

2015 ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE VIRGINIA CHAPTER



**SIERRA
CLUB**

A Message from the Chair: Our Commitment to Climate Action

Last September I had the pleasure of speaking to assembled Sierra Club chapter leaders at their annual meeting at Club headquarters. My assignment—to explain how the Virginia chapter was first among all Club chapters in organizing activist events in the previous year. That’s quite an accomplishment in a national organization filled with dedicated activists. Four aspects of our Virginia chapter explain our success.

First, we have a beautiful state with a full range of crucial environmental issues, from mountaintop-removal coal mining, to proposed ill-advised natural-gas pipelines, rivers threatened by toxic coal ash sites, to sea-level rise and proposed offshore oil drilling in our coastal region. The threat of climate change links all these issues, and many others.

Second, we have a group of truly dedicated volunteers, whose astonishing array of skills, knowledge, and interests make the Virginia chapter so effective. Some work nearly full time on Club issues, while others pitch in when they can in countless large and small ways. Among the most hardworking and active volunteers is Ivy Main, who “retired” as chapter chair at the beginning of 2016, but continues to serve the chapter with her deep knowledge of energy issues and her superb writing skills.

Third we have a large, talented staff, of whom we can all be incredibly proud. Our staff are recognized leaders in the Virginia environmental and climate movements. And our volunteers and staff work together to bring out the best, most effective activism in all of us.

Fourth, the Virginia chapter is a national leader in the Sierra Club in fundraising. This annual report honors the individuals and foundations whose generous financial support makes our important work possible.

In 2016 we will be losing our long-serving, much-loved director, Glen Besa, who retires in May. We face many old and new challenges this year, and our opposition is as well funded as ever. But thanks to our volunteers, staff, and many financial supporters large and small, I know the Virginia chapter will remain a strong effective voice as we continue to build the environmental and climate movements.



Seth Heald, Chair

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP



Group Chairs

Blue Ridge—Tom Eik
Chesapeake Bay—Joe Cook
Falls of the James—John Zeugner & Adele Maclean
Great Falls—Norbert Pink
Mount Vernon—Rick Keller
New River Valley—Maria Bowling
Piedmont—John Cruickshank
Rappahannock—Linda Muller
Roanoke—Dan Crawford
Shenandoah—Ralph Grove
York River—Tyla Matteson

Issue Chairs

Ana Prados, Air Quality
Seth Heald, Coal Ash
William Penniman, Conservation
Dick Ball, Energy
Barbara Williamson, Environmental Justice
Sherman Bamford, Forests
Linda Burchfiel, Fracking
Jim Lynch, Parks
Susan Stillman, Legislative & Membership,
and Renewable Energy Vice Chair

Seth Heald, Chair 2016-2017
Ivy Main, Immediate Past Chair 2014-2015
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Ralph Grove, Treasurer, 2014-2017
Bill Johnson, Secretary 2016-2017
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Tyla Matteson, Political
Mark Endries, PAC Treasurer
Chris Miller, Ocean Issues
John Bloom, Public Health
Ivy Main, Renewable Energy
Douglas Stewart, Smart Growth & Transportation
Rick Keller, Transportation Vice Chair
Pete Bsumek, Wilderness

Thank you,

Seth Heald, Chair

A Message from the Director: Thinking Globally, Acting Locally



Glen Besa, Chapter Director

Dear Sierrans and Friends,

I hope you find our 2015 Annual Report as exciting as I do. It captures the work of hundreds of volunteers and our staff members working with diverse allies on a range of issues impacting Virginia's environment. It doesn't always seem like it, but we are winning.

I'd like to think that 2015 will go down in history as a great turning point in the fight against dirty fossil fuels to save our planet from climate change. The release of President Obama's Clean Power Plan last August and the striking of a global climate deal in Paris in December have the potential to turn the tide, but only time will tell.

That may sound like unfounded optimism when you consider that most of our time last year was spent fighting fracked gas pipelines, offshore drilling, and coal ash while fending off fierce attacks on the Clean Power Plan.

The corrupting big money influence of the fossil fuel industry continues to slow our progress fighting climate change, and in a race to save our planet that is a real problem. Case in point: year in and year out Dominion Resources spends more money on lobbying and campaign contributions to both political parties than anyone else in Virginia. You might wonder why Dominion Virginia Power should care whether it sells us electricity that comes from solar and wind power or coal and gas because as a legalized monopoly we still have to buy its power regardless.

