

SCNY Office of Peace, Justice and Integrity of Creation October 2014 Update



Global Frackdown Day, an international day of action initiated by *Food & Water Watch* to ban fracking, occurred on October 11. At the White Plains rally and march, Sister Carol De Angelo represented the Food and Water Subcommittee of the SCNY Global Poverty Task Force. The two signs in this picture highlight some of the concerns about fracking. Events and actions similar to this event show that the People's Climate March continues as the People's Climate Movement! At the October 2 ICCR event,

“Weathering the Storm: Inspiring Innovation Through Investments That Meet the Climate Challenge”, two CMSV students attended with Sr. Carol De Angelo. Papa Jo Amisshah said of event, “... (it) clearly revealed to me how climate change affects the world, especially poverty but also revealed to me the many ways we can all work towards attaining climate justice”. Matt Silva summarizes a presenter's comments, “ICCR ... inspires / conspires action for human rights, and works against poverty, trafficking and militarism. They do it for the water we drink, the food we eat, and the air we breathe....Each time a man or woman strikes out against injustice, he or she sends out a tiny piece of hope for others...”

Nodine Hill Organizing Initiative (NHOI) is a collaborative project of the Sisters of Charity of New York, Reformed Church of Bronxville (RCB) and Westchester United (WU). Kate Nicholson began work in the beginning of October as Community Organizer for NHOI. Kate will assist residents of Nodine Hill who are involved in the LEAP program out of RCB, and other neighborhood leaders, identify and address neighborhood issues and needs. Kate is employed by WU and supervised by Adam Barbenel-Fried of WU. Kate is also in temporary residence with our sisters at Sacred Heart Convent, Mount Vernon.

As SCNY we committed ourselves at Assembly 2011 to public witness on issues that we are involved in. Listed below are actions, letters or statements that the Leadership Team in their name or congregation's, PJIC Director or a Task Force, signed on to from February 2014 through October 2014.

February 2014

1. Letter to Con Edison from Mothers Against Fracking asking that Con Ed address radon and other concerns. (PJIC Office)

March 2014

1. The People of Faith for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for the Philippines Declaration of Solidarity (PJIC).
2. Keystone XL Pipeline Petition (PJIC in conjunction with Vincentian Family / SC Federation peace and justice representatives).
3. ICCR Statement of Principles and Recommended Practices to Promote Global Health (SCNY).
4. NYS Dream Act March 19 Press Release expressing disappointment that it failed to pass (SCNY with other groups).
5. Joined with Jubilee Network and 78 other groups to file Friend of the Court Brief with US Supreme Court in the predatory fund debt case between Argentina and NML Capital. (SCNY Global Poverty Task Force).

6. ICCR Letter to Bank of America expressing concerns about the company's exposure to climate-related risks. (SCNY)

April 2014

1. Raza Plaza Investment Statement (requested by ICCR) highlighting one year anniversary, progresses and challenges that still need to be addressed. (SCNY)
2. Letter requesting President Obama and his administration to move from talk to action on nuclear disarmament. (PJIC Office)

May 2014

1. Letters to Secretary Tom Vilsack, USDA, and Mr. Michael Walsh, EPA, requesting that they reject the applications for non-regulation of Dow Agro-Science's (Dow) "Enlist" 2,4-D resistant corn and soybean crops. (SCNY at ICCR request)
2. Letter, organized by Ceres, to President Obama in support of carbon pollution regulations. As quoted in ICCR email, "These standards are likely to be the most important piece of climate regulation since the Clean Air Act and have the capacity to greatly reduce greenhouse gas emissions." (SCNY at ICCR request)
3. May 1 panel, "To Till and To Tend: Energy Needs and Environmental Impact on Westchester's Communities". (Global Poverty Task Force cosponsored.)
4. May 5 GreenFaith webinar encouraging debate on fossil fuel divestment by Catholic Colleges and Universities as a response to climate change that is consistent with Catholic teaching. (SCNY was one of many sponsors.)

June 2014

1. Signed on to House Appropriations Committee Letter urging the adoption of critical funding priorities in the congressional appropriations process (immigration and border). (SCNY)
2. Letter by Religious Leaders to Ms. Susan Cameron, President and CEO and members of the Board of Directors of Reynolds American, Inc. (RAI) advocating for the rights of farmworkers. (PJIC Director)

July 2014

1. Two letters (one to Marathon Petroleum and second to Valero Energy) at ICCR's request to express concern about greenhouse gas emissions emitted by oil refiners and the hazardous air pollutants that deeply affect the local health of communities where they operate. (SCNY)
2. September 21 People's Climate March (PJIC Director)

August 2014 – none

September 2014

1. 2014 Global Investor Statement on Climate Change in which we agree to contributions / actions we can take as investors to increasing low carbon and climate resilient investments. (SCNY at ICCR request)
2. Just War Ad in National Catholic Reporter at request of Pax Christi. (PJIC Director)

October 2014

1. Letter to Westchester County legislators and others addressing negative campaign flyers in Westchester County and requesting truthful and not divisive information regarding immigrants.
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