We launched Equation Campaign in 2020 to raise funds and fast-track resources to organizations filling gaps in two critically under-resourced pieces of the climate solutions equation. Our grantmaking: (1) prevents future warming and hastens the transition to a more just and sustainable future by funding supply side campaigns to halt or delay the expansion of oil and gas in the United States; and (2) invests in the power of frontline communities to protect their rights and homelands from fossil fuel industry harms while strengthening their leadership in the growing movement for climate and racial justice.

**2020 At A Glance**

- We established the **Frontline Environmental Justice Fund** and the **Climate Legal Defense Fund**, our two new regranting mechanisms that raise and direct resources to ground zero of the climate crisis by supporting brave and effective leaders and groups who may lack visibility within the philanthropic community.

- We catalyzed three new programs to build capacity and infrastructure for a more diverse and robust climate justice movement: the new **Climate Parent Fellowship**, **Fossil Free University**, and the **Equation Fellows Program**.

- We helped seed fund three critical organizations supporting the movement and advocating for the rights of those most impacted by the oil and gas industry: the **Pipeline Fighters Hub**, the **Center for Protest Law and Litigation**, and **Stop the Money Pipeline**.

- We gave first-time grants to two indigenous organizations with years-long track records of success fighting the oil and gas industry: **Mazaska Talks** and **Giniw Collective**.

WHERE WE FUND

Equation Campaign supports place-based efforts to block new oil and gas infrastructure and advance racial and environmental justice. A majority of our funding is awarded to campaigns led by frontline organizations, where industry and climate impacts are high, and where climate philanthropy has been historically low.

2020 Site Fights

2021 Site Fights
FUNDING TO WIN

Equation Campaign supports initiatives that disrupt the power of the industry and build the power of movements to confront oil and gas expansion in the United States. Our grantmaking in 2020 supported four core strategies to pull on the very levers that have given the industry its unprecedented influence:

Money: Shifting Risks, Benefits & the Bottom Line

Many parts of the financial sector are still funding, insuring, and investing in the oil and gas industry. Through our finance-focused grantmaking and associated media investments, we elevate the risks of funding fossil fuels with the goal of stopping “the money pipeline.”

In 2020, our grantees and their allies achieved substantial victories:

- Five of the six largest US banks prohibited funding Arctic oil and gas projects.
- 23 major insurers adopted policies ending or limiting underwriting for coal, and nine did the same for tar sands.
- Mutual fund giant BlackRock announced it would “center sustainability in its business model” in response to pressure from our grantees at Stop the Money Pipeline and its member organizations.
- Organizers from the Rio Grande Valley, in partnership with the Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe of Texas, successfully campaigned for the withdrawal of four major financers of LNG terminals at the Port of Brownsville. In early 2021, our grantees successfully campaigned for the permanent cancellation of one of these proposed terminals.

Mazaska Talks leads a demonstration to encourage Seattle to end their financial relationship with Wells Fargo.

Photo: Mazaska Talks
Media: Rewriting the Narrative

We work to counter the oil and gas industry's multi-billion dollar public relations machine by amplifying the voices of people who experience its harms the most. Our grants enable people to tell their own stories by expanding the capacity of frontline champions and supply side movement organizations.

2020 Highlights:

• We funded Native Roots Radio’s Line 3 reporting, and helped incubate Fossil Free Media, a nonprofit communications lab that produced a new research library for supply side communications strategies.

• We supported Season 4 of Drilled and Inequality Media's award-winning explainer video on The Solutions to the Climate Crisis No One is Talking About to activate new constituencies and focus their attention on fossil fuels.

Law: Changing the Rules

We support a standing army of lawyers to strengthen legal efforts to stop new or expanded oil and gas projects and to defend activists facing legal repression and retaliation from the industry.

2020 Highlights:

• Water Protectors Legal Collective won key victories in their groundbreaking class action lawsuit challenging law enforcement’s 2016 use of fire hoses and munitions against water protectors at Standing Rock.

• The Texas Civil Rights Project continued to challenge laws suppressing free speech and association and to advocate against what they call the criminal injustice system in Texas.

• Honor the Earth and Friends of the Headwaters filed multiple new legal challenges to the Line 3 tar sands pipeline in Minnesota.