The problem is Dominion is actually a natural gas company that just happens to sell electricity. As one of the nation's largest gas companies, Dominion is pushing a massive gas pipeline that would expand fracking in West Virginia and fuel six or more massive new gas fired power plants. By Dominion's own calculations it plans to increase its carbon pollution by 60% in 2040 if it gets its way. We cannot let that happen.

As we look back on 2015 and look ahead to 2016, the environmental battle in the fight to save Virginia and the planet from climate change remains a struggle between greed and hope. With your help, as a donor and a volunteer, hope will prevail.

Thank you for your support of the Sierra Club Virginia Chapter

Glen Besa, Director

STAFF



Glen Besa, Director
Eileen Levandoski, Assistant Director
Kate Addleson, Conservation Director
Corrina Beall, Legislative Coordinator
Zach Jarjoura, Hampton Roads Conservation Coordinator

Kendyl Crawford, Richmond Conservation Coordinator
Kelsey Crane, Northern Virginia Conservation Coordinator
Kirk Bowers, Pipelines Coordinator
Deb Anderson, Administrative Assistant
Ben Weiner, Communications Fellow

Ensuring a Strong Clean Power Plan for Virginia

Perhaps one word best describes 2015— HISTORIC!

In August, the U.S. EPA set our nation's first standard to limit the greenhouse gases from power plants contributing to climate change, with the Clean Power Plan. The plan limits carbon pollution from existing and new fossil-fueled power plants and will boost the use of energy efficiency and renewable energy like solar and wind power.

At every turn throughout 2015, thousands of Virginia Sierrans turned out in droves to support the EPA and to petition our Virginia public officials, especially Governor McAuliffe, to institute a strong Virginia implementation plan that reduces total carbon pollution from our electric utilities.

Our work continues in 2016 as we champion a Virginia clean power plan that will reduce our carbon pollution 30% by 2030, and expand our access to wind and solar power.

Get involved. Contact Kate Addleson at kate.addleson@sierraclub.org.



Hundreds of Sierra Club activists demonstrated in Washington DC to show support for EPA's first ever limits on carbon pollution from fossil fuel power plants.



Over **150** Virginia residents stood up to offer in-person comments to the EPA and to Virginia DEQ to help inform Virginia's Clean Power Plan.



Over **200,000** comments from Virginia alone were collected and delivered by the environmental community in support of the EPA's historic Clean Power Plan.



50 organizations signed on to letter to Gov. McAuliffe urging to implement a strong Clean Power Plant for Virginia.

Preserving and Protecting Virginia

STOPPING DIRTY FRACKED-GAS PIPELINES

The Virginia Chapter is providing grassroots and strategic support to our allies and partners in the Virginia highlands region and southwestern Virginia in opposing three hazardous pipeline projects, including Dominion's 550-mile, \$5 billion Atlantic Coast pipeline, the WB Express and Mountain Valley pipeline.

The pipelines would cross over more than twenty steep mountains in the Allegheny and Blue Ridge mountains, thousands of streams and rivers, the George Washington, Jefferson and Monongahela National Forests, and cross over the Appalachian Trail and Blue Ridge Parkway.

The pipeline developers have the power of eminent domain to take people's property for the pipeline, and construction would jeopardize local residents' drinking water. The pipelines would triple the amount of greenhouse gas emissions in the mid-Atlantic region.



Rally at Buckingham County Courthouse

Get involved. Contact Kirk Bowers at kirk.bowers@sierraclub.org.



Over **60** organizations spread over **9** Virginia counties and **6** West Virginia counties are actively engaged in our collective pipeline fight.



1000's of public comments were submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) demanding that approval for the pipelines be denied.

A CHANCE TO BREATHE CLEANER AIR



There is a growing awareness that toxic chemicals such as mercury and PCBs are showing up everywhere from mothers' milk to seals in the Arctic, and contributing to a range of human health impacts and environmental problems. The cumulative impacts of toxins in the products we use and those found in our air, water and land are unknown. The refrain from chemical companies and many public officials is that the amounts are too small to harm us, but just because something is legal, doesn't mean that it is healthy. Sierra Club is working to build a broad-based campaign to fight toxics in Virginia and working in collaboration with communities to clean up toxic air. Our annual Top 25 Toxic Zip Codes alerts Virginians to sources of toxic air pollution in their neighborhoods.

