

Climate Emergency Fund



2023 Annual Report





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Message from the Board President



As a climate scientist, I once believed that if we scientists told the truth about the climate emergency, if we made it clear with diligent and irrefutable research, then our policymakers and officials would act rationally and snap into action. Instead, fossil fuel extraction continues and our planet continues to warm. World leaders have known about the threat for decades and have continued to do little to stop it.

So, I became an activist. I joined the activist group Scientist Rebellion and over the last 2 years, I have taken part in 15 protests—including being arrested for non-violent civil disobedience 7 times. It has been an inspiring and energizing experience to get in the streets with my fellow scientists and my fellow humans.

These are ordinary people doing extraordinary things.

Climate Emergency Fund was a core financial supporter of Scientist Rebellion, and several of the other groups I protested with. So when I was invited to join Climate Emergency Fund and become their Board President, I was excited to join an organization that provides desperately needed support for disruptive activism and the groups fighting on the frontlines. As a proud activist myself, I know how under-resourced climate activist groups are and how crucial these grants can be. **Only powerful, nonviolent disruptive action can help wake up the public to climate urgency** – and Climate Emergency Fund takes a chance on groups doing the

boldest actions throughout the United States and beyond. The stakes are so high, but the activists in these groups are so inspiring and bring us so much hope.

As a non-endowed fund, Climate Emergency Fund relies on visionary donors who are eager to play a role in creating transformative change. We hope you join us and stand with climate activists—your support is essential to building a movement and winning the fight to save our planet.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rose Zheng Abramoff'.

Rose Zheng Abramoff, PhD
Board Chair

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The climate emergency is here.

2023 was the hottest year in human history, bringing massive wildfires, flooding, storms, crop failure, and mass displacement. Our politicians and institutions who are supposed to protect us are failing miserably.

The public is sleepwalking off a cliff. Thankfully, brave disruptive climate activists are shaking humanity awake. We are proud to support them and we are deeply grateful to our donors for making it possible.

In 2023, Climate Emergency Fund made **\$3.7 million** in grants to disruptive climate activists, a relatively modest amount that made a huge impact, enabling our grantees to grow and win tremendous victories, some of which you will read about in this report.

Funding these activists is a huge, still

wildly under-utilized opportunity!

It is extremely challenging for these activists to secure financial support, especially in their early stages. This means that the grants have a huge impact on the groups and their ability to grow and succeed.

Climate Emergency Fund welcomed Jeremy Strong to our Board, and Rose Abramoff as our new Board President. Jeremy Strong is a brilliant actor and dedicated climate movement supporter, and Rose Abramoff is a climate scientist and disruptive activist herself.



We raise all of the funds we give away, and we provide a safe, legal, tax-deductible way to support the boldest activism. Even at this late hour, there are still reasons for hope, and we thank you for your support as we look to safeguard a future that sustains life on our planet.

Onward!

Margaret Klein Salamon, PhD
Executive Director

Our Mission

Climate Emergency Fund supports disruptive, non-violent climate activism because it is the fastest way to create transformative change.

Climate Emergency Fund is a 501c(3) non-profit organization; we are a bridge between philanthropists and grassroots campaigns.

We make strategic grants to empower the movement that is waking up the public to the climate emergency through nonviolent disruption. We fund highly ambitious climate groups building the much-needed people power that can overcome the power of the fossil fuel industry and pressure the government to treat climate breakdown like the emergency that it is. Our grantees disrupt normalcy, build narrative power, and force governments to take concrete steps toward a just, livable, zero-emissions future.



Year in Review

Transformative Impact

By the Numbers

60 grants made

34 orgs funded

\$3,740,000
granted out

214,000
protestors mobilized

44,000
media hits earned
by our grantees



Bridging the Gap

Why Funding Disruptive Protest is So Critical

A healthy movement ecosystem includes many groups pursuing many different, complementary methods to create change, all of which play an important role in securing policy change. But a robust disruptive flank plays a uniquely critical role in a healthy movement ecosystem, changing the political landscape and building pressure in a way no other strategy can, and increasing the effectiveness of all other theories of change. When a movement lacks a disruptive component, the entire ecosystem can be rendered toothless, too often ignored by the media and political leaders.

These dynamics are well-understood in academia - [in a recent survey of social movement experts](#), “the strategic use of non-violent disruptive tactics” was named as the most critical element determining an overall movement’s likelihood of success.

