



News of how working people are fighting for a planet that is sustainable -- environmentally, economically, and socially. If you like what we are doing and want to connect, please sign up for our newsletter and other information on the Labor Network for Sustainability website ([Sign up here!](#)). You are welcome to repost anything in this newsletter to spread the word!



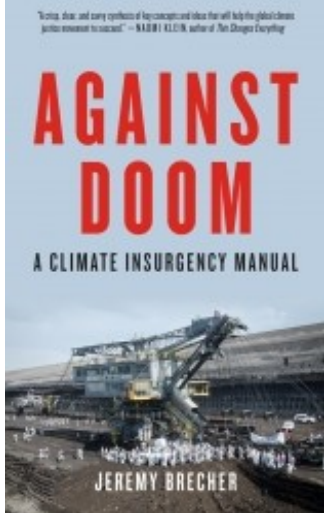
Help us build a powerful national organization for workers and communities to confront climate change. Membership is open to anyone interested and who endorses our [mission and principles](#).

[Become a Member](#)

AGAINST DOOM: A CLIMATE INSURGENCY MANUAL
presents "The most lucid, step-by-step strategic vision for the
climate movement."

Brian Tokar, University of Vermont Lecturer and author of *Toward Climate Justice* just wrote that,

Jeremy Brecher's *Against Doom* presents the most lucid, step-by-step strategic vision for the climate movement that we have seen thus far. The various steps to achieve relief from climate chaos are presented in a well-researched, systematic,



concise, and highly readable manner, drawing upon the latest findings in climate science, public opinion research, and the experiences of on-the-ground activists. Most important, the book offers a realistic and hopeful outlook for the future. At a time when movements for climate action can often appear stuck in a seemingly endless sweep of defensive battles, Brecher offers a forward-looking blueprint for getting unstuck and preserving our fundamental right to a livable planet.

Brecher is policy director for the Labor Network for Sustainability. The book is available from PM Press [Here](#)

Against Doom is part of Brecher's "Climate Insurgency Trilogy," Learn more about the trilogy [Here](#), where *Climate Insurgency: A Strategy for Survival* and *Climate Solidarity: Workers vs. Warming* are available for free download.

TRANSIT EQUITY DAY

TAKE ACTION FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND A CLIMATE SAFE FUTURE
COMMEMORATING ROSA PARKS BIRTHDAY

FEBRUARY 5, 2018*

By refusing to give up her seat, Rosa Parks became an iconic figure of the civil rights era. She was a leader in a powerful movement for social and racial justice. We will honor the legacy of Rosa Parks and the civil rights struggle by supporting the rights of all people to high-quality public transportation run on clean/renewable energy.



TAKE ACTION

FOR CIVIL RIGHTS! - Everyone should have the right to free (or at least affordable) public transportation regardless of age, race, class or gender.

FOR WORKERS RIGHTS! - Support the rights of workers who build public transit

"Urban transit systems in most American cities have become a genuine civil rights issue because the layout of rapid-transit systems determines the accessibility of jobs" - Martin Luther King, Jr., A Testament of Hope

infrastructure, who operate and maintain the systems and who get us to where we need to go.

FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES AND A HEALTHY PLANET! - More public transit run on clean/renewable energy will reduce pollution and dangerous greenhouse gases. Public transit is a safer way to travel and helps build community.

TOOLKIT

Includes:

- "What you can do"
- Op-Ed Template
- Draft Resolution
- Graphics and Social Media
- Informational Palm Card

Toolkit can be found [Here](#)

To learn more about *Transit Equity Day* nationally and locally visit [our website](#) or:

Email: transitequityday@labor4sustainability.org

Visit us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) ([#transitequityday](#)) for information on *Transit Equity Day* as well as other ways the Labor Movement is confronting climate change

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS:

Amalgamated Transit Union, Jobs with Justice, Institute for Policy Studies, Chainbreaker Collective, The LEAP, Labor Community Strategy Center, Pittsburghers for Public Transit, Americans for Transit, Labor Network for Sustainability



TAKE ACTION





Endorsements:

Greenpeace, Grassroots Global Justice Alliance, People's Action

GREENPEACE



**GRASSROOTS
GLOBAL JUSTICE
ALLIANCE**

**PEOPLE'S
ACTION**

* Rosa Parks' Birthday is Sunday, February 4. We ask you to commemorate this event with actions on Monday, February 5.

Transit Workers: The Real Experts on Transit Equity

[Interviews with rank-and-file transit workers by Laurie Burke, if available in time.]

Victory!