Get involved. Contact Kendyl Crawford at kendyl.crawford@sierraclub.org.

Coal dust regularly coats the exterior of homes and cars located in communities surrounding Norfolk Southern's terminal in Norfolk. It is both a public nuisance and a serious public health concern as coal dust pollutes the air we breathe and contaminates the soil and waterways with arsenic, lead, mercury and other toxic heavy metals. Exposure has been linked to decreased lung capacity, increased childhood bronchitis, asthma, pneumonia, emphysema and heart disease. Despite these facts, Norfolk Southern has been granted an exemption from the Clean Air Act. The local Sierra Club group has an ongoing coal dust mitigation campaign directed at Norfolk Southern's CEO and Board of Directors to act in a socially responsible way by enclosing the dumpers, conveyance belts and covering the coal cars.

Get involved. Contact Zach Jarjoura at zachary.jarjoura@sierraclub.org.



VA Sierra Club ID	Chemotix ID	Result (AQI vs)
Lab treated sample	G-MIC-11341	~50%
1415 W 27th and 1430 W 26th Lambert's Point	G-MIC-11342	~40%
Slayight 1342 Westover, West Chester	G-MIC-11343	~70%
913 Weyandoke Rd., West Chester	G-MIC-11344	~30%
1342 Westover Ave., West Chester	G-MIC-11345	~30%
1405 W 27th Lambert's Point	G-MIC-11346	~30%
Reference A	G-MIC-11347	~30%

Keeping It In The Ground

STOPPING OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE ATLANTIC

Treasured for generations, our Atlantic shores attract millions of tourists, anglers and visitors from all over the world. Our fragile coastal environment and lucrative coastal economy are too precious to risk.

Despite these risks, the Obama administration has proposed opening new areas, including the Atlantic and off the coast of Virginia for oil and gas drilling. The intense pressure to pull Virginia from the plan continues in 2016—and it's a winnable goal. All eyes are on the President in his final days when he has a chance to secure his climate legacy and use his executive pen to stop this dirty, risky plan.

Get involved. Contact Eileen Levandoski @ eileen.levandoski@sierraclub.org.



Over 125 activists participated in our 5th annual Hands Across the Sand event in Virginia Beach.

Participated in **37** events including federal hearings, film screenings, volunteer meetings, demonstrations, and forums — each building greater opposition to the risks and negative impacts of offshore drilling.

Working with coalition partners nationwide, submitted over **400,000** public comments to BOEM.

Distributed almost **2,000** No Drilling VA yard signs throughout Virginia.

Saw over **26** op-eds and letters to the editor in opposition to offshore drilling grace the editorial pages on Virginia newspapers.

Almost **500** phone calls made to the Governor's office urging him to say "NO" to oil and gas drilling off our Virginia coast.

Enlisted over **48** businesses, organizations, garden clubs, civic leagues, editorial boards, and elected officials to stand in opposition to drilling.

STOPPING MOUNTAINTOP-REMOVAL COAL MINING AND THE COALFIELDS EXPRESSWAY

This destructive form of strip-mining lays waste to our mountains, destroying whole ecosystems and polluting local water. Sierra Club works closely with the Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards (SAMS) and other allies like Appalachian Voices to fight mountaintop-removal coal mining. We are actively opposing the Coalfields Expressway a proposed road that has been designed to zigzag across SW VA to access coal deposits using the road construction as an excuse to mine. At the same time Sierra Club and our allies are working to rebuild a sustainable economy in southwestern Virginia that provides good jobs and repairs the environmental damage that has been done to the region.

Get involved. Contact: Gabby Gillespie @ gabby.gillespie@sierraclub.org.



Citizens opposed to the Coalfields Expressway rally outside the Federal Highways Administration offices in Washington, DC.

Building a Climate Movement in Virginia

There was no slowing down for the Virginia Chapter following The People's Climate March when over 1,000 Virginians joined the over 400,000 in the streets of New York City. Our climate activism in 2015 moved to the streets of Norfolk, Harrisonburg, Richmond, Leesburg, Roanoke and everywhere in between.

The Clean Power Plan has been the central focus of our organizing work, but defeating dirty power projects from pipelines and offshore drilling to new gas power plants has mobilized citizens from one end of the state to the other with the rallying cry - "Keep it in the Ground". Monthly Climate Movement conference calls help volunteers stay connected and share ideas. Local Climate Action Teams, supported by our organizers, translate Think Globally, Act Locally into organizing clout on the ground.



Volunteers celebrate the historic visit by Pope Francis!



"Act, Vote, Lead on Climate" said Loudouners in support of Paris talks.



In Norfolk we marched in solidarity to get leaders in Paris to Act On Climate!



Young and young-at-heart were rocking in August 2015 at our Concert for the Climate in Norfolk.

ENSURING EQUAL ACCESS TO NATURE, CLEAN WATER, CLEAN AIR AND A SAFE ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL RESIDENTS OF VIRGINIA

In 2015, the Virginia Chapter adapted a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion plan to guide its work in celebrating diversity, ensuring inclusion and prioritizing equity in all we do.

We believe that working toward a just, equitable, and transparent society is not only morally necessary but also exactly what we need to confront the unprecedented environmental challenges we face. The Sierra Club believes work on diversity, equity, and inclusion, being done from a justice frame, is mission critical.

Get involved. Contact Kendyl Crawford at kendyl.crawford@sierraclub.org.

Over **45** Climate Action Team meetings were held by our Hampton Roads, Northern Virginia and Richmond organizers, Zach, Kelsey & Kendyl.

Over **15,500** online actions were taken by our Virginia activists in 2015.

Over **21%** increase in our Virginia Chapter Facebook "Likes" over the course of 2015.



How We Fund Our Work in Virginia



Contributions to the Sierra Club Virginia Chapter support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. They are not tax-deductible and constitute what is called “c4” activity under federal tax law.

Contributions to the Sierra Club Foundation are tax-deductible and they support our Virginia work in what is called “c3” activity. This activity strictly prohibits lobbying and advocacy efforts seeking to affect legislation.

For our campaigns to be effective, we must engage in both c3 and c4 activity. For example with our campaign to stop drilling off Virginia’s coast, our current funding supports 90% of our work – all c3 – which involves pushing administratively on the Obama administration to not include Virginia in its next drilling program. But one tactic in our fight against offshore drilling involves urging local governments to approve resolutions opposing drilling. This is c4 work because it involves lobbying elected officials to vote on a matter.

A lot of our work is accomplished using c3 funds and thankfully, a very large portion of our c3 funds comes from foundations and large donors. Our critical c4 funds come largely from our individual Virginia members and activists, making donations directly to the Virginia Chapter through various appeals, including our annual March appeal. As our work in Virginia expands with increasing injections of c3 support, so too must our budgets grow with more individual c4 contributions. We only accomplish our campaigns goals with both c3 and c4 support.



Stopping multiple fracked-gas pipelines from criss-crossing Virginia.

Preventing the Obama administration from including Virginia and the Atlantic in its offshore oil and gas drilling programs.

Reducing toxic air emissions in Hampton Roads especially those from heavy traffic, electric utilities, ports, coal terminals and industry.

Working to increase the use of clean energy to generate electricity including higher efficiency standards for new homes, and advocating for offshore wind power and community solar.

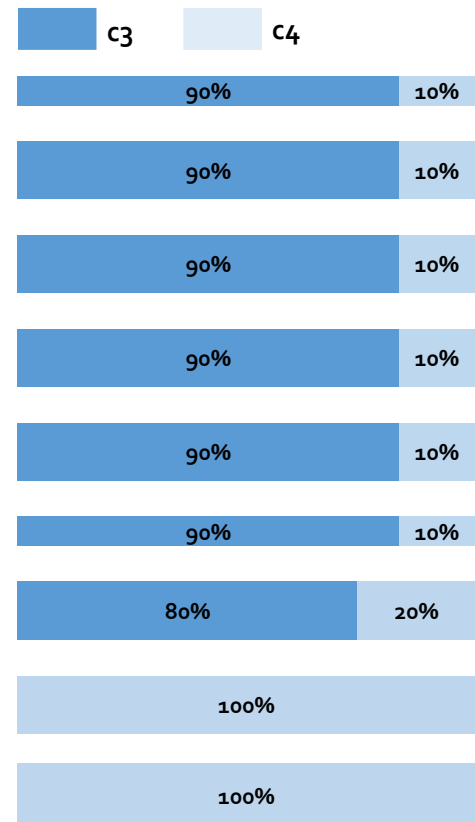
Fighting poorly planned road and development projects by supporting smart solutions like pedestrian/bike friendly transit-oriented development and public transit projects.

