



ARKANSAS'S CLIMATE HEROES

Newsletter of OMNI350

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350: THE MOST IMPORTANT NUMBER YOU NEED TO KNOW

The mission of OMNI 350 (formerly the Climate Change Task Force) is to educate Arkansans about current realities of climate change and to take actions to prevent further harm to the atmosphere. OMNI 350 is committed to actions that lead to the reduction of green house gases to a scientifically safe level of 350 parts per million of Carbon Dioxide(CO2) in the atmosphere through life-style and legislative change, which includes partnering with like-minded organizations.

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A company called TransCanada has proposed a tar sands pipeline - called "Keystone XL" - that would cut through America's heartland and put people and wildlife at risk from toxic oil spills, polluted water and more. Perhaps most dangerously, Keystone XL would drive development in Canada's tar sands region, one of the biggest threats to

Greetings!

Can the Keystone pipeline be stopped? Well, a group Arkansan's made the effort recently to try.

On a cold, wintry Sunday in Washington, DC, Sunday, February 17th, a group of Arkansans became climate heroes. They traveled to the nation's capital to participate in a rally to protest the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline. This monstrosity would carry the extracted oil from the tar sands of Canada through the heart of America. These individuals became part of the largest climate rally ever held. This rally was mostly ignored by the media. President Obama left the city to play golf. Leadership in Washington chased a golf ball while the planet burns.

We are extremely fortunate to have in NW Arkansas several men and women who are truly climate heroes and leaders. They would no doubt reject the 'hero' label, but their action helped bring a new level of commitment to solve the climate crisis and avert without doubt the ensuing climate chaos. We are literally at the brink of going over the edge if we don't stop

our global climate. The Obama Administration showed bold by [rejecting the first permit for the risky project](#), but TransCanada resubmitted their application and a final decision is expected in early 2013.

What is the Keystone XL Tar Sands Pipeline?

The U.S. already imports 800,000 barrels per day of [tar sands oil](#), and the stage is being set for a drastic increase. Several pipelines already transport tar sands oil from Canada to the U.S. and two new ones have been built in the last few years.

But the next pipeline could be a game-changer.

TransCanada's Keystone XL would carry **up to 830,000 barrels per day of tar sands oil** from Alberta, Canada more than two thousand miles to refineries on the U.S. Gulf Coast. The pipeline would cross **six American states** including Montana, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas.

Keystone XL (and similar planned projects like Enbridge, Inc.'s Midwest expansion) would lock the U.S. into a dependence on dirty fuels and drive a massive expansion of oil mining operations in Canada. Currently, those oil companies do not have access to coastal ports, which limits their ability to sell their product. Because Keystone XL would deliver tar sands to the Gulf Coast - America's largest oil

global warming now. January 2013 was the 335th month that global temperature was above average! Friends, that's almost 28 years. Earth's temperature has been increasing steadily since 1985. What will it take to convince the world to take urgent action to stop this madness.

Well, over 50,000 people on that cold Sunday began action which will hopefully spread across the country to stop the pipeline. This pipeline is a significant symbol in the effort to stop global warming. If construction of this pipeline is allowed to continue it may very well be the straw which breaks the 'climate camel's back.'

THANK YOU, Madeleine Young, Kelly Davis, Joanna Pollock, Ryan Denham, Olivia Hines, Luke Simons, Andrea Love, Derek Linn, Keaton Smith, Terrah Baker, Nick Baker, Brittany Horn, David and Carmen Druding, Chelsea James for taking this action. May your commitment motivate the rest of us to become more active in the effort to stop global warming and the climate chaos it will and is bringing to Planet Earth.

*Shelley Buonaiuto & Robert McAfee
OMNI350*

Arkansas's Climate Heroes **FORWARD ON CLIMATE RALLY**

The largest climate rally in history occurred on a very chilly February day in Washington D.C., and Arkansas was present. Fifteen impassioned souls from the Fayetteville area made the long haul to let their voice be heard and help our country move forward on climate justice. With the loving support of their community, each individual involved was in for a life changing experience.



The rally was specifically aimed at the proposed Keystone XL pipeline and its' dire implications should it proceed. To enter the US from Canada requires a signature from the president, and a

refining and transport hub - it would effectively open the entire U.S. market and international markets to tar sands crude and spell disaster for our climate.

