



**inside
climate
news**

**Building a Permanent
Home for Environmental
Journalism**

2016 Biennial Report

Who We Are

InsideClimate News is a Pulitzer Prize-winning non-profit, non-partisan news organization that provides essential reporting and analysis on climate, energy and the environment for the public and decision makers. We serve as watchdogs of government, industry and advocacy groups and hold them accountable for their policies and actions. Already one of the largest environment newsrooms in the country, ICN is committed to establishing a permanent national reporting network, to training the next generation of journalists, and to strengthening the practice of environmental journalism.

ICN by the Numbers

as of December 31, 2016



20,771
subscribers



71.5K
Twitter followers



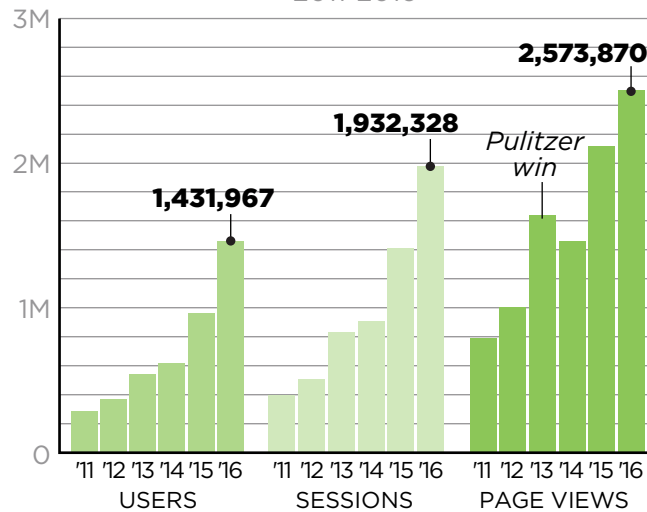
63,926
Facebook likes



1,700+
individual donors

Steady Growth in Traffic

2011-2016



A Decade of Impact and Much More Ahead

Dear Reader,

InsideClimate News turns 10 years old in the fall, and this biennial report chronicles the most recent two years, revealing the great distance we've come since our founding.

We went from start-up to a Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting in five years, and from there doubled our staff again while around us journalism was going through a devastating financial crisis. Ours is an improbable story, and an important chapter in the coming of age of non-profit journalism when our society needs it most.

InsideClimate News became a safe harbor for talented environmental journalists with fewer and fewer places left for them to work. We published groundbreaking investigations that had real impact. We won a string of the most prestigious awards in journalism. We watched the steady growth of our traffic and readership and an equally steady growth in our operating budget. And we contributed a beneficial influence to the continued practice of watchdog journalism.

Yet both Earth's climate and American journalism are facing a long season of reckoning ahead. The two crises at the heart of ICN's concerns are in worse condition than when we started publishing in 2007. American leadership on climate solutions is now being thrown into reverse, and journalism's central role as a bulwark of democracy is being attacked from the Oval Office itself.