Despite the massive and proven impact of disruptive protest, the disruptive flank of the climate movement remains critically under-funded. According to ClimateWorks, [only 1% of European foundation giving went to grassroots and movement building](#); only a fraction of that 1% actually funded disruptive protest. Similar data does not exist for the US, but we suspect the picture is even more dire.

**Climate Emergency Fund
exists to fill that gap.**

By focusing our grantmaking on the disruptive arm of the climate movement, we are able to achieve stunning return on investments for our grants. Our grantees are at the leading edge of the global climate movement, and we are proud to support their brave activities.

Extinction Rebellion Netherlands

Winning Historic Victories

For months, XR Netherlands [led major disruptive protests](#) of Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport, calling for the airport to ban highly polluting private jets. They brought bikes onto the tarmac! In April of 2023, Schiphol met the group's demands and announced that it would [ban private jets](#) as soon as 2025, becoming the first major airport in the world to announce such a ban.

With Climate Emergency Fund support, XR Netherlands capitalized on the momentum generated by this win and launched a mass recruitment drive. After months of organizing, XR announced that they would block the key A12 highway leading into the Hague every day until their demand for an end to fossil fuel subsidies was met.

Day after day, thousands of protesters kept coming back to execute the blockades, leading to over 9,000 arrests.

Despite [extensive use of water cannons](#) against the protesters, the disruptions [remained joyful](#).

After 27 days, faced with this incredible pressure, the Dutch government finally capitulated. On October 10, the Dutch parliament [ordered a plan](#) for phasing out

fossil fuel subsidies; in addition, the Dutch environmental minister is now [calling for the EU](#) to phase out fossil fuel subsidies as well! This move represents one of the largest ever wins for the global climate movement, and CEF was proud to support.



Netherlands police use water cannon, detain 2,400 climate activists

September 9, 2023 2:44 PM MST · Updated 5 months ago



Dutch-led coalition moves to phase out fossil fuel subsidies at COP28

December 9, 2023 6:16 AM MST · Updated 2 months ago





GRANTEE HIGHLIGHT

Climate Defiance

Climate Defiance launched at the beginning of 2023 with seed funding from Climate Emergency Fund. With its bold, disruptive, in-your-face actions, Climate Defiance quickly positioned itself on the cutting edge of the US climate movement. It catapulted itself into the public eye with its major disruption of the annual [White House Correspondents Dinner in May 2023](#).

Throughout 2023, Climate Defiance executed dozens of high-profile actions following a familiar script: an establishment politician or bureaucrat shows up at a political event expecting to shmooze donors or greenwash their climate policies, only to have the event completely taken over and shut down by young protesters, unfurling banners and chanting until they are arrested or until their target flees the stage. These protests have generated hundreds of news stories and tens of millions of views on social media.

The disruptions are beginning to have a profound impact on policymakers. Climate Defiance forced the resignation of two of its targets in 2023. And in January 2024, the Biden Administration met one of Climate Defiance's key demands when it paused all approvals for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) export facilities, including the disastrous "[carbon megabomb](#)" CP2 project in Louisiana. This move came just weeks after a meeting between Climate Defiance and Top US Climate Diplomat John Podesta, who allegedly blurted out during the meeting, "why do you keep bringing up CP2 over and over again?" US representative Ro Khanna says that he gives Climate Defiance "[the most credit](#)" for the LNG postponement, calling them a "game-changing organization." We are incredibly proud to be Climate Defiance's lead funder, and we can't wait to see what they pull off in 2024.

The New York Times

Climate Protesters Get in Fed's Face as Policy Clash Grows Louder

Jerome H. Powell, the central bank's chair, has been interrupted recently by a climate group that thinks disruption will win the day.



The Atlantic

Why Biden Handed Climate Activists a Huge Victory

He still wants to look like the climate president.

By Zoë Schlanger



CEF & Our Grantees in the Press

euronews.
green

Dutch police fire water cannons and detain thousands of protesters in fossil fuel roadblock



REUTERS

Berlin's Brandenburg Gate spray-painted by climate activists



The New York Times

Climate Protesters Interrupt Met Performance of Wagner's 'Tannhäuser'

Met officials were forced to bring down the curtain halfway through the opera as protesters unfurled banners that read "No Opera On A Dead Planet." The performance later resumed.



