



COMMUNITY ACTION WORKS

Confront polluters. Seed solutions.



NEW NAME, SAME MISSION



Kimball Nelson

Sylvia Broude
Executive Director

**We're
excited to
announce a
new name
that reflects
the core of
who we are:
Community
Action
Works.**

*In order: Cover (top): Jon Swan
Cover (middle right): Community Action Works
Cover (bottom left): Stephanie Pierce
Cover (bottom middle): Heather Wilson
Cover (bottom right): Rene Theberge*

Dear friends,

Our mission isn't changing, but our name is. 2019 was our last year as Toxics Action Center. As we enter the year 2020 and the need for our work is greater than ever, we're excited to announce a new name that reflects the core of who we are: Community Action Works.

We believe that the environmental threats we face are big, but the power of well-organized community groups is bigger.

More than three decades ago, parents in Woburn, Massachusetts, took action to protect the health of their children when the chemical company W.R. Grace contaminated drinking water, leading to a childhood cancer cluster that eventually claimed the lives of 14 children. In response, Toxics Action Center was created to help residents who faced their own Woburn-like situations.

We know from experience that real, lasting change takes root when people get together and take action at the local level. But there are very few groups that will come to your neighborhood and train you and your neighbors on how to take action. That's why we work side by side with everyday people to confront those who are polluting and harming the health of our communities. We partner with the people who are most impacted by environmental problems, training them with the know-how anyone would need to make change in their own backyard.

Today, our work to help communities address legacy pollution continues, and we are also at the center of efforts to shift our region away from fossil fuels and towards clean energy, to grow the grassroots movement for a circular zero waste economy, and more.

We know that when you and your neighbors know how to make change, you can build the power to transform our world. For that, I'm prouder than ever to stand with you.

With deep gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sylvia Broude', with a stylized, flowing script.

Sylvia Broude
Community Action Works Executive Director

STRONG COMMUNITY LEADERS WHO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD

Andrea Amico



◀ **ANDREA AMICO, TESTING FOR PEASE**

When Andrea Amico learned that toxic “forever” chemicals known as PFAS were found in the drinking water at the Pease International Tradeport in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, where her husband worked and her two small children attended daycare, it changed her life. Andrea connected with other concerned mothers and founded Testing for Pease, one of the first community groups to take action on PFAS. Now, Andrea is recognized as a national leader on the issue and has helped advocate for \$20 million for a first-of-its-kind health study to help answer questions about her family’s health and those of millions of people across the country who have been impacted by PFAS contamination.

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◀ **ED SPENCER, DON'T WASTE ME**

Ed Spencer lives in Old Town, Maine, just a mile and three-quarters away from the state-owned Juniper Ridge Landfill. More than 16 years ago, he was the first to raise his voice when he found out that the landfill was set to expand. This year, Ed and his neighbors, including leaders in the Penobscot Nation concerned about toxic leakage from the landfill into the Penobscot River, are going on offense. Together, they’re calling for a change that would close a loophole that allows out-of-state waste in the landfill. Now, Ed is a leader in Don’t Waste ME, a coalition across Maine advocating for responsible policies to help the health of communities most at risk from negative impacts of landfills and other waste hazards.

Jennie Girona



◀ **JUANA “JENNIE” GIRONA, NORTH END COALITION**

Jennie Girona has lived in the North End neighborhood of Springfield, Massachusetts, her whole adult life, raising her kids in the community. So when she heard that kids attending the Gerena Middle School in her neighborhood were getting sick due to severe mold damage of the building, she knew she had to do something about it. Jennie has deep ties to her community, serving on the board of the Springfield-based Arise for Social Justice and as president of the New North Citizens Council, and she connected with people across neighborhoods to build power in the North End Coalition that has led the decade-long battle to make the school healthy. This year, the group won a major victory when the city announced \$2.5 million in repairs to the Gerena School. We are proud to have Jennie on our Board of Directors.

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◀ **IN MEMORY OF PAULINE RODRIGUES, CLEAN AIR SOUTH COAST**

Pauline lived in Somerset, Massachusetts, just one block away from a coal power plant. She was convinced that her grandkids’ asthma was due to breathing in toxic emissions from the two coal-fired power plants in town, and she wanted them to grow up in a Somerset that was both healthy and economically vibrant. When the coal plant on her block applied for new permits, Pauline decided to take action. She never set out to be an activist, but over the past decade, Pauline became a powerful organizer for clean air, taking reporters’ many calls, speaking at events, and fueling late-night strategy meetings in her living room with homemade lasagna. Sadly, Pauline passed away last August, but today, both coal plants in Somerset have retired and the town is poised to welcome in new renewable energy from offshore wind.

CONFRONT POLLUTERS, SEED SOLUTIONS

At Community Action Works, we partner with everyday people who are most impacted by environmental problems, training them with the know-how anyone would need to make change in their own backyard. That means confronting fossil fuel polluters, seeding renewable energy solutions and building the long-term leadership our movement needs.

CONFRONTING POLLUTING OIL TANKS IN SOUTH PORTLAND, MAINE

Last spring, residents of South Portland, Maine, found out that Global Partners, the owner of 12 of the city's 120 oil storage tanks, had been charged with violating the Clean Air Act since at least 2013. For the last six years, the company had emitted volatile organic compounds—known to cause everything from headaches to cancer—into the air at more than twice the rate allowed by its permit, raising issues about the safety of the operation overall. Fortunately, the community group Protect South Portland was ready to confront these polluters. Neighbors built the group to protect their community, coming together to first block ExxonMobil's dirty tar sands oil pipeline, and then to pass one to the nation's strongest bans on pesticides. We're proud to have worked side-by-side with Protect South Portland from the beginning, and to rise with them once again to stop this toxic air pollution.



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Community Action Works partnered with Arise for Social Justice to pack a public hearing and speak out against polluting energy from biomass.

SEEDING RENEWABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS IN LAWRENCE, MASS.

The people most impacted by the effects of fossil fuels are the best people to come up with the solutions. In Lawrence, Massachusetts, where one young person lost his life, and many families lost their homes, in a series of 2018 fracked gas pipeline explosions, neighbors are coming together to demand that the city transition to renewable energy. A group of seasoned leaders, from youth and union activists to longtime Latinx residents, reached out to Community Action Works for help creating a plan to get there and putting that plan into action. Through our organizing workshops, these community leaders formed the group Pueblo Verde, because they know the risks and the costs of polluting energy—and they want to see their city move to safe, clean and healthy energy now.

WEYMOUTH, MASS. TAKES LOCAL FIGHT STATEWIDE

Five years ago, Alice Arena found out that a fracked gas compressor station—the heart of a pipeline—was slated to be built on the last piece of green space in the Fore River Basin. This polluting piece of gas infrastructure would emit toxic chemicals into the air every day, and would expand pipeline capacity to pump fracked gas up the coast of our region for export. Alice wasn't about to let that happen. With the help of other leaders, she's built a powerful local group called Fore River Residents Against the Compressor Station, and has mobilized hundreds of people across the state to demand that Gov. Charlie Baker use his power to stop this dangerous project. Alice is both a leader in Weymouth and a leader in Mass Power Forward, the coalition we co-coordinate to mobilize activists for clean energy across Massachusetts. The fight goes on in Weymouth—even as the company breaks ground, a statewide network is mobilizing to stop this project every way we can.

THE POLLUTER NEXT DOOR IN HANOVER, N.H.

Neighbors in Hanover, New Hampshire are facing an imminent threat: Dartmouth College is considering building a biomass incinerator. Biomass means burning wood or waste for energy. While the college

masks the biomass proposal as a way to transition off fossil fuels, neighbors know that incineration is a false solution. People who live near these polluters are at a higher risk for health problems just from breathing the air. So they came together and reached out to Community Action Works to develop a plan that works. They formed the group Upper Valley Clean Air Committee and won a delay on the project, giving them more time to get organized and build the power they need to stop this project.

TRAINING EQUITABLE AND JUST CLEAN ENERGY LEADERS

We envision a future in which the clean energy solutions we implement benefit everyone. Because poor people and people of color are often burdened with the worst of pollution threats and left out of environmental progress, a critical step to reaching our vision is to train leaders who are thinking critically about how to change that. In Mass Power Forward, the climate justice coalition we co-coordinate in Massachusetts, we’re leading trainings on undoing racism for everyday people who want to end the era of dirty energy and lead the way to a just and equitable future.