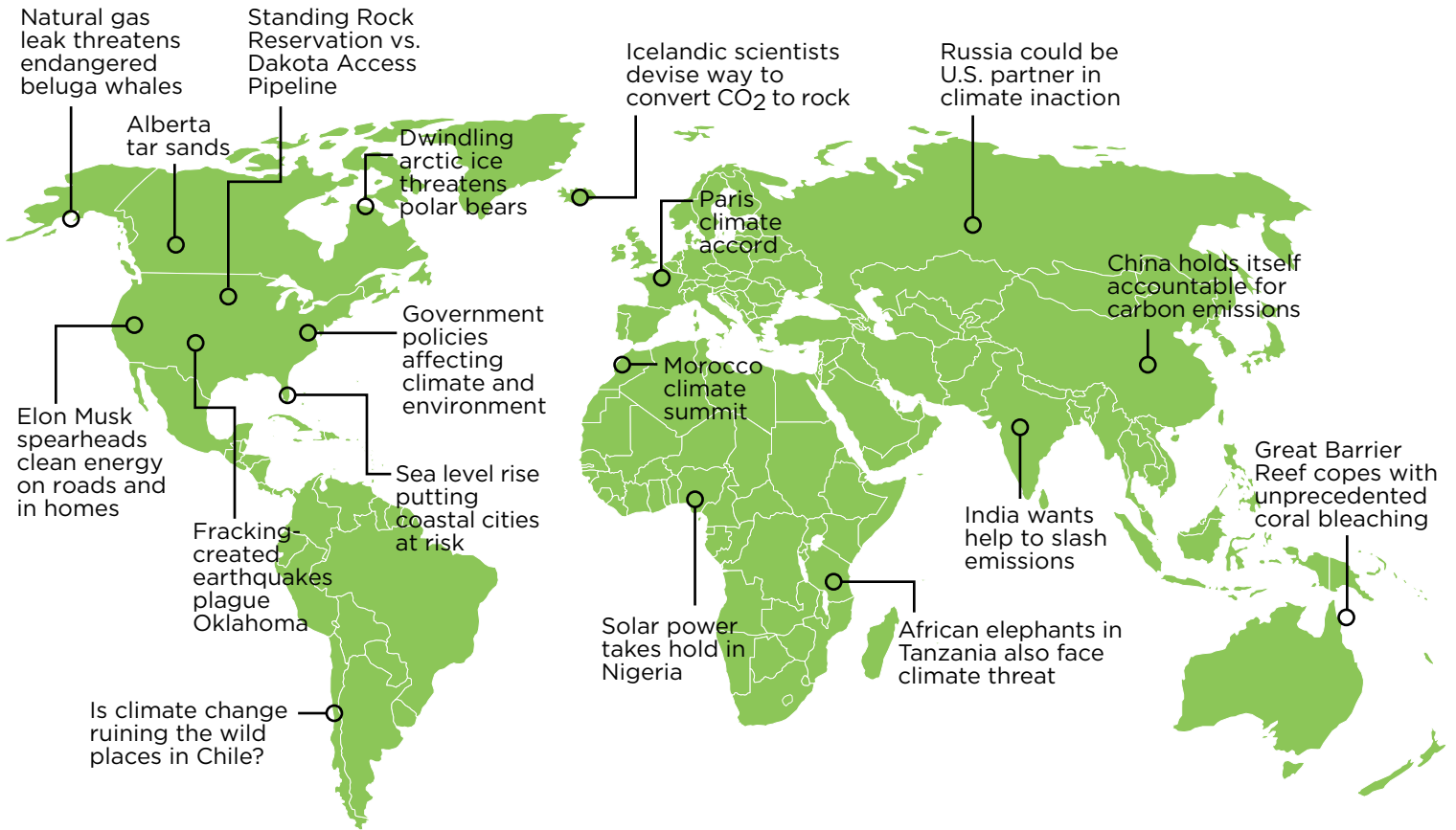
It only means that our work at ICN is more important than ever, and we are laying track to meet the challenges of the decade to come. It's why we've doubled the number of stories we're producing over the last six months. It's why we have two investigations underway. It's why we're starting to produce features on clean energy and a weekly newsletter on the clean economy. And it's why we're entering into many collaborations with multi-media outlets that will get our work on the airwaves and to more people.

That's not all. We are also developing a program for high school students to train the next generation of environmental reporters, and another program to rebuild environmental journalism in the nation's heartland – where local news has been hollowed out over the last decade.

Undark magazine, a respected journal of science out of MIT, said InsideClimate News has “dominated U.S. climate journalism.” It's welcome validation of our first decade of achievement, and we intend to continue setting the pace for the next 10 years and beyond.

David Sassoon
Founder and Publisher, *InsideClimate News*

Our Reporting Spans the U.S. and the World



What We Produce

Clean Economy Wire - Daily Headlines on Clean Energy Economic Development

Our Original Reporting, Published Daily

Today's Climate - Top Daily Climate Stories Curated by ICN

Original Infographics

Week In Review - A Compilation of ICN's Original Stories and the Most Important Headlines Delivered in a Weekly Email

