



BLUE RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE LEAGUE

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The LEAGUE LINE

SUMMER 2018

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How Do You Know If You Are Winning?

By Pastor Cary Rodgers

Many BREDL members who are in the “drenches” of an environmental justice fight such as proposed methane transport pipeline that will cut across their farm did not imagine they would ever be involved in environmental issues. Many assumed and took for granted that the environmental state and federal regulatory agencies who are paid by the taxes of hard working Americans are reasonable and have the best interest of the health, water, and air of every citizen. They also thought that once their names were written on the deed of their properties that the U.S. Constitution protected them from corporate predators and thieves. They were ignorant of the many environmental injustice issues that people face on a daily basis.

It wasn't until they received a letter in the mail or a neighbor telling them about a proposed industrial project that would directly affect the health of their family and property that they became aware environmental injustice issues. They didn't see themselves as environmentalist, but everyday citizens that just wanted to protect their families and rights. They decided to stand up and defend against the corporate predators that were trying to take their land or dump tons of poisons in their air or water. Over time they unified their efforts with other local citizens addressing the same issue to form a BREDL chapter. They came together and implemented strategic campaigns. As time lapses the reality of the inconsistency and inefficiency of the state and federal regulatory agencies comes to light and many realize the fight would not be easy. They realize how greedy many corporations have become over the years and that they are more interested in increasing their profits

each year more than the health and safety of others. They also realize that the corporate thieves dangle millions of dollars over the heads of the politicians and regulators to influence and manipulate them.

Regardless of the challenges and formidable tasks before them, they fight to stop the environmental injustice. It was not as if they were looking for a fight, but the fight came to them by corporate bullies. Because of their love for their families and community they didn't lay down and give up, they fought. They explore and implement every possible strategy and operations in the fight. Sometimes the fight may be relatively short, but the majority may take three or five years plus. In many cases the toxic proposal is delayed because of the opposition of the unified voices. The more each toxic proposal is delayed the greater the chances that it will be stopped.

Yes, sometimes when you are deep in the fight to protect your family from a major environmental disaster and you may seem unsure if you are winning or not. The polluting corporations try to make the fight as difficult and discouraging as possible hoping that their opposition will quit. We MUST not quit but stay the course. If we quit, we are guaranteed to lose in the end. So how do you know that you are winning? You are winning because you are still in the fight and refuse to give up. This is not the time to quit and allow a greedy corporation to trample on your family's health and your property rights. Never forget, winning is staying in the fight. ■



2018



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BREDL: Who and what we are

In March 1984, fifty citizens of Ashe and Watauga Counties met in the Mission House of Holy Trinity Church in Glendale Springs, North Carolina. Teachers and farmers, home-makers and merchants listened to the report of the Episcopal Church Women on the US Department of Energy's siting search for a high-level nuclear waste dump in the rain-rich east.

Recognizing that the North Carolina mountains were a region at risk, the assembled group organized the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL) to protect their own backyard and those of other threatened communities.

Grassroots organizing was a cornerstone of our early all-volunteer organization. One of our first multi-county boards of directors adopted our credo, which embodies our mission statement:

BREDL Credo

We believe in the practice of earth stewardship, not only by our league members, but by our government and the public as well. To foster stewardship, BREDL encourages government and citizen responsibility in conserving and protecting our natural resources. BREDL advocates grassroots involvement in order to empower whole communities in environmental issues. BREDL functions as a "watchdog" of the environment, monitoring issues and holding government officials accountable for their actions. BREDL networks with citizen groups and agencies, collecting and disseminating accurate, timely information.

BREDL sets standards for environmental quality, and awards individuals and agencies who uphold these standards in practice.

Moving into the future

Since then, the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League has grown to be a regional community-based, nonprofit environmental organization. Our founding principles - earth stewardship, environmental democracy, social justice and community empowerment - still guide our work for social change. Our staff and volunteers put into practice the ideals of love of community and love of neighbor, which help us to serve the movement for environmental protection and progressive social change in Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee.

Grassroots Campaigns

Nothing creates hopefulness out of helplessness like a successful grassroots campaign - and our chapters have a history of winning. For over twenty-eight years Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League chapters have protected their communities by stopping dangerous facilities and promoting safe alternatives.