SIDE BY SIDE WITH SOCIAL JUSTICE LEADERS IN SPRINGFIELD, MASS.

More than 10 years ago, a biomass incinerator was proposed in Springfield, Massachusetts—the

“asthma capital of the U.S.” Since then, activists led by our partners at Arise for Social Justice have kept it from being built through hard-fought organizing and diligent watchdogging. Biomass incineration—which can mean burning wood or waste—would only exacerbate asthma by making the air quality worse. Springfield is home to many poor folks and people of color, and the biomass plant in a residential neighborhood, poised to benefit from proposed new subsidies, would be a grave injustice in a community already overburdened with environmental threats.

This year, when the state proposed to use funds meant for renewable energy to subsidize polluting biomass plants, we teamed up with leaders at Arise for Social Justice to stop it. Side by side with that organization, we turned out more than 100 people from Springfield, and across the state, to testify against this plan and protect the air we breathe.



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A group of Lawrence, Mass., residents formed Pueblo Verde after the gas explosions in the Merrimack Valley.

2019 BY THE NUMBERS

- 110** calls to our hotline for help
- 133** community organizing group trainings
- 2,121** activists trained
- 302** leadership coaching sessions
- 90** side-by-side actions with groups
- 18** victories!

2019 CAMPAIGNS TO CLEAN UP AND PREVENT

1 PROVIDENCE, R.I.: PUBLIC WATER IS A PUBLIC GOOD

For years, government officials quietly moved forward on a plan to privatize the public drinking water supply in Providence, Rhode Island, which would have meant rate hikes, the seizure of land containing water supplies, and destruction of the local ecosystem. But seasoned community leaders and everyday people alike were following the issue, and they came together to fight back. We worked side by side with the Water is Life – Land and Water Sovereignty Campaign—led by Black, Brown and Indigenous activists—which drafted a resolution demanding a moratorium on all negotiations leading to privatization. Mayor Jorge Elorza of Providence agreed to halt legislation that would have privatized the water. This is a major victory in the ongoing fight to protect the water and the indigenous land which the water lies on.

2 PUTNAM, CONN.: RISING UP AGAINST THE TOXIC ASH LANDFILL

When your trash goes to an incinerator, it doesn't just go away—it creates ash. Ash is the highly concentrated toxic leftovers of waste incineration, and it needs to be buried somewhere. In Connecticut, tons of this toxic ash are buried in a landfill in Putnam neighbors' backyards. Neighbors caught wind of the landfill's plans to expand, which would mean building out into nearby wetlands, piling the landfill up higher than ever before, and 25–30 more years of burying toxic ash in their town. So they organized—forming Putnam Neighbors United, showing up to public hearings, and winning statewide media attention to this toxic plan.

3 MAINE: 'FOREVER' CHEMICAL CONTAMINATES FOOD AND WATER

The “forever” chemicals known as PFAS have been found across the country, and Maine is no exception. This crisis came to light when dairies, farms and neighbors realized that the compost they used on their farms and gardens contained PFAS-contaminated sludge from wastewater. PFAS are linked to cancer, kidney disease and other serious health problems. We've received calls from concerned residents from Corinna to Brunswick worried that their water has been polluted, and we're getting ready to train a new set of leaders to fight back.

4 BOSTON, MASS.: A MILESTONE FOR A ZERO WASTE PLAN

Ten years ago, Boston was burning or dumping far more recyclables than other cities of its size. Community Action Works convened a group of leading activists across the city—including people fighting for workers' rights, environmental justice, and a cooperative economy—and formed the Zero Waste Boston coalition. Our coalition wanted more recycling and composting, fair wages and safe conditions for recycling workers, and justice for the communities who have been burdened by pollution. This year, Boston announced a plan to move the city toward zero waste and a more equitable local economy at the same time.

5 COVENTRY, VT.: PROTECTING A LAKE FROM A POLLUTING LANDFILL

Lake Memphremagog, the second largest lake in the state, stretches from Coventry, Vermont, into Canada, and provides drinking water to 185,000 people. So when the multimillion-dollar company Casella Waste Systems applied to expand the only operating landfill in the state right next to the lake, residents got organized and formed Don't Undermine Memphremagog's Purity (DUMP) to challenge the expansion. DUMP found that millions of gallons of toxic landfill drainage was being discharged annually into Northern Vermont lakes and rivers after being inadequately treated. Communities rose up to protect the lake and their health and environment. While the landfill was granted an expansion, DUMP and Quebec neighbors won a moratorium on toxic drainage dumping into the Memphremagog watershed and increased air quality monitoring at the landfill.

6 BOW, N.H.: TAKING ACTION TO END COAL

The coal-fired power plant in Bow is the last major coal plant in our region without an expiration date. This fall, 67 people were arrested there in the largest act of civil disobedience in New Hampshire since the 1970s. While the movement to stop climate change and transition away from fossil fuels is happening across the world, activists are on the ground in our region to make sure the transition happens at home, starting with our cities and towns. Community Action Works is proud to rise up side by side with our partners Climate Disobedience Center, 350NH and everyday people across New Hampshire.

POLLUTION

7 DALTON, N.H.: FIGHTING LANDFILLS IN THE NORTH COUNTRY

The multimillion-dollar waste company Casella Waste Systems has been trying to expand a landfill in Bethlehem, New Hampshire, for years, but strong organizing by local leaders has thwarted them. So the company moved next door to Dalton, New Hampshire, and tried to build a landfill there instead. Residents in Bethlehem and Dalton, tired of being treated as a dumping ground for the region's trash, came together to form a united front against new landfills and expansions. Community Action Works trained neighbors on the know-how they need to keep Casella out of their communities and brought neighbors together across town lines to advocate for a thriving zero waste economy instead.

8 LONGMEADOW, MASS.: VICTORY AGAINST FRACKED GAS

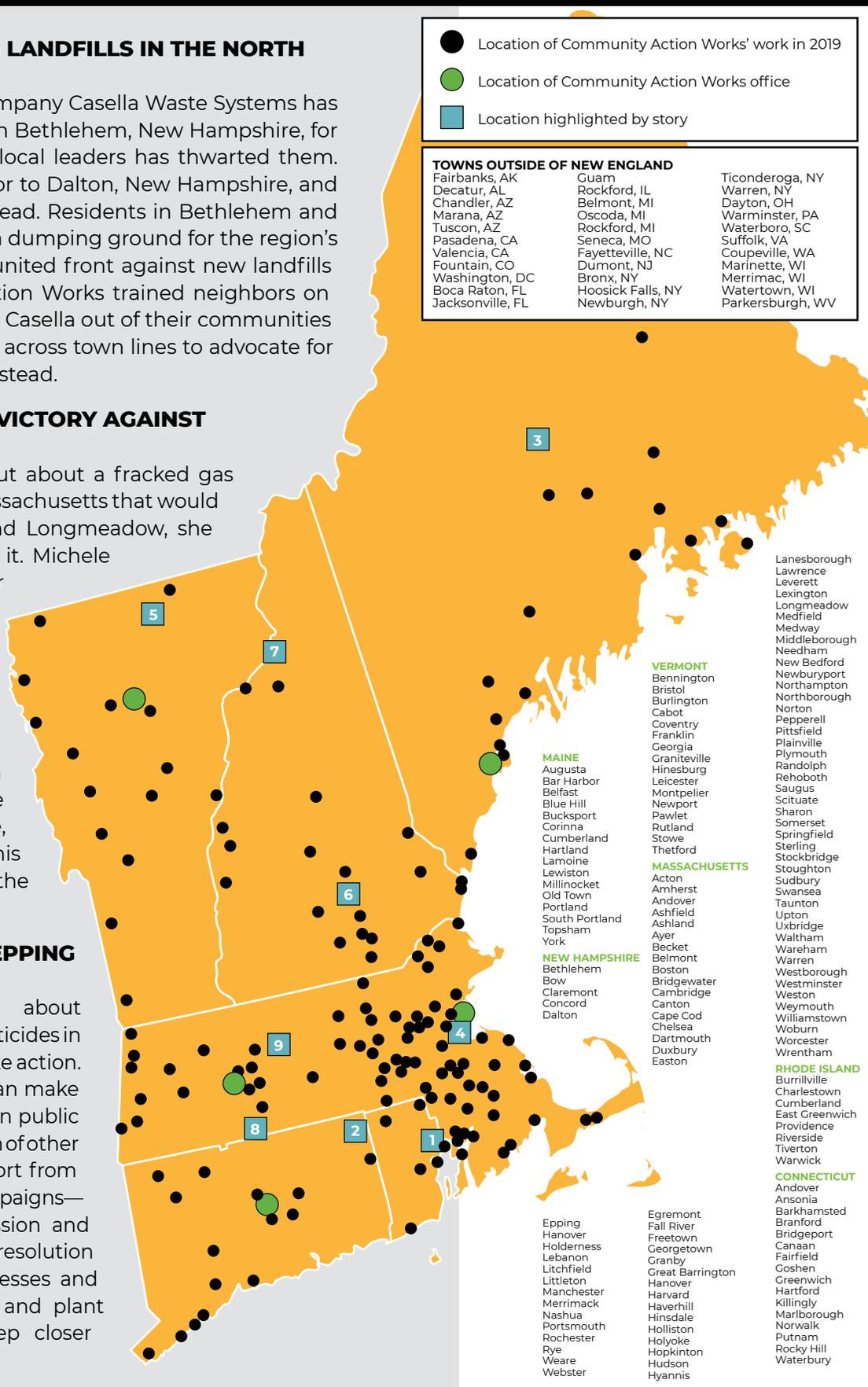
When Michele Marantz found out about a fracked gas pipeline proposed in Western Massachusetts that would have cut through Springfield and Longmeadow, she decided to do something about it. Michele got a group of neighbors together and formed the Longmeadow Pipeline Awareness Group to stop the project. Community Action Works Campaigns helped the group create a plan to win an upcoming community vote to ban the project from a residential neighborhood. Michele and her neighbors won the vote, and while the fight continues, this victory is a major wrinkle in the pipeline's plan.