New York Pension Funds to Divest from Fossil Fuels



In *Making a Living on a Living Planet*#14 we featured an article by Nancy Romer of AFT local #2334 in New York on the "NYC Public Pension Funds Fossil Fuels Divestment Campaign." Nancy just sent us a message headed "NYC & NYS about to divest!" and a release about the victory:

New York, NY - Today, after over five years of community campaigning for New York to divest from fossil fuels, City Comptroller [Scott Stringer](#) and [Governor Andrew Cuomo](#) each released separate proposals to freeze all current fossil fuel investments, divest New York's public pension funds fossil fuel companies, and reinvest in renewable energy. Together, New York's pension funds are among the largest in the world, representing a combined \$390 billion.

For full release, visit [Here](#)

Nancy Romer sends us this inside account and roadmap for next steps:

In political action, you never know exactly what makes the dam break. A movement may push hard and seem get no where but all of a sudden the dam breaks and a demand can be met. That's what happened in NYC and, perhaps, in NY State. It came as a New Year's gift to the Divest NY movement.

For the last five years divestment activists have been met with consistent resistance from the NYC establishment, including the trustees of the five public worker pension boards. But all our efforts--meeting with union leaders and rank and file, getting our champion NYC Public Advocate Letitia James on board, lots of demonstrations, meetings, public hearings, leafleting, showing evidence of the falling values of fossil fuel stocks--have paid off. On Dec. 19, NY State Governor Andrew Cuomo announced his support for divesting NYS public pension funds from fossil fuel holdings and within hours NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer followed suit. We were surprised and delighted! Cuomo, auditioning for the role of most progressive US politician, may see divestment as a key demand of the climate movement. Indeed, it was a key demand in a huge demo commemorating the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Sandy on Oct. 28. That demo was organized by a coalition of 155 climate, environmental justice, labor, and community groups. So applying public pressure works even if we don't immediately see the direct link.

But saying yes to divestment does not mean it will actually happen or happen in a timely manner. The next step for the divestment movement is to make sure that the politicians keep their words, that the pension board trustees begin to trust the divestment community including all the research that has been offered to them showing that, as fiduciaries of the pensions, it is their duty to protect the pensions from falling fossil fuel stock values. We can't let off on the pressure now.

Luckily, Public Advocate Letitia James will help us keep this flame alive. She is preparing language for a pension board resolution for divestment that will spell out a time line and process that the trustees can vote on. Even after we win that vote, we will have to keep on top of the process of getting rid of the fossil fuel stocks. We recently found out that while the NYC pension boards voted to divest from coal stocks, several of the pension funds still hold those very stocks, though in smaller amounts. Saying and doing are two separate acts. We must make sure to see this to its final completion.

NY State divestment would be next on the agenda. While the governor indicates support, NY State Comptroller diNapoli disagrees. There are bills in the NY State Senate and Assembly calling for divestment, that would override the comptroller's objections. We shall see, and advance, the cascading effects of organizing in the City and work with our allies in public service unions, the environmental justice and climate movements, to see this through across the State of New York. Onward!!

LNS videos: Workers Speak Out on Climate, Jobs, and Justice

LNS has produced 17 2-3 minute video interviews with workers participating in last year's People's Climate March. You can view and download them on Youtube Here. They can make excellent conversation-starters for an informal discussion or union meeting.

The videos are presented in four series:

- Workers and the Climate Crisis
- Climate and Jobs
- Climate and Justice
- Unions and the Climate Crisis

Excerpts from series 1: Workers and the Climate Crisis

["Climate is What Houses Us"](#)

Audrey Collins is a vice-president of the Communication Workers of America local 2045 in Newport News, VA; she has worked for Verizon for 23 years. She says:

"The climate is important for our future, for our children, and their children, and without it we don't have anything."



["If We Do Not Take Care of Our Planet Then We Are All Doomed"](#)

Margaret Moore is a registered nurse at Prince George's Hospital Center in Cheverly, MD and a member of SEIU 1199. She says:

"I'm a cardiac nurse. What affects my patients affects me." When you look at people who have asthma, who suffer from poor air quality, "this is all part of climate change and it is all part of my job."



["Maryland is a Coastal State"](#)

Margaret Moore appears again,

saying:

"A key part of Maryland's identity is the ocean. And when you look at climate change you're looking at the sea life in the ocean."



"MARYLAND IS A COASTAL STATE"

MARGARET MOORE
SEIU 1199
Cheverly, MD

BETH LANDRY
National Nurses United
Frederich, MD

People's Climate March
April 29, 2017

Beth Landry is a member of National Nurses United in Frederich, MD. She says:

"We recently banned fracking in our state, and we're hoping to expand that in other parts of the country. It is very important for nurses to take an advocacy standpoint for their patients to prevent people from having increased illnesses related to the detrimental planetary changes that we're having because of fossil fuels."

We need your support to accomplish the work ahead. Your individual contributions will provide LNS with the resources we need for bold, independent action that will be necessary to accomplish our goals.

DONATE

Donate today to [Labor Network for Sustainability](#) and help us build a future that works for all of us.

STAY CONNECTED:

