

spotlight

2023 Issue 4



More than 75,000 people, including Corporate Accountability organizers and members, took to the streets of New York City in September to demand a just and definitive end to the fossil fuel era. Photo credit: Angel Amaya, Corporate Accountability.

No more false solutions!

Together, we're securing real action to the climate crisis

“Polluter-backed schemes to supposedly address the climate crisis are dangerous distractions. Together, we're making space for real solutions to take hold.”

RACHEL ROSE JACKSON | DIRECTOR OF CLIMATE RESEARCH AND POLICY

Take action!

Join the movement to Kick Big Polluters Out:
KickBigPollutersOut.org

Support this work:

CorporateAccountability.org/Spotlight

It's increasingly likely that 2023 will become the hottest year on record. And as global temperatures rise, so too does the fire in the bellies of people around the world who are organizing for climate justice.

Here are some victories from the last few months that you have helped make possible through your steadfast support:

Historic California lawsuit against Big Polluters. In September, California Attorney General Rob Bonta announced that the state is suing Big Polluters for their decades-long operation of climate deception. This is huge! Given the size of California's population and economy, this lawsuit can potentially set an important precedent for climate liability across the U.S.—and help facilitate a just

transition for frontline communities. And it wouldn't have been possible without thousands of people like you taking collective action to demand justice.

Exposing corporate net-zero schemes worldwide. This year, we collaborated with The Guardian to systematically debunk corporate-backed plans to “address” the climate crisis. Our series cast a light on the continued harm that false solutions like carbon offsets pose on the environment and communities worldwide—and helped cast doubt on Big Polluters' alleged climate commitments ahead of the U.N. climate treaty negotiations.

Together, we're moving the dial on climate action at the local, national, and international levels. Thank you!

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Staying true to our mission while evolving to meet this moment

Dear friend,

As we wind down 2023 and look ahead to the new calendar year, I'm filled with awe and gratitude for you and everyone in the Corporate Accountability community.

In October, I celebrated my 25th anniversary at this organization! During the past two and a half decades, I have seen so much change.

Corporate power has become more consolidated, and corporate abuse has proliferated in ways we couldn't have imagined decades ago.

At the same time, the movement to challenge abusive corporations has become much stronger. More people than ever before recognize that corporate power causes profound injustice and harm to communities around the world.

And Corporate Accountability has grown and changed, responding to the shifting conditions of the time. As we stay laser-focused on our mission, we continue to innovate and evolve.

Today, we are a vibrant, multi-racial, global organization powered by people from many walks of life committed to creating change.

Our role in the larger movement for justice is to strategically challenge and expose corporate abuse. We build power and campaigns with those most severely targeted and harmed by transnational corporations. And we share our collective victories and lessons learned with the larger movement challenging the rising authoritarianism of our times.

The coming year is sure to bring more change, victories, and challenges. I'm so inspired to be doing this work in community with you, and look forward to continuing to make an impact toward a brighter future, together.



Onward,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patti Lynn".

Patti Lynn
Executive Director

You expose the worst of the worst

Veolia crowned this year's Corporate Hall of Shame winner

As the world's largest private water corporation, Veolia has a track record of abuse across the U.S. and around the world—from unaffordable bills and cost-cutting measures that compromise people's safety, to labor abuses and more.

So it's no surprise that thousands of people like you crowned it the winner of this year's Corporate Hall of Shame.

"This is your chance to speak out against the corporations that are devastating people's lives and the planet with impunity."

TAYLOR LEAKE | DIGITAL DIRECTOR

Veolia has been implicated in several water crises in the U.S. and around the world, perhaps most notably in Flint, Michigan. Yet, despite its history of abuse, Veolia is aggressively consolidating its control over water globally, including through the acquisition of rival water corporation Suez.

But we and our allies are challenging Veolia's expansion—from exposing its abuses in the media to mobilizing members like you to act. And by voting in the Corporate Hall of Shame, you are helping to shine a light on corporations that are exploiting communities, devastating the environment, and undermining democracy to make a profit. Thank you for taking action with us!

Vote now!

The ballot's now open for next year's Corporate Hall of Shame:
CorporateAccountability.org/CHOSFY24

Q&A

Member spotlight: Anna Mudd

Anna is a community builder and educator based in Boston, Massachusetts



Why is challenging corporate power important to you?

Corporations have done so much to form our public consciousness and maximize profits at the expense of people's well-being that this has become an accepted reality of how the world works. Challenging corporate power is about disrupting that notion and realizing that the inequitable conditions we live in are the result of direct choices that individuals and institutions made.

What is your role the social justice movement?

