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Annual Report 2021

Texas Campaign for the Environment Fund worked successfully on a range of projects in 2021, primarily focused on petrochemical facilities, fossil fuel and plastic pollution, and climate change initiatives.

Fossil Fuel Exports

Since its inception, fracking has been sold to the American public as a way to attain energy independence. In reality, drilling in the Permian Basin is now dependent on export. In 2021, TCE Fund sharpened our focus on fighting new and expanding fossil fuel export facilities and infrastructure along the Texas Gulf Coast. TCE Fund is part of a broad coalition of frontline neighbors and elected officials, marine life guardians, Indigenous groups, legal aid, recreational and commercial fisherfolk and other environmental advocates fighting these proposals.

We organized educational opportunities for supporters and allies such as online webinars preparing people to participate in online public comment sessions held by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Maritime Administration (MARAD) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). We facilitated a meeting between local activists, the Matagorda Bay fishing community and the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army Corps of Engineers, and helped generate local, statewide and national press coverage. We also worked with frontline leaders and coalition allies in Port Arthur to begin outreach efforts to build resistance to a new pipeline that would run through Sabine Lake to a massive offshore oil export terminal.

TCE Fund worked with allies across the state and country to generate thousands of public comments to decision-makers on proposed fossil fuel permits and environmental impact statements, including over 5,000 comments to the state environmental agency on a single air pollution permit. In another instance in the Coastal Bend, we set up an action alert and comment page for a proposed fossil fuel export permit in Redfish Bay. Indigenous allies brought the action to the attention of a popular Tik Tok influencer whose online video on the topic generated more than 4,000 public comments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in less than 48 hours.

As part of an international mass action in Germany, TCE Fund worked with local groups to send a Coastal Bend representative to join European allies and successfully defeat a proposed LNG import facility. We also led efforts to highlight Liberty Mutual's investment in fossil fuel infrastructure during its regional policyholder meeting in Plano, TX. TCE Fund recruited Texas policy-holders to sign an open letter calling on the company to stop financing and insuring fossil fuel projects. Company officials present at the meeting were persuaded to hear concerns of local Indigenous leader Yolonda Bluehorse, the co-founder of the Texas Society of Native Nations. To the knowledge of our coalition leadership, this was the first instance of the company agreeing to listen face-to-face (either in-person or virtual) to the concerns of any Indigenous leader.

TCE Fund has signed onto legal proceedings against proposed export facilities with allies as well. We have worked closely with frontline activists to provide communications support, skill-building and other resources. This robust public involvement is slowing down the efforts to quickly permit and build or expand fossil fuel export facilities and associated infrastructure.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of TCE Fund is to engage people and communities through face-to-face public education, grassroots organizing and action-oriented research for a cleaner and healthier Texas.

Fighting the Petrochemical Buildout

In the Coastal Bend, petrochemical facilities require massive amounts of water for their industrial processes, and local officials have proposed new baywater desalination plants to provide this water for future industry. TCE Fund is one of the key groups organizing grassroots opposition to the City and Port of Corpus Christi which have submitted two permit applications each for desalination plants to be sited in Corpus Christi Bay. All the permits are being officially opposed by local organizations and none has been granted. In part due to community comments, the EPA stated that they are concerned about these facilities and are using their authority under the Clean Water Act to oversee these permits. A wide variety of regional organizations oppose these plants in light of the harms that desalination plants could wreak on public health and the bay ecosystem.

TCE Fund secured funding for four air pollution monitors in the Coastal Bend as well. This project attracted the interest of a variety of scientists and now National Science Foundation grants are in the works to look at a variety of health and environmental impacts of the petrochemical industry. We have also worked with local allies and funders to secure start-up capital for the Coastal Bend Communications Collaborative, which will bring communications expertise and resources to local grassroots organizations and TCE Fund to highlight environmental issues via earned media and other public outreach projects.

Texas Grassroots Mini-Grants

TCE Fund was able to increase funding to continue and expand our program to provide mini-grants to grassroots environmental organizations in Texas. We are working to provide a reliable source of funds for small groups that don't usually have access to foundation grants. We also received additional support in early 2021 that allowed us to provide rapid-response grants to several groups in the aftermath of Winter Storm Uri. We dispersed mini-grants to Midlothian Breathe, Our Afrikan Family, Rio Grande International Study Center, Carrizo/Comecrudo Tribe of Texas, Society of Native Nations, Earthworks, Deceleration, FoodSource DFW, Community Resilience Trust, Signal Hill Area Alliance, and Fenceline Watch.

Strong Support for TCE Fund Initiatives

TCE Fund has diversified its funding sources with important contributions made by local, state and national organizations. Our 2021 supporters included High Tide, Winkler Family Foundation, Harold Simmons Foundation, Rockefeller Family Fund, Jacob & Terese Hershey Foundation, William J. J. Gordon Family Foundation, Movement Voter Project, Tortuga Foundation, Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, Tides Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Janelia Foundation, Juan M. Cordova Foundation, and Schmidt Family Foundation.

TCE Fund also receives funding from dedicated community giving days such as Amplify Austin and North Texas Giving Day, in addition to events that also benefit our sister organization (Texas Campaign for the Environment) such as the Trash Makeover Challenge. TCE Fund participates in EarthShare Texas, which facilitates employee giving through payroll contributions and other partnerships.

2021 Financials

Balance on hand 12/31/20	\$428,565
Total 2021 Income	\$2,333,632
Total 2021 Expenditures	\$1,278,690
Balance on hand 12/31/21	\$1,483,507

Over \$1,000,000 raised in 2021 toward projects in 2022

2022 ROSTER TCE FUND BOARD & STAFF

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Alan Krathaus, Treasurer
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Brandon Marks, Lead Coastal Bend Organizer
Chole Torres, Fossil Fuels Exports Organizer
SJ Stout, Communications Coordinator
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