



# transforming for good

*a green economy that works for everyone*

Our outlook and future will forever be changed by the global coronavirus pandemic, but we're committed to making progress to protect people's health and quality of life. We're at a turning point with energy development in Texas: right now, we have an opportunity to invest in more clean energy, safer and more dependable jobs, and more equitable access to a clean environment. With many drilling rigs at a standstill, we can choose to conserve and make better use of our finite resources while still fully employing our workforce in more sustainable energy industries. This transition is absolutely essential in order to address the growing problems of pollution and climate change, which affect our ability to grow our food, access clean air and water, and continue to thrive. We will continue working together to call on politicians and business leaders to act in the interest of all the people, not just an elite few.

## Insuring Our Future

In the last year, several large banks, asset managers, and insurance companies responded to pressure from supporters like you to stop backing dirty projects that impact our most sensitive ecosystems and exploit our energy resources for wasteful purposes like single-use plastics and harmful gas flaring. It is about time the biggest players in our economy start moving away from these projects—and it will be with your support that we push them even further.

## The Battle Over Our Texas Coast

Despite small businesses and oil field workers facing heavy losses, industry executives continue to invest in risky projects along the Texas Gulf Coast that aim to export even more of our energy resources overseas. We are continuing to work with a strong coalition of allies to oppose projects that put profits and corporate executives over workers and the larger community. Thanks in part to our efforts, our coalition has defeated or delayed projects that would threaten tourism, fishing, and other important aspects of our coastal economy. Even with these successes, major polluters continue to target the region with proposals for more dangerous facilities, so the battle is far from over.

## Getting Economic Relief for the People!

The new presidential administration brings new opportunities and challenges during this trying economic period. We are committed to holding our leaders in Washington, D.C. accountable to economic and environmental policies that benefit working families across Texas. Fossil fuel companies have received billions in loans, tax refunds, and waived royalty payments. Economic relief is needed most for struggling households—like those who have lost jobs in oil fields—and should help put everyone back to work at good paying, reliable jobs. We can't keep bailing out big business while leaving workers behind.

*TCE is proud to work with allies across the state who are fighting pollution. One of these groups is Indigenous People of the Coastal Bend, who works to protect sacred ancestral sites in their community from fossil fuel projects such as the Moda Oil Export Terminal.*



*30 years of empowering Texans to fight pollution*



ANNIVERSARY  
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# letter from Robin Schneider, TCE Executive Director



Thanks so much for your support of TCE during these very challenging times. I hope you are well and managing the current crises as best you can.

For our part, we miss seeing you! Almost everyone on staff started out as a door-to-door organizer. We thrive on connecting with you and tens of thousands of Texans in person, on your doorstep. It's a fundamental part of our organization's identity—and a key way we win our campaigns.

To say it's been a big adjustment for TCE is an understatement.

This year marks TCE's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and not even the pandemic has stopped us from doing our work to press towards a Texas free from pollution. In 2020, we ramped up our ability to call, text, and engage online with people all over the state. We had to do it, of course, but we're so proud of the way our staff rose to the occasion. Our canvassers made over 200,000 calls and we sent out more than 100,000 pieces of mail, hosted Zoom webinars and meet-ups, put up billboards, and used social media to circulate eye-catching video and imagery.

The Texas Legislature is back in session. As usual, we're fighting bad legislation that would aid polluters. Perhaps most importantly, however, we're working to hold state officials accountable for the epic failure of our infrastructure during the extreme weather crisis that left millions of Texans freezing and in the dark, many without running water. I find it completely unacceptable that our politicians—many of whom are obviously and shamelessly in the energy industry's back pocket—refused to acknowledge it was greed and lack of preparation, not windmills, that caused the blackouts that led to so much suffering. We want answers and we want change. We'll need your help to do it.

While Texas is poised for huge gains in a green economy, we're also burdened with pollution from fossil fuels, petrochemicals, and other industries. Asthma, cancer, and COVID-19 death rates have demonstrated that communities of color and working families suffer disproportionately. Environmental justice is an imperative, and clean energy is poised to create thousands of stable jobs to get us out of the boom-and-bust cycles of the oil and gas industry—the industry that failed us so miserably during our winter weather crisis and harms so many all over the state.

TCE has accomplished so much in our first 30 years, and we have so much more work to do. Thanks for sticking with us. You make it possible for TCE to organize and win.

*Robin Schneider*

## meet the staff



*We can't wait 'til we can knock on your door again!*

At first it was kinda cute and fun, all of us in our little Zoom boxes, posing with our pets and plants, making the best of the situation. Now, a year in, we're sooo ready to be back out there talking to you and your neighbors face to face. Until then, we promise we'll do everything we can to keep fighting for change.

Join us for our  
Virtual Annual  
Meeting on  
April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Register on  
our website!