The Guardian



Big oil uncovered
Climate activists block Federal Reserve bank, calling for end to fossil fuel funding

Bloomberg



Meet the Money Behind Disruptive Climate Protests

Backed by Hollywood, the Climate Emergency Fund is quietly financing a new generation of in-your-face environmental activists.

OILPRICE.com
The No. 1 Source for Oil & Energy News

'This Is Rigged' Protesters Shut Down 70% of Scottish Fuel Supplies



The Guardian



Climate crisis
New breed of climate protesters vows to take fight to 'cowards' of US politics

THE CHRONICLE OF PHILANTHROPY

Coco Gauff Won. So Did Climate-Change Protestors.

Donors shouldn't be afraid to fund protest actions like the one at the U.S. Open last week. They are effective — even if they're unpopular.

By Margaret Klein Salamon
SEPTEMBER 12, 2023



INDEPENDENT

Disney heiress cut from pipe and arrested in climate protest over private jets in the Hamptons

Ariana Baio
July 17, 2023 · 3 min read



AXIOS

Exclusive: "Succession" star Jeremy Strong joins board of Climate Emergency Fund



Actor Jeremy Strong and Climate Emergency Fund executive director Margaret Klein Salamon at an anti-fossil fuels protest Sept. 17 in New York.



**CLIMATE
EMERGENCY
FUND**

A Word From Our Co-Founder

The Climate Emergency Fund was founded in order to support courageous climate activists who utilize nonviolent civil disobedience and mass protest to demand transformative change. We are incredibly proud of our grantees and their remarkable achievements. They are at the forefront driving historic policy shifts, securing billions of dollars in climate funding, and helping to create a fossil free world. Thank you to all of our donors who are deploying their dollars to fight for life on this planet.

— Rory Kennedy
Co-Founder & Board Treasurer

Donor Highlights



I've been watching the press and research on climate change for years with a growing sense of dread, but I felt mostly powerless to do much about it. When I first learned about Climate Emergency Fund, I was excited to support the effort, given its high potential for impact. Our organization is proud to offer CEF pro bono support and resources for their public communications efforts. CEF's work gives me hope that youth around the world recognize the stakes of climate change, and that they will not relent until the fight is won.

Ulrich Boser
CEO & Founder, The Learning Agency



I have been committed to climate activism since the first moment I realized Governments weren't taking this emergency seriously. I have made films about climate, started Yellow Dot studios, joined the board of Climate Emergency Fund, auctioned off collectibles and, along with my wife Shira Piven, given generously from our family foundation to support activists. We believe that brave activists are our best hope, and we are proud to support them.

Adam McKay



I am terrified of the future of our climate, and I believe that non-violent civil disobedience is the best way to create transformative change. **At 63 I thought it was time to put my own body on the line for the future of my children.** I was arrested along with a group of climate activists for blocking private jets flying in and out of East Hampton Airport.



I am happy to support Climate Emergency Fund through philanthropic efforts to help make the frontline work of activists possible. We need a lot more to be done to avert catastrophe and help keep our children and grandchildren safe. Climate Emergency Fund and their grantees inspire hope in their relentless belief that we can stand together and change the world.

Abigail Disney

Funder List

We are so grateful for the generosity of the almost 2,000 donors who supported Climate Emergency Fund in 2023. While it is our policy to keep donors anonymous unless otherwise stated, the following supporters have generously agreed to receive recognition for their contributions.

Agentives Fund

Aileen Getty
Foundation

animal, ltd.

Matt Austern

Yuval Bar-Zemer

Frances & Steven
Berman

Alex Butcher

Camila Amaya C.

Stephanie Carlisle

Andrea Cochran

James Crowley

Abigail Disney

Geralyn Dreyfous

Breanne Duncan

Sarah Ezzy

Lisa Ferguson
& Jeremy Lent

Elizabeth Fyne

Sergio G.

