



Wells Fargo: Lootin' and Pollutin' in coal country

Photo courtesy of OHVEC (Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition)



Wells Fargo-funded mountaintop removal is a common sight throughout Appalachia.

Wells Fargo's legacy of dirty investments continues to wreak havoc on local communities around the world. From funding the clearcutting of temperate rainforests in the Alaskan Tongass to investments in dirty coal-fired power plants across the US, Wells Fargo's portfolio reads like a blueprint for ecosystem destruction, global warming and human rights abuses.

On a recent trip to the mountaintops of West Virginia, RAN Global Finance campaigner Scott Parkin investigated the harm inflicted on the area by Massey Energy, a destructive coal mining company financed by Wells Fargo. He witnessed firsthand how mountaintop removal has buried hundreds of miles of Appalachian streams and rivers, grinding local communities down until they have little choice but to leave.

Rather than joining the rest of the banking industry by taking responsibility for the destructive impact of its investments, Wells Fargo continues to form alliances with rogue mining companies like Massey Energy. With \$435 billion in assets and more than 23 million customers, it's high time for Wells Fargo to get on the wagon and adopt a comprehensive policy that meets industry best practices on the environment and human rights.



Tell Wells Fargo CEO Richard Kovacevich to stop funding mountaintop removal! Write to: 420 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, CA 94163 or visit DirtyMoney.org to send an email. For more on Wells Fargo's dirty money trail, visit www.DirtyMoney.org

RAN supports Grassy Narrows blockade of Trans-Canada Highway

On July 13, RAN joined more than 100 Grassy Narrows community members and supporters from across North America to shut down the Trans-Canada Highway in northern Ontario. The daylong blockade called on logging giants Weyerhaeuser and Abitibi Consolidated to halt clearcut logging on Grassy Narrows' traditional land in the Boreal forest. A similar event followed on July 25, with community members blocking access to trucks hauling logs from operations north of Kenora, Ontario, to Weyerhaeuser's Trus Joist mill where they will be made into wood products destined for American track homes.

For more than a decade, the Grassy Narrows community has worked to end clearcut logging on its traditional territory, and RAN has joined their struggle against the predatory logging practices of Weyerhaeuser and Abitibi. Earlier this summer, RAN helped organize a week-long Earth Defense Gathering with supporters from across Canada and the US featuring tours, trainings and community ceremonies inside Grassy Narrows traditional territory. The gathering focused on demanding respect for Indigenous rights and protection of the endangered Boreal Forest.

Earlier, on April 20, RAN and the Grassy Narrows First Nation were joined by socially responsible investors, green-building leaders, organized labor, and environmental and human rights organizations at Weyerhaeuser's Annual General Meeting in Federal Way, Washington. Together, the groups challenged the world's largest lumber company to adopt independent Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification, respect the rights of indigenous communities, and adopt a comprehensive environmental policy to protect endangered forests.

continued on page 2 →→→



Grassy Narrows community members and supporters blockade English River Road, where logs are destined for Weyerhaeuser's Trus Joist mill. RAN research has revealed that 2,500 trees are hauled on this road every day (1 truck every six minutes) despite objections from the native community.

Grassy Narrows, continued

Leading up to the AGM, RAN published a report and unleashed an outdoor advertising campaign complete with life-sized slide projections on the sides of prominent downtown Seattle buildings. The ads connected new track home developments - marketed as "built green" by Weyerhaeuser subsidiary Quadrant Homes - to wood clearcut without consent from treaty-protected indigenous territory within Canada's threatened Boreal Forest.

RAN also led a walking tour of a Quadrant Homes lot, highlighting the link between so-called "green" homes and environmental destruction and human rights violations in Grassy Narrows.

To find out how you can support Grassy Narrows, visit FreeGrassy.org.



Supporters join Bonnie Swain of the Grassy Narrows First Nation in calling attention to wood products clearcut without consent from Grassy Narrows traditional territory and used to build Quadrant homes.

Ford Motor Company's 'Old Moves'

On June 29, Ford Motor Company broke yet another promise, this time renegeing on its widely publicized plans to build 250,000 hybrids by 2010. The announcement by CEO Bill Ford, Jr. affirmed the worst fears for America's most oil-addicted automaker's competitive future and came just weeks prior to Toyota surpassing Ford as the second largest automaker in the United States. Toyota, aside from projecting to sell a million hybrids by 2010, has also committed to advance its research and development of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) while Ford continues its chronic over-reliance on gas-guzzling trucks and SUVs.



In light of Ford's coldly calculated deception, RAN, Ruckus Society, Global Exchange, Oil Change International and Energy Action organized a Freedom From Oil Action Camp in Paoli, Indiana. The five-day summit brought together more than 100 organizers, oil-affected community representatives and oil experts for trainings in media, climbing and organizing as well as discussions on building effective strategies to break America's oil addiction and jumpstart Ford Motor Company.

Grassroots actions net negotiations with country's largest mega-dealership

The Jumpstart Ford Campaign joined with allies from the peace and justice movement in a series of non-violent rolling actions at Ford dealerships in Palo Alto, Los Angeles, and Ft. Lauderdale. Activists decried Ford's bottom of the barrel fuel efficiency and 'off the charts' greenhouse gas emissions by blockading the entrances to some of Ford's most influential car dealers, including Auto Nation, the largest mega-dealership group in the country. As a result of these actions, representatives from Auto Nation actively engaging in negotiations aimed at pressuring Ford to pursue building plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs).

To find out how you can help break America's oil addiction and clean up the carmakers, visit JumpstartFord.com.



Global Warming: Once again, it's official

In response to the 2005 congressional dispute over the validity of its 1998 climate change study, the **National Academy of Sciences** published a report confirming previous findings that the earth is indeed getting hotter. Although defensive oil and coal industry lobbyists argue that claims of a “cooler” Middle Ages are mere speculation, a committee assembled by the **National Research Council** reviewed the NAS reports, concluding that the 1998 study conveys a consistent picture of temperature increases in the past 400 years.

Revised Equator Principles beg for more action

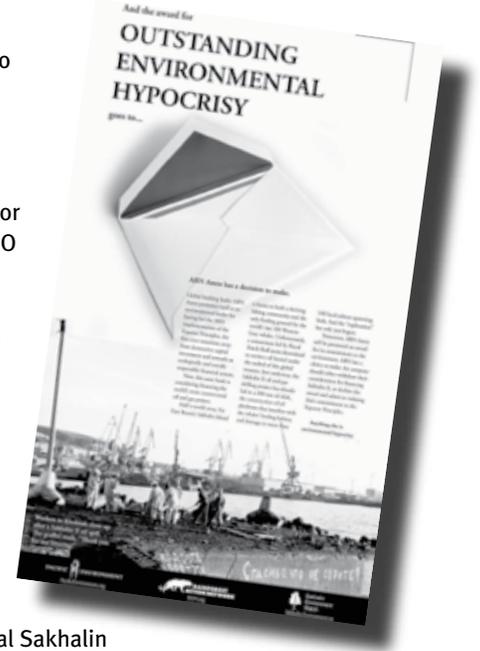
Financial institutions around the world announced the revisions of the widely adopted Equator Principles, a financial industry benchmark for regulating social and environmental risk in project financing. Although the revised Equator Principles show growing commitment in the banking industry to environmental and social principles, many adopting institutions have yet to transform the written rules into tangible actions. Furthermore, the policies have been weakened in critical areas, including fewer protections for local people who are forcibly displaced. RAN and other NGOs will continue to push private banks to meet and beat industry best practices, including the policies adopted by Citi, JP Morgan Chase, and Goldman Sachs.

Increased Wildfires: A Product of Climate Change

Climate change is causing more frequent and longer lasting wildfires, according to a new study in the journal *Science*. Increases in summer temperatures combined with reduced precipitation and earlier snow melt are producing extended fire seasons throughout the western United States. As larger and uncontrollable fires persist, massive amounts of atmospheric carbon emissions are generated, leading to an overall acceleration of global warming.

ABN AMRO's environmental hypocrisy

Dutch banking giant ABN AMRO refuses to put its money where its mouth is. While claiming to abide by the environmental policies of the Equator Principles, ABN AMRO has actively bid to fund Sakhalin II, a Shell-led oil and gas project in Russia's Far East, widely viewed as one of the most potentially destructive projects in history. Several of the world's largest banks have already declined to fund the controversial Sakhalin II project, citing environmental and social concerns.



The massive project will irreparably damage the traditional way of life for Sakhalin Island's fishing communities and indigenous groups and could spell extinction for the critically endangered Western Gray Whale. Sakhalin II violates not just ABN Amro's own internal policies, but also threatens the integrity of the only collective environmental guidelines for banks, the Equator Principles.

On May, 11, RAN, Pacific Environment and Sakhalin Environment Watch unleashed a full page ad in *The Washington Post* exposing ABN AMRO's environmental hypocrisy just as they were preparing to receive an award from the World Environment Center, an industry-driven organization, for so-called environmental achievement. The ad calls on ABN AMRO to live up to its reputation as a global leader in sustainability and withdraw its bid to finance Sakhalin II.

To find learn more about how you can help protect Sakhalin Island, visit DirtyMoney.org.

Amazon reaching “tipping point”

The Amazon rainforest ecosystem is in danger of drying up as a result of two straight years of catastrophic droughts. Researchers at the **Woods Hole Research Center** predict that a third year of drought will likely start to expel vital moisture from soils and cause a massive die-off of trees and an escalation of fires throughout the region. Such a scenario would produce catastrophic consequences for the rest of the world, as 90 billion tons of carbon currently contained within the Amazon would be released into the atmosphere, increasing the rate of global warming by as much as 50 percent. While deforestation remains a critical threat to the Amazon, the impacts of global climate change are now having a direct impact on Earth's largest rainforest ecosystem. Experts agree that immediate action must be taken in the next year to avert a potential global catastrophe.



Photo copyright Daniel Beltra / Greenpeace

A small stream in the Brazilian Amazon runs through what was once a huge lake. The rivers that are the lifeline for local people for transport, supplies and trading are drying up, stranding many communities and killing wildlife.



221 Pine Street | 5th Floor | San Francisco, CA 94104

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
San Francisco, CA
Permit no. 191

also on the web at www.ran.org

“the inspiring group bringing corporate America to its senses.”
- *The Ecologist Magazine*

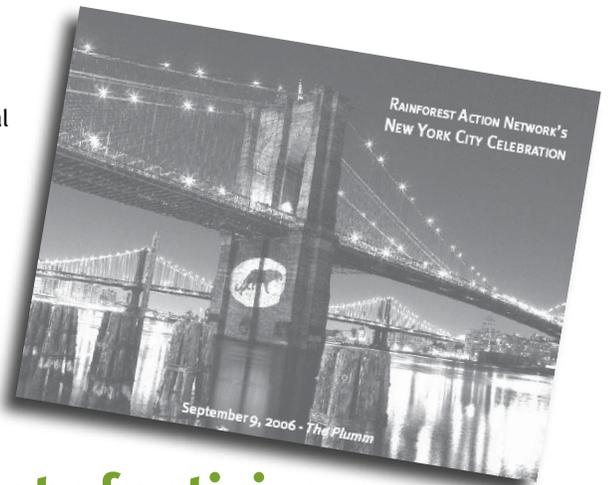
RAN takes Manhattan!

Join celebrity co-hosts Chris Noth, Whoopi Goldberg, John C. Reilly and other special guests for an exclusive East Coast benefit event for RAN. Saturday, September 9, 2006 from 7:30 – 10 pm at *The Plumm*, one of Manhattan’s hottest new spots.

This fabulous evening will feature artful cocktails and organic hors d’oeuvres, special musical guests, plus an exciting update from RAN Executive Director Michael Brune. Join us and learn how you can **BECOME A PART OF THE SOLUTION.**



To RSVP, please visit www.ran.org/give/ny



Celebrate the art of activism

On October 19, 2006 Rainforest Action Network and friends will gather for REVEL, a benefit party so fun it should be illegal! This year’s REVEL will celebrate The Art of Activism to honor the beauty and creativity of RAN’s twenty-one years of direct action for the Earth.

We will treat you to a fabulous night of cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, a seasonal, local, organic three-course dinner, silent and live auctions, and live entertainment and dancing—all to raise critical funds for RAN’s groundbreaking work. We’ll also be honoring several environmental heroes from around the planet with World Rainforest Awards. The excitement will take place at the Design Center Galleria in San Francisco. The buzz is out—don’t miss this party for the world!

For advance table reservations, please call Katie Steele at (415) 398-4404 x337 or rush her an e-mail at ksteele@ran.org.



**REVEL
2006
THE PARTY OF
ACTIVISM**