Enterprise Stories and Deep-Dive Investigations

Documentary Videos In Collaboration With Media Partners

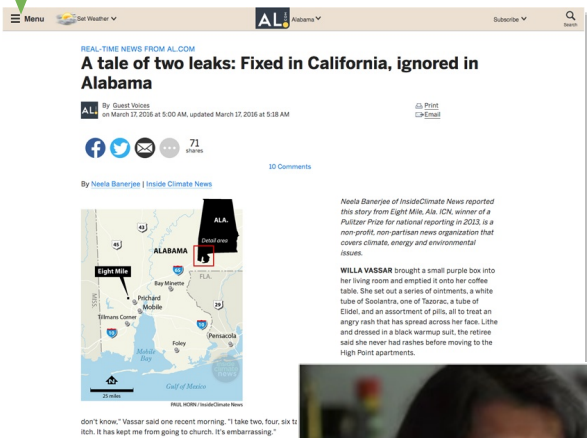
Our Most Important Stories (continues through page 9)

Social Media on Twitter, Facebook and other platforms

Exxon Relents, Wipes Oil Sands Reserves From Its Books • Researcher's 1979 Arctic Model Predicted Current Sea Ice Demise, Holds Lessons for Future

Our Media Partners

InsideClimate News partners with other media organizations to enhance distribution of our work, to collaborate on investigations, and to produce video documentaries. They include:



ICN in Public

David Hasemyer
Reporter
Climate change and the Zika virus



John H. Cushman, Jr.
Managing Editor
Keystone XL



David Sassoon
Founder and Publisher
Climate misinformation talk at Knight Media Learning Seminar



Neela Banerjee
Senior Correspondent
Interview with ProPublica on how award-winning Exxon work was done



Neela Banerjee
Senior Correspondent
Exxon: The Road Not Taken interview



Sabrina Shankman
Reporter and Producer
Intersection of libraries and journalism



Zahra Hirji
Reporter
Pennsylvania's court decisions on state pipelines



John H. Cushman, Jr.
Managing Editor
Paris Climate Accord



Phil McKenna
Reporter
Discussion about Native Americans gather to fight oil pipeline



David Sassoon
Founder and Publisher
Lecture on whether and how we are living in a propaganda culture



Marianne Lavelle
Politics Reporter
President Trump's environmental plans



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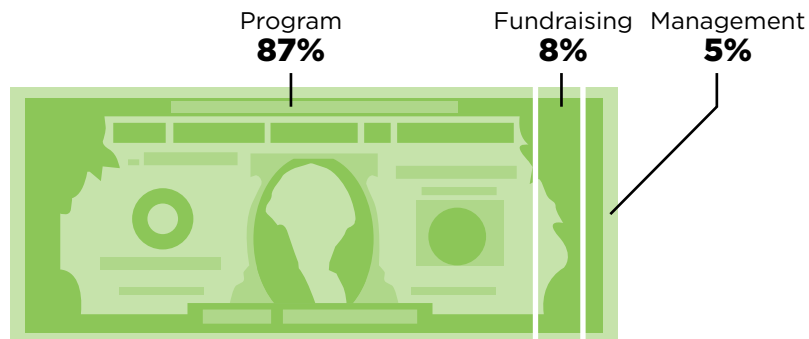
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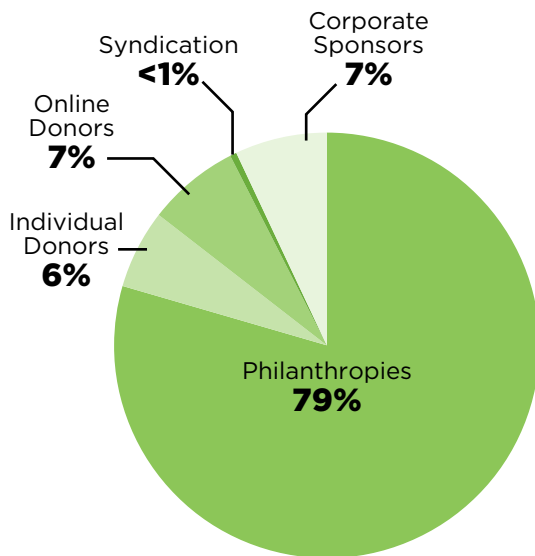
Allocation of Funds

How we spent \$1,352,000 in 2016:



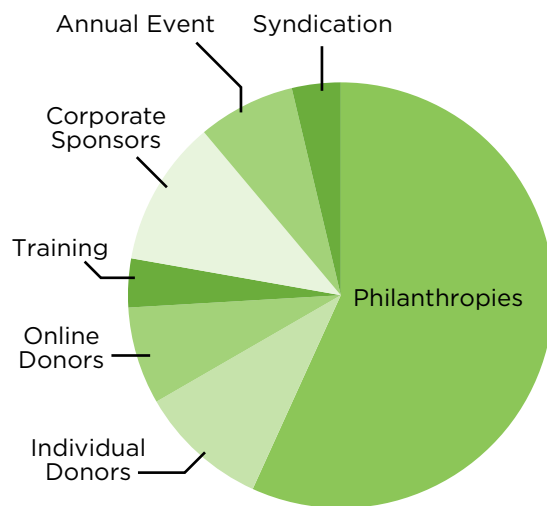
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Revenue in 2016



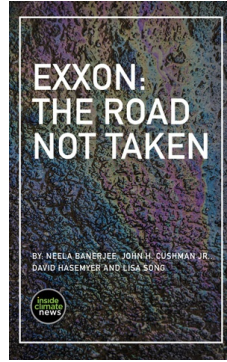
What We're Aiming For

Goals for Future Revenue



Our Awards

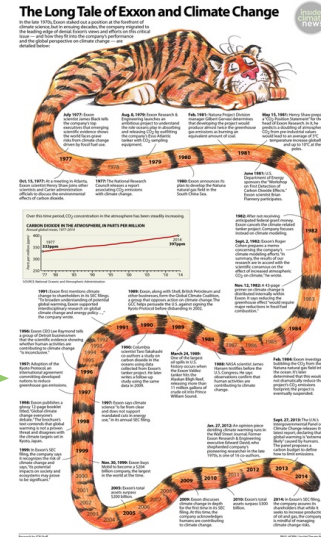
■ WINNER ○ FINALIST



2016

Exxon: The Road Not Taken
Neela Banerjee, John H. Cushman Jr., David Hasemyer, Lisa Song

- **Online Journalism Award**
AI Neuharth Innovation in Investigative Journalism Award, Small Market
- **Society of Environmental Journalists**
Kevin Carmody Award for Outstanding In-depth Reporting, Small Market
- **John B. Oakes Award**
- **Robert F. Kennedy Award**
New Media Winner
- **White House Correspondents' Association**
Edgar A. Poe Award for news coverage of regional or national importance
- **Society of American Business Editors and Writers Award**
Digital Investigative, Division I (co-winner)
- **National Press Foundation**
Thomas L. Stokes Award for Best Energy Writing
- **Scripps Howard Awards**
Environmental Reporting
- **The Izzy Award**
- **Society of Professional Journalists**
Sigma Delta Chi Award for Informational Graphics (Paul Horn)
- **Pulitzer Prize**
Public Service
- **The Goldsmith Prize for Investigative Reporting**

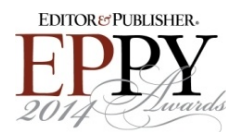
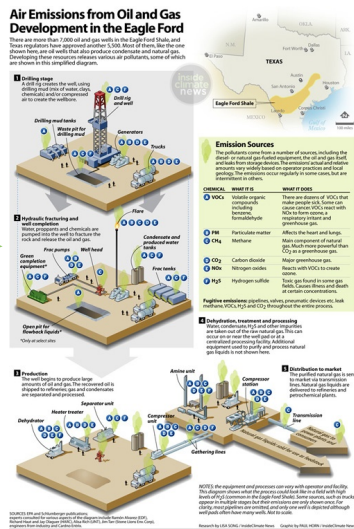


EPPY Award
Best Redesign/Relaunch with under 1 million unique monthly visitors (for InsideClimate News' website)

2015

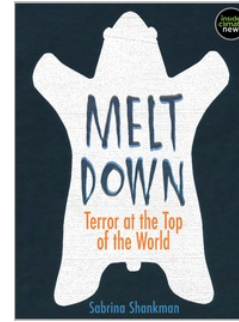
Big Oil, Bad Air
David Hasemyer, Lisa Song, CPI's Jim Morris and The Weather Channel's Greg Gilderman