• We convened constitutional and criminal lawyers to map a national strategy to challenge critical infrastructure and anti-protest laws.

• We invested in a more diverse bench of future climate lawyers with grants to the Thurgood Marshall Center at Howard Law School and the Just Transition Lawyers Network and Symposium.
The Movement: Growing Grassroots and Political Power

All three of the above strategies - financial, legal and media - rely on the momentum and power of a movement to demand and achieve rapid transformation. Growing a movement requires funding local organizations and communities hit hardest by the human rights, health, and environmental abuses of the fossil fuel industry.

2020 Highlights:

- We funded the launch of the Pipeline Fighters Hub which provides legal, technical, and organizing expertise to local communities fighting oil and gas infrastructure across the country. They produced a strategic analysis and issued a red alert on the acceleration of the construction of the Line 3 pipeline through untouched wetlands and Anishinaabe treaty territory. Their analysis, coupled with the calls to action from Equation Campaign grantees including Giniw Collective and Honor the Earth, mobilized thousands and focused national attention on this dangerous tar sands pipeline.

- We dispatched urgent support during the COVID-19 pandemic to the Promise to Protect coalition of Indigenous communities, rural landowner organizations, and national NGOs to reinforce their opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline which was fast-tracked by the Trump administration as “essential” work.

- We gave Mazaska Talks their first grant, supporting their leadership in passing a moratorium on the expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure in King County, Washington, effectively blocking several planned projects on the Canada-Washington border.

- To expand capacity and help focus the energy of the growing parents and youth climate movements, we pioneered Fossil Free University, a virtual climate advocacy bootcamp, and seed funded a new Climate Parent Fellowship program to train, network and fund these new leaders.

Winona LaDuke of Honor The Earth, Tara Houska of Giniw Collective, and Jane Fonda host a press conference at the headwaters of the Mississippi river to advocate against Enbridge’s Line 3 tar sands pipeline

Photo: Honor The Earth
OUR DONOR PARTNERS

We work with philanthropic and individual donors to give historically underfunded groups a fighting chance to challenge climate injustice and build a sustainable future. In addition to our $2.1 million in grantmaking in 2020, we leveraged $1.4 million in funding through co-investments in our grantees. We are grateful to our generous individual donors and philanthropic contributors, including 11th Hour Project of the Schmidt Family Foundation, David Rockefeller Fund, ImpactAssets, The JPB Foundation, Maine Community Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, Marshall and Yuko Hung Foundation, Open Society Foundations, Overbrook Foundation, Rachel’s Network, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and Wallace Global Fund, and to our partners making aligned grants, including 11th Hour Project of the Schmidt Family Foundation, Aileen Getty Foundation, CS Fund, David Rockefeller Fund, Hive Fund for Climate and Gender Justice, Overbrook Foundation, Rockefeller Family Fund, Solidaire, True Costs Initiative, UMI Fund, Wallace Global Fund, and Zegar Family Foundation.

These charts reflect the combined grantmaking of the Equation Campaign and our donor partners in each of our strategic focus areas.

GRANTS BY STRATEGY

- Money: Shifting Risks, Benefits & The Bottom Line
- Media: Rewriting the Narrative
- Law: Changing the Rules
- The Movement: Growing Grassroots and Political Power

2020 GRANTEES

Money: Shifting Risks, Benefits & The Bottom Line

- Action Center on Race & The Economy
- Better Future Project
- Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe of Texas
- Center for Protest Law and Litigation
- Drilled
- EarthRights International
- Fire Drill Fridays (via Greenpeace)
- Fossil Free Media
- Giniw Collective
- Hip Hop Caucus
- Honor the Earth
- Inequality Media
- Just Transition Lawyers Network and Symposium
- Mazaska Talks
- MCEA
- Minnesota Interfaith Peace and Light
- MOVE Texas
- NAACP
- Native Roots Radio
- NDN Collective
- Our Kids Climate
- Pipeline Fighters Hub (via Bold Alliance)
- Polluters Out
- Stop the Money Pipeline
- UCI Community Resilience Projects
- Friends of the Headwaters
- Texas Civil rights Project
- Thurgood Marshall Center for Civil Rights
- Unkitiwa
- Water Protectors Legal Collective