The added capacity of Keystone XL and the other two pipelines that have been built recently could more than triple U.S. consumption of tar sands oil - one of the most polluting and carbon-intensive fuels in the world. If expansion of tar sands goes unchecked, it will be impossible to reach our goals to reduce global warming pollution, seriously harming both people and wildlife.

[Learn more about the proposed Keystone XL pipeline \(PDF\) >>](#)

How Could the Keystone XL Impact People and Wildlife?

If approved, the Keystone XL pipeline will slice through America's agricultural heartland, the Missouri, Platte, and Niobrara Rivers, the Ogallala aquifer, habitat for sage grouse and sandhill cranes, walleye fisheries and much more. Our public water supplies, croplands, and recreational opportunities will all be at risk of dangerous tar sands oil spills like the million-gallon [Enbridge oil spill in Michigan](#).

[Learn more about the threat the Keystone XL pipeline poses >>](#)

Speak Up to Stop the Keystone XL

growing movement is letting Obama know - in person - that the pipeline is a disaster we don't want.

The February 17 rally was a collaboration between 350.org, The Sierra Club, The Hip Hop Caucus and numerous other organizations. Great energy was poured into making this huge. The Sierra Club, in particular, worked on the organization of buses from all parts of the country to bring people in. One from our group, Keaton Smith, made his way to the rally on such a bus that left from Memphis. The rest of the Arkansas tribe went in carpools that left throughout Friday and into the very early hours of Saturday morning the 16th.

Everyone arrived in D.C. safe, in time, bundled up and ready to hit the streets. By the time the rally started at noon, the estimates are that at least 30,000 were already there. One of the first speakers was 350.org founder Bill McKibbin who said, "All I've ever wanted to see is a movement to stop climate change, and now I've seen it!" The crowd size continued to grow likely topping 40,000.

The rally lasted about an hour with each speaker addressing the need to stop Keystone on many fronts. **Chief Jacqueline Thomas, of the Saik'uz First Nation** in Alberta spoke as a witness to the devastation already being seen in Canada: "The harm being done to people in the tar sands region can no longer be Canada's dirty secret." Should the United States block the pipeline, there will continue to be efforts to pipe the oil out either to the east or west in Canada. Chief Thomas' tribe needs support in their effort to fight the western-front battle against that oil.

Van Jones, addressed our leader bluntly, "President Obama, all the good that you have done, all the good that you can imagine doing, will be wiped out by floods, by fires, by superstorms if you fail to act now to deal with this crisis that is a gun pointed at the head of the future."

The march that followed was a sea of peaceful, energized activists. The Arkansas tribe marched waving signs in the middle of the pack, and even with several long breaks along the way never came close to seeing the end of the marchers. Participants from Arkansas included Andrea Love, Derek Linn, Chelsea James, Madeleine Young, Terrah and Nick Baker, Kelly Davis, Brittny Horn, David and Carmen Druding, Keaton Smith, Joanna Pollock, Olivia Hines, Ryan Denham, and Luke Simons.

On behalf of the entire group, we thank you the Omni Center Community for making this purposeful pilgrimage possible. Additional thanks to our tribe leader, Joanna Pollock. Let's continue to see this movement grow.

Thousands of people around the country are taking a stand against the import of dirty tar sands oil - from farmers and ranchers in Nebraska who don't want a tar sands pipeline plowed through their property, to families in Texas concerned about their drinking water, to Americans everywhere who want to move towards a clean energy future. National Wildlife Federation is working to stop this dangerous project, and your voice is urgently needed.

Quick Links

[350PPM ARCHIVES](#)

[Citizens Climate Lobby](#)

If you want to join the fight to save the planet, to save creation for your grandchildren, there is no more effective step you could take than becoming an active member of this group." - [Dr. James Hansen](#)

Physicist, member National Academy of Sciences, grandpa, head of Goddard Institute for Space Studies, NASA

OMNI350 is an official member group of the Citizens Climate Lobby which meets the first Saturday of each month at 10:30 at the OMNI Center.

[The Climate Reality Project](#)

[350.org](#)

[OMNI Center](#)



WHY 350? Our Newsletter, 350PPM (parts per million concentration of carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere) seeks to educate the public about the impending crisis of global warming and

climate change. We must reduce greenhouse gas emissions and return the levels of CO2 in the atmosphere to no more than 350 parts per million. It is only at these levels or below that the climate and environmental

systems of the earth as we know them can be maintained. As a point of reference it was 1988 when the earth's atmosphere contained 350 PPM of CO₂.