In the 1980's and 1990's, BREDL prevented a multi-state ThermalKEM hazardous waste incinerator, a southeastern nuclear waste dump and a national nuclear waste dump. In the 2000's, our coordinated grassroots citizens' campaigns have had further victories. We won a legislative victory with the passage of the NC Solid Waste Act, effectively blocking at least four multi-state mega-dumps. Our Person County chapter convinced their Board of Commissioners to reject expansion of the Republic Services landfill. Our Cascade, Virginia, chapter shut down a huge hazardous waste incinerator. We eliminated mercury waste from the Stericycle incinerator, shut down a tire incinerator in Martinsville, won the landmark environmental justice court decision in Greene County, NC. Further, with our chapters we have protected air quality by blocking scores of asphalt plants, four medical waste incinerators, a PVC plant and a lead smelter, and passage by local governments of eight polluting industries ordinances. Our work on nuclear power and coal plants laid the groundwork for our new Safe Energy Campaign. Victories over twenty-four mega-dumps have resulted in our affirmative Zero Waste Campaign. Guided by the principles of earth stewardship and environmental justice, we have learned that empowering whole communities with effective grassroots campaigns is the most effective strategy for lasting change.

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(BREDL)**

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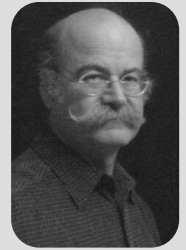
Community Organizers

Sharon Ponton



2018

Victory for Clean Air



Clean air is a fundamental right. Yet many people around the country and in our region breathe toxic air because the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has failed to do its job. This failure to reduce hazardous air pollution threatens the health of our members and the general public.

To protect our rights, BREDL brought a lawsuit in 2016—working with attorney's from Earthjustice, and the Sierra Club and allied regional groups in the Midwest—to compel EPA to take long-overdue actions required by the Clean Air Act, actions necessary to control major industrial sources of air pollution. After the legal briefs and oral arguments in this case, we won our lawsuit: *Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League v. Scott Pruitt*. *

Under the Clean Air Act, citizens may sue EPA in federal court when the agency fails to fulfill a mandatory duty, and a court can order EPA to complete the overdue action by a date certain. The federal law requires EPA to establish national limits on emissions of hazardous air pollutants. The Act also requires EPA to review and revise the limits, update pollution control techniques, assess the risk of cancer and other diseases posed by the industry under the existing limits and

strengthen those limits when necessary to protect public health. And EPA must do a review within eight years of the time it sets an industrial standard. However, EPA has failed to meet many of these deadlines.

BREDL's lawsuit targeted seven specific industrial sites located in Aiken, SC; Etowah, TN; Roxboro, NC; Marion, NC; Graham, NC; Salem, VA and Roanoke, VA. The toxic pollution sources cited included fiberglass production, manufactured wood facilities, plywood and composite wood operations, rubber tire manufacturers, and printing, coating, and dyeing facilities. We are most grateful to our members who signed declarations of standing in these communities: Dave Matos, Antulio Castillo, Sandy Kurtz, Pat Hill, Elizabeth and Daisy O'Nan, Beverly and Julius Kerr and Mark Barker.

The lawsuit has teeth; according to order issued by the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, EPA must meet a firm schedule to update pollution controls for thirteen industries, no later than December 31, 2018 for seven of the source categories and by June 30, 2020 for the other six. To enforce the order and to protect public health, EPA must complete clean air rulemakings for these

industries by date certain. Some of these clean air review rulemakings have already begun.

You can help. If you have concerns about toxic air emissions, please contact us. We can alert you when there is a comment deadline to ensure EPA hears from affected community members. Also, you can check the federal government website at www.regulations.gov for public comment opportunities.

For too long, EPA has violated the Clean Air Act by failing to update emission limits that are supposed to protect public health from cancer-causing pollution and other chemicals that threaten vulnerable communities. Toxic air pollution can undermine children's ability to have a healthy start and a fair shot at life. Air pollution can kill. We must remain vigilant, no matter who is in the White House or at EPA, to protect our communities. Sometimes it is necessary to stand up in court to ensure that EPA puts public health first, ahead of polluters' interests. We must also protect our basic right to go to court; our access to justice is under attack. But no child, indeed no one, should ever have to breathe toxic air.

*Blue Ridge Env'tl. Def. League v. Pruitt, 261 F. Supp. 3d 53 (2017), ECF No. 37-38



Yokohama Tire Manufacturing Plant
Salem, VA

Special appreciation in this case goes to our attorneys at Earthjustice, the premier nonprofit environmental law organization. In accord with the Clean Air Act and with the completion of a consent decree, all litigation costs will be covered by the federal government. Truly, at Earthjustice they "Wield the power of law and the strength of partnership to protect people's health, to preserve magnificent places and wildlife, to advance clean energy, and to combat climate change."

Thank you.

