



2009 Annual Report

This has been an exciting year of new collaborations that has put EarthAction in position to be even more effective in 2010 and beyond. Here are the activities and project that EarthAction carried out in 2009 to create a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world.



Alliance for Renewable Energy Education Fund EarthAction continued to provide leadership for the Alliance for Renewable Energy (ARE) Education Fund and coordinate its activities to promote the world's most effective renewable energy policies, feed-in tariffs (FITs), throughout North America. Where these incentives have been used, primarily in Europe, feed-in-tariff policies, which pay a premium price to producers of renewable energy for a period of 15-20 years, have brought about a dramatic and rapid increase in the development of solar, wind, and other renewable energy sources.

Through the ARE Ed Fund, we are helping to bring this revolutionary method of encouraging renewable energy to the U.S., which has lagged behind other countries. Feed-in tariffs are the most effective and proven energy policies that lead to job creation, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and increased energy security.

This year, with EarthAction's coordination of the ARE Ed Fund, feed-in-tariff experts wrote articles, books, and research papers, and gave dozens of presentations, talks, and interviews, and participated on panels at renewable energy conferences throughout the USA and Canada.

As a result of our educational work, coordinated with the work of others, 6 states, 2 cities and one Canadian Province have now adopted feed-in tariff policies: California, Hawaii, Maine, Oregon, Vermont, Washington, the cities of Gainesville, Florida and San Antonio, Texas, and the Province of Ontario. Soon after Ontario adopted a feed-in tariff policy, it "Rocketed to the top ten of solar producers in North America." Vermont signed contracts to produce more than 50 MW of electricity from solar power in the first day of their program.

Many other states, cities and provinces are in the process of learning about and adopting FITs, and we have our work cut out for us in 2010. With EarthAction's leadership, ARE has become THE SOURCE for information, support, and materials on feed-in tariffs!

Expanding & Increasing the Effectiveness of the EarthAction Network

We completed major work on an overhaul and expansion of our global EarthAction network that now includes over 2,500 Partner Organizations in more than 160 countries, and thousands of individuals, journalists and policymakers worldwide.

In response to the needs of our Partners, we have begun the process of converting all our databases, with over 35,000 contacts, to a secure web structure so they can be accessed by our Partners from anywhere on earth. This will help make all our future action campaigns even more cost effective, rapid, and successful in creating the political will to address urgent global challenges. We will roll out our new system in 2010.

While in the process of this transition, we featured several campaigns on the home page of our website. Issues we addressed included: renewable energy; climate change; salmon fish farming; discrimination against women and girls; Tibet, China and the Dalai Lama; volunteer opportunities in Kenya and Tanzania; and the need for a new economic model of growth.

2020 Action In 2009 we also began the process of expanding EarthAction by absorbing and carrying on the work of the **20/20 Vision**, the organization Lois Barber began in 1986 that served as a model for EarthAction. Earlier this year 20/20 Vision closed its office in Washington and gave its database with over 30,000 contacts and its remaining assets to EarthAction. Bringing 20/20's program to EarthAction will give us the ability to create more effective action in the U.S., which still plays such a powerful role in all global decisions. We plan to launch our new **2020 Action** and the **2020 Action Ed Fund** in early 2010.

“Science and Spirituality in the Global Awakening: An Exploration with The World Future Council.” Also in 2009, working in collaboration with professors from Amherst College and Harvard University, we completed the first phase of an exciting project, *“Science and Spirituality in the Global Awakening: An Exploration with The World Future Council.”* Several years ago EarthAction helped to create the World Future Council (WFC), a global forum of world leaders. This current project will help the WFC increase its effectiveness by more fully integrating its values and programs with information from both science and spiritual teachings. We start phase II of this project in 2010.

The Amherst Fair Trade Partnership EarthAction continued its sponsorship of the Amherst Fair Trade Partnership (AFTP) whose primary mission is to educate the general public and business merchants about Fair Trade practices and how these practices effect producers of commodities in the southern hemisphere, their families and their communities. In 2009 AFTP carried out several projects that encouraged consumers to purchase and merchants to carry and sell Fair Trade products to the benefit of these farmers and our communities.



The Elders Project In late 2009 we launched a new project aimed to record and preserve the teachings of a 94 year old leader of a group of indigenous peoples of northern Colombia. The idea for this project was brought to us by Rick Harlow, an artist who has worked for many years with the four tribes in The Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta region of Colombia.

The plan is for Rick, his colleague Grandmother Threecrow, and a film crew to accompany and film Norberto Torres, a 94-year-old Arhuaco indigenous leader of the four tribes, as he travels a route called ‘the Black Line’ around the base of their sacred mountain teaching younger leaders about the spiritual geography of his this sacred place. If adequate funds are raised, the project will get underway in early 2010.

Overall This year we have been engaged from the global to the local, from promoting renewable energy to exploring new ways of thinking about spirituality and leadership, from strengthening our global network to strengthening our democracy here at home. It's all part of creating a more just, peaceful, and sustainable community, nation, and world.

Also in 2009 EarthAction moved its office. Our new mailing address is below. On a related note, we are pleased to announce that the Special Collections at the University of Massachusetts Library in Amherst has bought the papers of 20/20 Vision and EarthAction along with Lois' personal papers. They have a special interest in the work of women for peace and the environment. Having 23 years worth of papers go to the archives really streamlined the move!