- **The Knight-Risser Prize (awarded in 2016)**
Western Environmental Journalism
- **Society of Environmental Journalists (awarded in 2016)**
Kevin Carmody Award for Outstanding In-depth Reporting, Large Market
- **National Press Foundation**
Thomas L. Stokes Award for Energy Writing
- **Association of Health Care Journalists Award**
Large Investigation
- **Society of Professional Journalists**
Sigma Delta Chi Award for Informational Graphics (Paul Horn, Lisa Song)
- **John B. Oakes Award**
- **Loeb Awards**
Explanatory Reporting
- **Investigative Reporters & Editors Award**
Large Multimedia (Lisa Song, David Hasemyer, Susan White, Zahra Hirji, Paul Horn, Lance Rosenfield, Sabrina Shankman, Marcus Stern, John Bolger, Hannah Robbins)
- **Editor & Publisher EPPY Award (awarded in 2014)**
Best Investigative/Enterprise Feature on a Website



Our Awards

■ WINNER ○ FINALIST



2015

Meltdown: Terror at the Top of the World
Sabrina Shankman

- **Society of Environmental Journalists**
Outstanding Feature Story (second place)
- **Livingston Awards**
National Reporting

Fired: Texas Oil and Gas Regulators Say They Tried to Enforce Rules, Lost Jobs
David Hasemyer

- **San Diego Press Club**
Daily newspapers and websites, General News (David Hasemyer)

In Fracking's Wake: Open Pits Offer Cheap Disposal for Fracking Sludge, but Health Worries Mount
David Hasemyer, Zahra Hirji

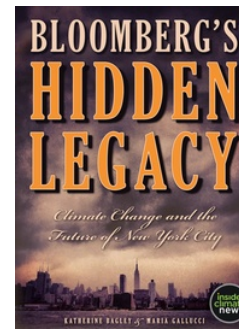
- **San Diego Press Club**
Daily newspapers and websites, Environment (David Hasemyer, Zahra Hirji)



2014

Bloomberg's Hidden Legacy: Climate Change and the Future of New York City
Katherine Bagley and Maria Gallucci

- **Deadline Club, NYC Chapter of The Society of Professional Journalists**
Reporting by Independent Digital Media



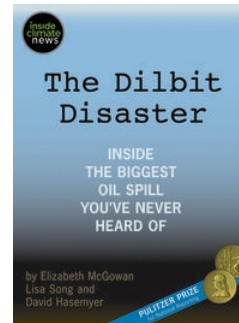
2013

The Dilbit Disaster
Elizabeth McGowan, Lisa Song, and David Hasemyer

- **Pulitzer Prize**
National Reporting
- **Rachel Carson Environment Book Award, Society of Environmental Journalists**
- **Deadline Club, NYC Chapter of The Society of Professional Journalists**
Reporting by Independent Digital Media

Nation's First Tar Sands Mine Stirs Water, Environmental Fears Out West
David Hasemyer

- **Society of Professional Journalists, San Diego Pro Chapter**
Daily Reporting and Writing, Environmental Story



ICN Staff



David Sassoon

Founder and Publisher

David Sassoon is the founder and publisher of InsideClimate News. He has been a writer, editor and publisher for 25 years, involved with public interest issues: human rights, cultural preservation, healthcare, education and the environment. He earned his undergraduate degree from Harvard University and a master's degree from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism.



Stacy Feldman

Co-Founder and Executive Editor

Stacy Feldman is co-founder, executive editor and occasional reporter for InsideClimate News. From 2008-2010, she was its energy reporter and foreign editor, reporting extensively on clean energy technologies, forestry issues and the United Nations climate change negotiations in 2009 and 2010. Feldman has a master's degree in international affairs from Columbia University.



John H. Cushman, Jr.

Managing Editor

Jack Cushman is an editor and reporter for InsideClimate News. Before joining ICN, he worked for 35 years as a writer and editor in Washington, D.C., principally with the Washington bureau of *The New York Times*. Cushman has written extensively about energy, the environment, industry and military affairs, also covering financial and transportation beats as well as editing articles. He served on the board of governors of the National Press Club and was a previous president.



Stacy Morford

Senior Editor

Stacy Morford is the senior editor for ICN and a native of Midwestern farm country. She was a government reporter and national editor for the Associated Press for over 10 years, then helped launch ICN as a news site. Before returning to ICN, she worked for the World Bank and Columbia University, observing climate policy development from the inside and working with economists and climate scientists as a senior communications officer and digital strategist.



Beth Daley

Director of Strategic Development

Beth Daley works to grow and diversify sources of revenue for InsideClimate News. Before joining ICN, she was a reporter for 25 years at the *Boston Globe* and then the New England Center for Investigative Reporting. She has won numerous journalism awards and was named a Pulitzer finalist for her climate work.



Neela Banerjee

Senior Correspondent

Neela Banerjee led ICN's coverage of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize finalist series "Exxon: The Road Not Taken." Before joining ICN, she spent four years as the energy and environmental reporter for the *Los Angeles Times* Washington bureau. Banerjee has also covered global energy and the Iraq War for *The New York Times*. Banerjee has a degree from Yale and grew up mostly in south Louisiana.



David Hasemyer

Reporter

David Hasemyer co-authored "The Dilbit Disaster" which won the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting and co-authored the 2016 Pulitzer Prize finalist series "Exxon: The Road Not Taken." Prior to joining ICN, Hasemyer had an award-winning tenure at *The San Diego Union-Tribune* as an investigative reporter.



Sabrina Shankman

Reporter and Producer

Sabrina Shankman is a producer and reporter for InsideClimate News. She joined InsideClimate in the fall of 2013, after helping produce documentaries and interactives for the PBS show “Frontline” since 2010. Prior to working with Frontline, Shankman reported for ProPublica, *The Wall Street Journal* and the Associated Press. Shankman holds a master’s degree from UC Berkeley’s Graduate School of Journalism.



Marianne Lavelle

Politics Reporter

Marianne Lavelle is a reporter for InsideClimate News. She has covered environment, science, law, and business in Washington, D.C. for more than two decades. She has won the Polk Award, the Investigative Editors and Reporters Award, and numerous other honors. Lavelle spent four years as online energy news editor and writer at *National Geographic*. She also has worked at *U.S. News and World Report* magazine and *The National Law Journal*. While there, she led the award-winning 1992 investigation, “Unequal Protection.”



Phil McKenna

Reporter

Phil McKenna is a Boston-based reporter for InsideClimate News. Before joining ICN in 2016, he was a freelance writer covering energy and the environment for publications including *The New York Times*, *Smithsonian*, *Audubon* and *WIRED*. He’s won the AAAS Kavli Science Journalism Award and the NASW Science in Society Award. Phil has a master’s degree in science writing from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



Georgina Gustin

Reporter

Georgina Gustin is a Washington-based reporter who has covered food policy, farming and the environment for more than a decade. She started her journalism career at *The Day* in New London, Conn., then moved to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, where she launched the “food beat,” covering agriculture, biotech giant Monsanto and the growing “good food” movement. At CQ Roll Call, she covered food, farm and drug policy and the intersections between federal regulatory agencies and Congress. Her work has also appeared in *The New York Times*, *Washington Post* and National Geographic’s *The Plate*, among others.



Zahra Hirji

Reporter

Zahra Hirji is a catch-all energy and climate reporter for InsideClimate News. Previously, her work has been featured in a mix of online and print publications, including Brown’s alumni magazine, *Discovery News* and *EARTH* magazine. She has a master’s degree in science writing from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a bachelor of arts in geological sciences from Brown University.



Paul Horn

Graphics Editor

Paul Horn has been supporting ICN reporters’ stories with infographics, locators, charts, diagrams and other visuals since 2012. He brings an award-winning, 27-year pedigree to the table, featuring long tenures at the *Reno Gazette-Journal*, *The San Diego Union-Tribune*, Copley News Service/Creators Syndicate and Infographic World.



Nicholas Kusnetz

Reporter

Nicholas Kusnetz is a reporter for InsideClimate News. Previously, he ran the award-winning Center for Public Integrity’s State Integrity Investigation. He also covered fracking as a reporting fellow at ProPublica and was a 2011 Middlebury Fellow in Environmental Journalism. His work has appeared in *Slate*, *The Washington Post*, *Businessweek*, *Mother Jones*, *The Nation*, *Fast Company* and *The New York Times*.

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(contributing \$50,000+)

Simon and June Li Stephen and Jill McDonnell
Gretchen Sisson and Andrew McCollum



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