Enlisting local municipalities to pledge to 100% clean energy by 2050.

Ensuring Virginia develops an aggressive Clean Power Plan that relies on greater renewable energy generation and energy efficiency, and not fracked natural gas.

Lobbying our elected officials and keeping them accountable for protecting clean air, clean water, our natural environment and healthy communities.

Recruiting new members, fundraising, Chapter business/administration, and outings



Financial Statement

Since 1977, the Virginia Chapter has grown exponentially and now earns a spot as one of the best in the nation. We are extremely effective at what we do and that is thanks to the talents of our large professional staff, dedicated and engaged activists, and the generosity of many through their time and financial resources.

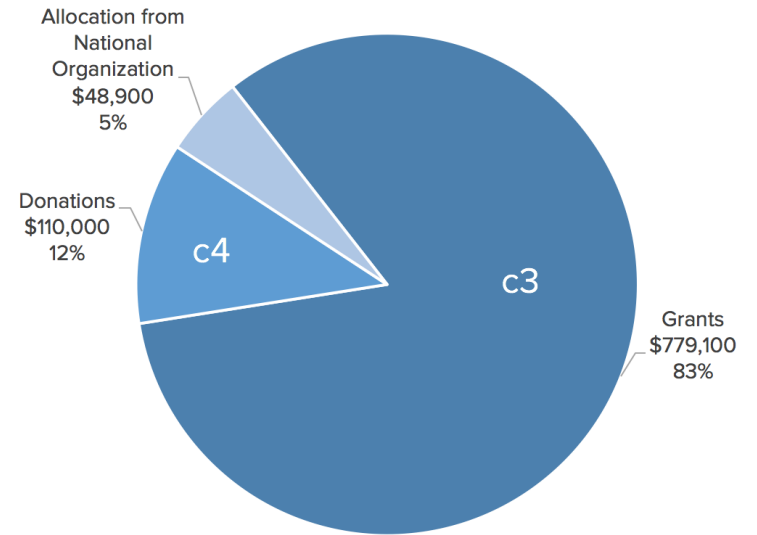
Your donation to the Virginia Chapter Sierra Club stays in Virginia and is dedicated to our Virginia campaigns to aggressively push for renewable energy, combat climate change, protect our forests and coastlines, and much more. We do this with grassroots power like no other environmental organization can. But big campaigns like the one needed to take on fracking, pipelines and offshore drilling require funding to support our grassroots outreach and activism.

Visit SierraClub.org/donateVA to donate TODAY! Thank you.

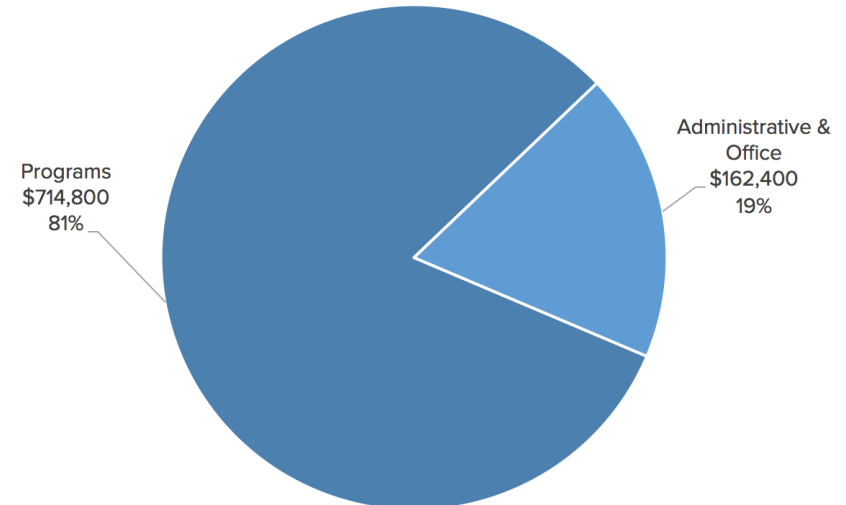


Buzzard Rock near Strasburg, VA

Sources of Income (projected for 2016)
Total \$939,400



Functional Expenses (Projected for 2016)
Total \$877,200



Building Political Power in Virginia

Our power comes from the variety of strategies and tactics the Chapter uses to challenge decision-makers and push for action. We not only advance conservation campaigns that sustain Virginia's environmental safeguards and lead coalition-based advocacy campaigns to implement stronger environmental protection, we also engage proactively in the political process.