9 PETERSHAM, MASS.: STEPPING UP TO STOP PESTICIDES

When Ellen Anderson heard about everyday people banning toxic pesticides in their towns, she was inspired to take action. Massachusetts cities and towns can make their own rules on pesticide use on public land. So last spring, Ellen and a team of other community members, with support from Community Action Works Campaigns—their local Conservation Commission and Petersham Grange—passed a resolution that encourages residents, businesses and institutions to go chemical-free and plant native species—and it's one step closer to a pesticide-free future.

- Location of Community Action Works' work in 2019
- Location of Community Action Works office
- Location highlighted by story

TOWNS OUTSIDE OF NEW ENGLAND		
Fairbanks, AK	Guam	Ticonderoga, NY
Decatur, AL	Rockford, IL	Warren, NY
Chandler, AZ	Belmont, MI	Dayton, OH
Marana, AZ	Oscoda, MI	Warminster, PA
Tucson, AZ	Rockford, MI	Waterboro, SC
Pasadena, CA	Seneca, MO	Suffolk, VA
Valencia, CA	Fayetteville, NC	Coupeville, WA
Fountain, CO	Dumont, NJ	Marinette, WI
Washington, DC	Bronx, NY	Merrimac, WI
Boca Raton, FL	Hoosick Falls, NY	Watertown, WI
Jacksonville, FL	Newburgh, NY	Parkersburg, WV



- Lanesborough
 - Lawrence
 - Leverett
 - Lexington
 - Longmeadow
 - Medfield
 - Medway
 - Middleborough
 - Needham
 - New Bedford
 - Newburyport
 - Northampton
 - Northborough
 - Norton
 - Pepperell
 - Pittsfield
 - Plainville
 - Plymouth
 - Randolph
 - Rehoboth
 - Saugus
 - Scituate
 - Sharon
 - Somerset
 - Springfield
 - Sterling
 - Stockbridge
 - Stoughton
 - Sudbury
 - Swansea
 - Taunton
 - Upton
 - Uxbridge
 - Waltham
 - Wareham
 - Warren
 - Westborough
 - Westminster
 - Weston
 - Weymouth
 - Williamstown
 - Woburn
 - Worcester
 - Wrentham
- VERMONT**
- Bennington
 - Bristol
 - Burlington
 - Cabot
 - Coventry
 - Franklin
 - Georgia
 - Graniteville
 - Hinesburg
 - Leicester
 - Montpelier
 - Newport
 - Pawlet
 - Rutland
 - Stowe
 - Thetford
- MAINE**
- Augusta
 - Bar Harbor
 - Belfast
 - Blue Hill
 - Bucksport
 - Corinna
 - Cumberland
 - Hartland
 - Lamoine
 - Lewiston
 - Millinocket
 - Old Town
 - Portland
 - South Portland
 - Topsham
 - York
- MASSACHUSETTS**
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 - Amherst
 - Andover
 - Ashfield
 - Ashland
 - Ayer
 - Belmont
 - Boston
 - Bridgewater
 - Cambridge
 - Canton
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 - Chelsea
 - Dartmouth
 - Duxbury
 - Easton
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 - Goshen
 - Greenwich
 - Hartford
 - Killingly
 - Marlborough
 - Norwalk
 - Putnam
 - Rocky Hill
 - Waterbury

