013. STSW is a partnership between Binghamton Regional Sustainability Coalition, the local Sierra Club Chapter, the NRDC and Mountainkeeper, and employs a multi-track approach to advance conservation measures, deploy solar installations and create green energy jobs. STSW organized solar

workshops and events to raise awareness about the affordability and accessibility of solar, developed strategic community partnerships with local elected officials and state agencies, implemented a robust media strategy, and provided paid internships for local college students. We are developing this “solarize” model in other communities throughout New York to replicate and build on the success of STSW.

## SAVE ENERGY, SAVE NY

Save Energy, Save NY reflects our belief that being more energy efficient is the most direct and effective way to reduce our carbon emissions and slow climate change. The program aims to bring about an attitudinal shift among New Yorkers regarding what it means to consume energy responsibly. We've compiled and made available via our webpage information and resources on: how to save energy at home and in the workplace, how to make homes and businesses more energy efficient, ways to offset one's carbon footprint, and how to strive for zero waste.

**We have also supported Governor Cuomo's Build Smart NY initiative to reduce statewide energy use by 20% by 2020**, and used our capacity for grassroots activism to encourage like-minded initiatives throughout the state.

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2015

As a modest not-for-profit organization, Catskill Mountainkeeper relies on the support we receive from individual donors and foundations. Without that support we could not achieve all that we do. As we look forward to 2015, please consider us as part of your year-end giving. Tax-deductible donations can be made online or by check.

**DONATE ONLINE**  
[www.catskillmountainkeeper.org](http://www.catskillmountainkeeper.org)

**MAIL DONATION**  
Catskill Mountainkeeper  
PO Box 1000  
Livingston Manor, NY 12758





**OFFICE RELOCATION** In case you haven't heard, we moved! Our head office is now located at 47B Main Street in Livingston Manor. Our new storefront was in serious need of repair. Thanks to the volunteer efforts of a dedicated AmeriCorps Crew, we are now proud to be an active part of Main Street revitalization and beautification.