Rebecca Gonshak

Good&Proper

Cornelius Grove

Mark Humowiecki
& Kara Finck

Blake Jensen

Jane Kachmer
Management

Anya Kamenetz &
Adam Berenzweig

Kaplen Brothers
Fund

Kellan

Rory Kennedy

Brady Knight

Felix Kramer &
Rochelle Lefkowitz

David Leon

Jeff & Ana
Levy-Lyons

Hao-Li Loh

Rachel MacNeill

Make Sunsets

Marshall and Yuko
Hung Foundation

Adam McKay

Gail Milliken

Neumeier Taylor
Foundation Fund

Nick Newberry

Shannon O'Leary
Joy

Putnam Foundation

Jo Radner

Laura Shaffer

Elizabeth Sheehan

Silo Redistribution
Fund

The Streisand
Foundation

Jeremy Strong

Jakob & Eleah
Sunde

Ben Sutherland

Addie May
Swarbrick Schwarz

Robin Thurston
& Josh Louria

David Timberlake

Ernest J. Tollerson III

UTA Foundation

Ryan Voldstad

Helena Wasserman

Koen Wijffelaars

Rose Zheng
Abramoff

Amy Ziering

Financial Overview

2023 SUMMARY

\$3.74M

Total Grants
Allocated

\$1.44M

Total Assets

\$4.8M

Total Expenses

OVERALL EXPENSES



77.87% Grants

8.13% Operations/ Administrative

8% Fundraising

6% Program/Communications

| | Consolidated Unaudited 2023 | Consolidated Audited 2022 |
|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$1,421,902 | \$1,237,365 |
| Contributions receivable | \$985,000 | \$3,000,000 |
| Investments | \$20,500 | \$14,180 |
| Equipment | \$1,465 | \$1,832 |
| Total assets | \$2,428,867 | \$4,253,377 |
| LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS | | |
| Grants payable | \$112,000 | \$100,000 |
| Without donor restrictions | \$4,693,137 | \$4,153,377 |
| Total Liabilities and Net Assets | \$4,805,137 | \$4,253,377 |
| REVENUE | | |
| Contributions | \$4,693,137 | \$6,048,910 |
| Investment income | \$20,500 | \$7,323 |
| Total Revenue and Support | \$4,713,637 | \$6,056,233 |
| EXPENSES | | |
| Grants | \$3,743,000 | \$5,096,164 |
| Program / Communications | \$288,509 | \$373,642 |
| Fundraising | \$384,466 | \$493,564 |
| Operations / Administrative | \$390,808 | \$200,156 |
| Total Revenue and Support | \$4,713,637 | \$6,056,233 |

Board & Staff

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Rory Kennedy
Co-Founder
Board Treasurer



**Rose Zheng
Abramoff, PhD**
Board President



**Shannon
O'Leary Joy**
Board Secretary



**Geralyn
Dreyfous**



Adam McKay



Jeremy Strong

STAFF



**Margaret Klein
Salamon, PhD**
Executive Director



Sophie Tong-Try
Operations Director



Russell Gray
Program Officer



Yusra Razouki
Development Officer



Crystal Craig
Development
Operations Manager

BOARD OF ADVISORS



Bich Ngoc Cao



Laura Dawn



Zain Haq



Jane Kachmer



**Stephen
Kretzmann**



Bill McKibben



**David Wallace
Wells**

Ways to Give

Donors who are willing to fund direct action have the opportunity to make a real impact. Join us in supporting these brave, effective activists.

Donate Online

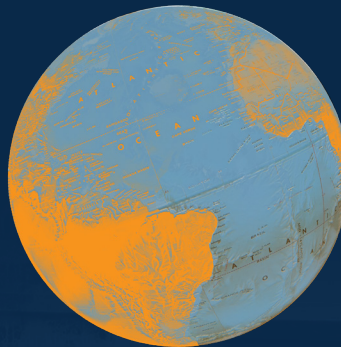
Donating online, either one-time or monthly, is the fastest, easiest way to contribute to our work.

Visit our website at climateemergencyfund.org where we accept credit card, PayPal, Venmo, and Google Pay as well as bank transfers.

Donate by Check

Help support activists by mailing a check to:

Climate Emergency Fund
8605 Santa Monica Blvd
PMB 56492
West Hollywood, CA 90069



Donate by Wire, Stock or Other Means

Please contact our Development Officer, Yusra Razouki at donation@cefund.org for account information or any questions you may have on how to donate.

Planned Giving

Planned gifts are another way to make an impact and leave lasting legacy. If you are considering leaving a bequest to CEF, please discuss this option with a legal advisor. We can help provide sample language to assist you.

Workplace Giving

Consider workplace giving as a way to contribute to our mission. Many companies provide charitable giving services or match their employees' contributions.

Contact your employer to see if your company participates in a matching or payroll deduction program.

Climate Emergency Fund is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) corporation and our EIN is 84-2151545. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. To contact us, email donation@cefund.org.

NO NEW OIL