As a child of two community organizers, I learned early on what collective action means. Part of my role in the movement

is taking the wisdom that I gained when I was younger and sharing it with my peer groups who feel the despair and frustration from all of the intersecting crises in our world, but who are disconnected from the collective, strategic work that's happening.

What do you find effective about Corporate Accountability's campaigns?

Corporate Accountability not only pushes back against the corporate narrative of personal responsibility, but it also provides a way for people to engage in the work and take action. A lot of my peers know that individual actions, such as using paper straws instead of plastic ones, are not going to change the world

or stop the climate crisis, but they don't know what else to do. But together, we can push back against corporate power. It's so important that people understand that.

What is giving you hope right now?

We are stepping into a deep wellspring of skills and strategies from older generations who have accomplished big wins. And I believe we will make a lot of progress when we are guided by that wisdom.

Read more!

Don't miss an extended interview with Anna: CorporateAccountability.org/AnnaSpotlight

Historic victory in Ecuador

People power is advancing climate justice worldwide

"The Latin American peoples will continue fighting with strength, for our present and future."

NATHALIE RENGIFO ALVAREZ | LATIN AMERICA CLIMATE CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR

As part of our ongoing work to build trust and power with frontline communities in Latin America, Corporate Accountability has been working closely with our allies to advance the movement to Make Big Polluters Pay in the region.

This August, we organized in solidarity with them to unequivocally reject fossil fuel extraction. This culminated in a historic referendum, whereby Ecuadorians voted to keep the oil in the ground at Yasuni National Park, one of the world's most biodiverse regions located in the Ecuadorian Amazon. We

served on the international commission that oversaw this historic vote.

This victory involved many different communities in the country, including Indigenous communities who, for decades, have resisted Big Polluters' actions on their ancestral lands.

With this result, Ecuador becomes one of the first countries in the world to rein in the fossil fuel industry's plans on the continent. Most importantly, it's a shining example of people power and how, together, we can win against corporations and their abuses!



The Latin America Make Big Polluters Pay coalition is united in the demand to end fossil fuel extraction. Pictured: Neila Borari and Viviane Borari from the collective of Indigenous women, As Karuanas, at a march in Brazil. Photo credit: Nathalie Rengifo Alvarez, Corporate Accountability.

Learn more!

Meet our allies behind this win on Instagram: [@yasunidos](https://www.instagram.com/yasunidos)

Advancing water justice across borders

Continent-wide coalition leads third annual Africa Week of Action Against Water Privatization



The African Center for Advocacy (ACA), a member of the Our Water, Our Right Africa Coalition, worked with schools in Nkolofoulou, Cameroon, to raise awareness of public efforts to protect Africa's water resources and systems from privatization. Photo credit: ACA.

“Water privatization is the exploitation of the basic needs of our communities—and we refuse to be exploited any longer.”

UCHENNA NWAGBO | SENIOR WATER ORGANIZER

Water privatizers, backed by international institutions like the World Bank, have long had their sights set on the African continent as a massive market for water privatization.

But under the leadership of our partners in the Our Water, Our Right Africa Coalition (OWORAC), a coalition that we are proud to be a part of, communities all across the continent are mobilizing against this threat. And once again, for a full week in October, the coalition confronted major water privatizers to oppose the privatization of water under every guise and protect the human right to water for millions of people in the region.

Against the backdrop of the World Bank's annual meetings, the third annual Africa Week of Action was a platform for the coalition's members and communities to challenge the wider institutional push for water privatization. Together, OWORAC called on African

leaders to reject the corporate capture of Africa's water resources and systems.

This powerful week of mobilization was supported by in-country actions from OWORAC's partners across the continent. Representing 15 organizations across nearly a dozen countries, OWORAC members took to the streets, community centers, and the airwaves to expose the threat of water privatization.

Together with OWORAC, we are building power across borders and paving the way for a world where corporations can no longer profit from our most essential and life-giving resource. Together, we're advancing the global demand for water justice. And your support is helping to create the deep, long-term, and people-powered organizing we need to safeguard the human right to water for all. Thank you!



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Stronger together

Help build a just future for all

Contact Adjwoa Addae, membership organizer: 617.695.2525.

Visit our website at CorporateAccountability.org/Spotlight

Send in the enclosed envelope.

Your annual support matters

By renewing your support this year, you're putting power back in people's hands. Your gift will power Corporate Accountability's campaigns in the year ahead. Together, we're building a world rooted in justice where corporations answer to people, not the other way around.

Thank you for your support!



“Corporate Accountability challenges corporate power head-on. And their direct, strategic approach makes space for new ways that we can live and relate to each other.”

URSULA KORNEITCHOUK | MEMBER,
CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY



Corporate Accountability is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible as provided by law. Federal tax ID number: 41-1322686.