Get involved. Contact: Corrina Beall at corrina.beall@sierraclub.org.

Recognized 10 Legislative Leaders in the Virginia General Assembly.	100% of our critical advocacy work is performed using c4 donations	74 Citizen Lobbyists engaged in in-district constituent visits with elected officials in 2015.
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Activists involved with our campaign to stop fracked-gas pipelines attend a meeting of the Virginia General Assembly in Richmond.

Legislative Leaders Program



The Virginia Chapter celebrates the accomplishments of Virginia legislators who are champions for the environment and leaders in the Virginia General Assembly by bestowing recognition and awards at an annual fundraising event attended by major donors, elected

officials and special guests. Building relationships with our elected allies increases our influence within the General Assembly and supports the goals of our "c4" campaigns. It also creates an opportunity to celebrate our accomplishments in the Legislature with Sierra Club Members and increases the visibility of the Chapter through earned media.

2015 Awardees:

Senator John Watkins (R-10), Delegate Ron Villanueva (R-21), Senator Donald McEachin (D-9), Senator Jennifer Wexton (D-33), Senator Rosalyn Dance (D-16), Delegate Jennifer McClellan (D-71), Delegate Alfonso Lopez (D-49), Delegate David Toscano (D-57), Delegate Chris Jones (R-76), and Delegate Rip Sullivan (D-48).

2015 Virginia General Assembly Climate and Energy Scorecard

The Chapter's annual Scorecard serves to increase transparency in state government and keep Virginia's elected officials accountable to environmental voters. It is intended to be a window into measuring legislative performance. The tool is used by activists, the media, Sierra Club Members and elected officials in addition to informing our endorsement and lobbying processes. As we draw nearer to implementation of the EPA's Clean Power Plan, shining a light on the Virginia General Assembly's treatment of energy issues is crucial to leveraging support for action on climate change. Properly used, this tool provides positive reinforcement for elected officials who consistently vote with the environmental community and also highlights any gaps between the rhetoric and the reality of an elected official's voting record.

Citizen Lobbyist Program

Citizen Lobbyists are Sierra Club Volunteer Leaders who work on developing a personal relationship with their Virginia Delegate or Senator, and help to establish in the mind of that elected official the local importance and relevance of environmentally friendly policy. Citizen lobbyists meet with their legislator at least once a year, and keep in touch with e-mail and phone calls as needed. This program increases the Club's visibility as a community leader, a powerful advocate for the environment and an effective voice in policy making. It increase engagement and participation of Club members in advocating for Club public policy priorities at the state level. Twenty-four volunteers are active in their respective districts, and an additional fifty individuals are engaged with this program.

Supporting Your Virginia Chapter

Sierra Club established its Virginia Legacy Council to honor individuals, groups, and organizations making significant gifts to the Virginia Chapter. Their partnership and commitment to our work leaves a lasting legacy. We deeply appreciate the contributions of the many donors throughout 2015, who make our work possible. We could not achieve our successes without you.

** indicates Sustaining monthly donor*

Scaling Old Rag - \$100-\$249

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Kaaren G. Ancarrow
Marit C. Anderson
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Andre Derdeyn
Fredette Eagle
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Randy Salzman
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Scaling Stony Man - \$1,000-\$2,499

Phyllis Brissenden
Anthony Larocco*
Mollie McCurdy
Carol Pruner
Susan Stillman

Scaling Hawksbill - \$2,500-\$4,999

Ivy Main

Scaling Whitetop - \$5,000-\$9,999

Julie Goodell
Seth and Caroline Heald

Scaling Mount Rogers - \$10,000+

Anonymous
Harris & Frances Block Foundation
The Brunckhorst Foundation
Rockefeller Family Fund
WestWind Foundation



Thank You!

2016 UPDATE: Thanks to You, WE WON!

The Atlantic was pulled from the federal offshore drilling plan.

Thanks to the massive well-organized and strategic opposition from residents and businesses, the Atlantic will stand protected from risky offshore oil and gas drilling.



Your Virginia Chapter Sierra Club: Thinking Globally, Acting Locally

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Fax: 757-333-7168

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Phone: 703-438-6246

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