Credit: Map of United States of America with States - Single Color by FreeVectorMaps.com

LASTING CHANGE STARTS LOCAL

We know that real, lasting change takes root when people get together and take action at the local level. Community Action Works leads community action trainings in neighbors' living rooms and church basements, because when community groups know how to make local democracy work for their health and environment, they can lead the movement for large-scale transformation.

FROM TOWN TO STATE: WINNING CLEAN WATER REGULATIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

This year, New Hampshire set enforceable drinking water standards for four of the “forever” chemicals—known as PFAS—a class of chemicals that has been found in drinking water across the country and is linked to cancer, decreased immune function, thyroid issues and other serious health problems. But the real story is how that standard came to be.

The real story is Laurene Allen, whose family has a history of health issues associated with PFAS, organizing a community health study—going door to door, talking to neighbors about their health concerns—and making the case for the town of Merrimack to provide filtration to ensure safe drinking water townwide. It's Andrea Amico, a mother-turned-activist who stayed up late researching PFAS and founded the community group Testing for Pease to fight for blood tests and

health studies for her family and all the families affected at the Pease Tradeport in Portsmouth.

Laurene, Andrea and many others like them were the first to uncover this toxic drinking water crisis and the first to demand action. These local leaders were the first to call for clean water for communities who still had PFAS-contaminated water coming out of their taps. They were the first to bring this issue to legislators' attention, making waves statewide. They were the leaders who refused to give up, educated and engaged their communities, and saw the state's first regulations on PFAS all the way through. Now those regulations are tied up in a lawsuit brought by 3M—a company that is actively using PFAS in New Hampshire—and activists are following closely.

While there are still no federal regulations for PFAS, the leaders we work with are building power from the bottom up, town by town and state by state, growing the fight against forever chemicals into a national movement. We help facilitate the national coalition of grassroots groups fighting PFAS contamination, which has helped win strong drinking water regulations in 12 states. The Northeast is leading the way on these changes—with New Hampshire and Vermont regulations in place and Massachusetts poised to follow suit—and these strong new rules make the case for federal action to come.



Merrimack Citizens for Clean Water

Laurene Allen (far left in photo) is a leader in Merrimack Citizens for Clean Water, which helped win some of the strongest regulations on PFAS in drinking water in the country.

“Beyond our own pipeline resistance, I have followed the various struggles ongoing in the Northeastern states and am always amazed to hear from organizers that Community Action Works once again has been a central player in helping to encourage and support so many of these communities. I don't know how they accomplish so much, frankly!”

– Rachel Smolker
Protect Geprags Park, Vermont

BUILD COMMUNITY POWER

Local residents care deeply about the health of their community and should be in control of what happens in their environment. That's why the most effective way to build healthier communities and a stronger democracy is to build community power.

A VISION OF A HEALTHY SOUTHCOAST

In 2015, Wendy Graça teamed up with her neighbors and founded a multi-town group called South Coast Neighbors United to stop two huge high-pressure gas storage tanks and a pipeline in her community. Together, they won that fight in 2017, but they didn't stop there. After receiving a call from New Bedford resident Tracy Wallace about a proposal to process sewage sludge at a site adjacent to a residential neighborhood, South Coast Neighbors United, with Tracy as its newest member, is taking on the campaign.

CITIES AND TOWNS: BUILDING BLOCKS FOR STATEWIDE PESTICIDES CHANGE

Communities across our region are ready for a pesticide-free future. This year, we convened a network of pesticides activists in partnership with the Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA/Mass) to pass town ordinances to reduce and eventually eliminate pesticide use on municipal lands. When dozens of towns pass ordinances to limit pesticides, activists can make the case for statewide action. In Vermont, Community Action Works Campaigns helped activists pass a law to restrict the use of bee-killing neonicotinoids last year. Activists are working to make Massachusetts next.

NOT HERE, NOT ANYWHERE: TOWNS COME TOGETHER TO BLOCK POLLUTING LANDFILLS

Two years ago, neighbors in Bethlehem, New Hampshire—a small town in the heart of the White Mountains—came out to vote in the middle of a snowstorm and stopped the multimillion-dollar company Casella Waste Systems from expanding a landfill in their town. This year, Casella tried a new strategy: proposing to build a new landfill in Dalton, the next town over. The North Country of New Hampshire has long been a target for dumping waste, and neighbors from Bethlehem, Dalton and neighboring towns want a strategy to stop Casella's polluting landfills in their towns and hold manufacturers responsible for waste from the products they produce. Community Action Works held a daylong Zero Waste Summit to bring these leaders together and form a plan for action.

CENTERING COMMUNITY VOICES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Environmental justice is more than just the idea that poor people and people of color should not bear a greater burden of environmental threats. Another major requirement is that the communities affected by decisions about our health and environment have a right to be part of those decisions. Right now, we're working with the state of Vermont, along with Center for Whole Communities, Vermont Law School and the University of Vermont to develop an environmental justice policy through a process that ensures the people who this policy aims to protect are part of shaping it.



Community Action Works

Community leaders in New Hampshire's North Country came together for a day-long Zero Waste Summit.

“Through Community Action Works’s educational sessions, our group developed confidence that we have the right to stand up and be heard.”

– Robin A. Markey and Dolores Perotti

Stop the Asphalt Plant,
East Cannan, Conn.

2019 FINANCIAL INFORMATION & SUPPORTERS

We would like to especially thank the following individual contributors to Community Action Works and/or Community Action Works Campaigns (formerly Toxics Action Center).

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Contributors of \$10,000 or more

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SIDE BY SIDE WITH COMMUNITIES FOR YEARS TO COME

When you include Community Action Works in your will, trust, or retirement accounts, your gift helps everyday people build the power to transform our world far into the future.

For information, call 1-800-841-7299, or email plannedgiving@communityactionworks.org



THANK YOU!

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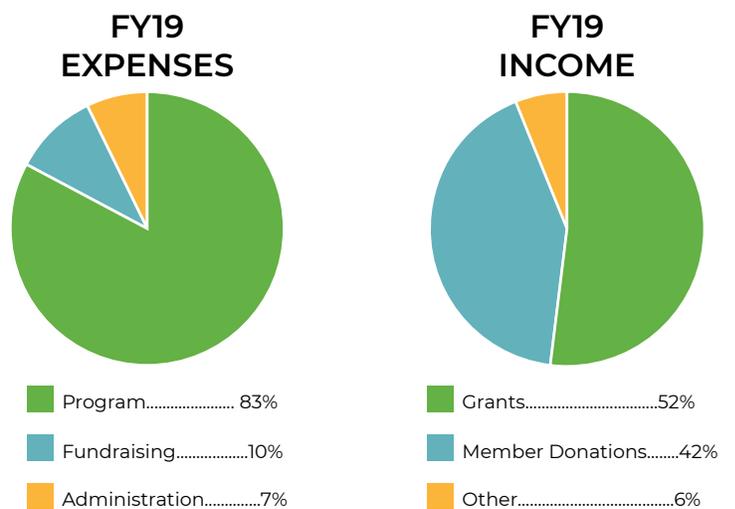
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- National Science Foundation
- New England Biolabs Foundation
- New World Foundation
- Patagonia
- People's Action Institute
- Seacoast Women's Giving Circle

At Community Action Works, we maximize our impact by focusing on building community power and developing local leaders for the long run. Your contribution makes that possible—together, we can confront polluters and seed solutions for a just and healthy future. These charts reflect the draft FY19 financial information for Community Action Works, Inc. and Community Action Works Campaigns, Inc.





Confront polluters. Seed solutions.

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All photos in this report are courtesy of Community Action Works, except where noted. Headshots – Kimball Nelson and Community Action Works staff for Lena Entin, Claire B.W. Müller, Dana Colihan and Ashley Higgs Hammell

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