## contact us



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# regional updates

In the Metroplex, we educated Dallas residents on local climate solutions and helped them participate in the public input process for the city's first ever Climate Action Plan, which passed in May 2020. Dallas also implemented a universal recycling policy for multi-family buildings on Jan 1, 2020, and we have worked to educate residents on how to divert more waste from landfills. Building on this, we will work with community members, forward-thinking businesses, and food organizations to encourage the city to move forward with a program for food enterprises to divert organic waste. In Denton, we helped organize residents to attend a virtual public meeting on the city's application to expand its landfill, and we continue to work with residents and businesses to encourage the city to expand recycling access to apartment complexes and businesses and to create a food waste diversion program.

d/fw

Throughout 2020 we continued to inform and mobilize residents about the important initiatives impacting Greater Houston. In July, we worked with over twenty local organizational allies to encourage the City of Houston to not only provide transparency but also to include a committee of affected citizens as they move into the implementation stage of the Climate Action Plan. We had several successful campaigns, including an acknowledgement from health officials of cancer clusters in local communities and a commitment to introduce multi-family recycling, preserve landfill capacity, and realize environmental and economic benefits by reducing the disposal of organic resources. As we look to 2021, we are optimistic that we will be instrumental in working with Harris County officials to publish and implement a county-wide Climate Action Plan.

houston

In Central Texas, TCE has been in the arena fighting for communities. We organized over 600 public comments as well as Travis County and City of Austin officials to oppose Waste Management's plan to build a massive transfer station on the site of its problem landfill in Northeast Travis County. While that struggle continues in the courts, we did convince the Austin City Council to stop sending waste generated by the city to this poorly operated dump. We provided key guidance to neighbors during the formation of a new non-profit specifically geared toward challenging polluters in this area. Alongside pilots and homeowners, we spent much of the year contesting a potentially dangerous expansion of a trash facility adjacent to Austin-Bergstrom, where irresponsible operating practices attract birds—which can pose a hazard to air traffic—directly under the airport's flight path.

austin

TCE and allies educated and mobilized residents about the four proposed desalination plants that would pollute the Corpus Christi Bay system with millions of gallons of salty wastewater every day. These "desal" facilities were proposed to accommodate more massive petrochemical plants in the area. Taxpayers are expected to pay for these desal plants, which became a top issue in the Corpus Christi City Council races. The most vocal advocate for desalination was the incumbent Mayor—and he was the only incumbent to lose. So far, two petrochemical facilities have been delayed and three others have been cancelled—including "Project Falcon," which would have been the largest plastics plant of its kind in the world. We are also challenging export terminals that would add massive amounts of toxic air pollution and fuel climate changing emissions worldwide.

coastal bend

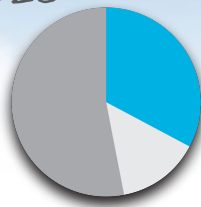


# financials

The most positive way we can put it: 2020 was *different*. The suspension of door-to-door canvassing reduced our single biggest income stream to a trickle! However, thanks to unwavering support from Texans like you—and a healthy addition of project-specific contributions—we not only survived, but even managed to thrive. We hope to resume grassroots organizing in neighborhoods throughout the state in the coming months. Until then, we need you to keep backing our work in other ways—like using the enclosed envelope to renew your contribution today. Please help us keep fighting for clean air, water and land, no matter what 2021 throws at us!

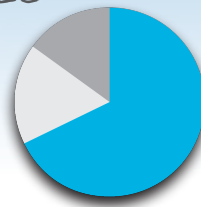
where we got our funding in 2020  
revenue total: **\$1,257,319**

- 33% grassroots contributions from individual Texans
- 14% major gifts & events
- 53% projects funding



how we used our funding in 2020  
expense total: **\$1,189,799**

- 68% environmental advocacy, community organizing & public education
- 17% managing TCE
- 15% fundraising to sustain TCE



source: TCE financial statement, 2020



**TEXAS CAMPAIGN  
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT**

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**VIRTUAL  
TRASH  
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CHALLENGE**  
★  
**10th  
YEAR**  
★  
**DEEP  
IN THE  
SOUL  
Texas**



**2020  
grand prize  
winner**

PHOTO COURTESY OF DOUBLE Z PRODUCTIONS

**10th  
Annual**

## **TRASH MAKEOVER CHALLENGE**

We have to be honest here: when it became abundantly clear our biggest annual fundraising event (and best party, for sure) would either go virtual or simply not happen, we got a little worried. But in true TCE style, our staff, our board and an amazing group of volunteers rallied to pull it off—and had an absolute blast in the process! While we truly wish we could say with any degree of certainty we'll be holding this year's event in person, clinking glasses and taking silly selfies with some of our favorite people, we just can't. However, we can say there will be a show this fall...even if we're all still tuning in from our living rooms. In any case, keep an eye out for details and please know we're so ready to dance with y'all again.