How Long is Too Long- In Pursuit of Public Records

By Therese Vick



When an environmental issue lands in a community, there are several things that happen-organizing, strategizing, educating, and agitating are a few. However, one of the first things I think about is connecting the dots—who, what, where, when and why. To do this, records requests to local, state and federal agencies must be made. The scope of the request can vary, and so can the response.

In this article, I am focusing on what has occurred regarding records requests on the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP). A little background. On January 26, 2018, DEQ approved the major water quality permit for the ACP. Almost simultaneously, the Governor's office proudly announced a 57.8 million dollar "mitigation" fund—to be financed by ACP. You can imagine the outrage.

On January 30, 2018 on behalf of BREDL, I submitted a public records request to the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). It was followed on February 9 by a similar request to Governor Roy Cooper's office.

This is part of the request sent to DEQ:

On behalf of Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL), and pursuant to North Carolina General Statute §132, I am requesting that the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) provide me any and all records pertinent to the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP), excluding permit documents and public comments available online.

This should include documentation of interactions such as calls, call notes, texts, faxes, meeting rosters, emails, letters, memoranda, meeting notes (handwritten or otherwise), calendar entries, audio/ video records and contemporaneous notes both inter and intra agency (including communications with Duke Energy and other ACP partners, Administration representatives including Governor Cooper, local governments, lobbyists, the North Carolina Department of Commerce, other economic development entities, legislators, etc.). Individuals listed below are for your convenience, but please do not limit the Department's response to these individuals.

One, two, three, four, five- going on six months have passed. The Cooper Administration and its agencies have blown past former

Governor McCrory's response time record. So far, DEQ provided a link to a few records- the link has magically disappeared, never to return. The Governor's office provided records from 5 days in December- few of which pertained to the ACP. The most interesting information from the Governor was regarding a banquet- the requested wine was not available, and one of the attendees wasn't having the fish soup. In other words, neither the DEQ or the Governor have responded as they are required to do by North Carolina law. Frankly, the Governor's office did not respond at all until BREDL attorney John Runkle wrote them a letter- that shook loose those 5 days of records. BREDL attorney Cathy Cralle-Jones wrote DEQ a letter, and supposedly a thumb drive of records is on its way-stay tuned...

The point is this: it is unacceptable that the public is made to beg for records that *belong to them*, and that public servants illegally obstruct access to those records. In your quest for the truth, be firm, persistent, and reach out to local media if you are getting stonewalled- they might be too. Document every contact you have with an agency, board, or commission. Don't give up. If your Chapter would like a workshop on public records, contact BREDL. ■

Title VI Civil Rights Complaints Filed with EPA by NC and VA Environmental Groups

By Sharon Ponton



Both North Carolina and Virginia environmental groups filed Title VI Civil Rights complaints against their respective Departments of Environmental Quality concerning the 401 water quality certifications for the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) with the External Civil Rights office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits recipients of federal financial assistance from discriminating on the basis of race, color, or national origin in their programs or activities. In both complaints, the Environmental Justice Groups allege the State agencies discriminated on the basis of race and color because they failed to assess the disproportionate impacts of the proposed ACP on communities of color.

In North Carolina, the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League (BREDL) and several other environmental groups and the communities they represent filed a complaint in May of 2018. The complaint addresses African American and Indigenous peoples along the route of the proposed ACP. ACP's compressor station #3 being sited in Northampton County which has an African American population of over 58%, and over 30,000 members of the

indigenous Lumbee tribe are examples outlined in the complaint which illustrate these communities are disproportionately impacted by the construction, maintenance and operation of the proposed ACP.

In Virginia, BREDL filed the complaint on behalf of its Virginia chapters in June. It outlines that 13 of the 14 counties through which the ACP would traverse have higher than average populations living in poverty, as well as ten (10) of the 14 counties have higher than average population of minorities—the lowest at 30.2 percent and the highest at 59.5 percent. The complaint states: "These trends continue into North Carolina into seven of the eight counties along the route of the ACP. We do not believe the path and the statistical facts included herein happened by coincidence."

Virginia's complaint also notes that Compressor Station #2 is sited in the historical community of Union Hill, a community settled by freed slaves. Thirty percent of the current population of Union Hill are direct descendants of those freed slaves. Seventy percent of the landowners which adjoin the compressor station site are African American. The report further

asserts, "simply because rural areas have low concentrations of population does not mean people of low income and/or people of color would not be disproportionately impacted. Reality on the ground tells us, the counties along the path of the proposed ACP [in Virginia] have a 79% higher concentration of minority population than the Commonwealth's 19.8%. Moreover, the impact of the proposed compressor station [#2] will be felt by a majority African American population."

The complaint outlines disproportionate impacts on health caused by climate crisis and toxic emissions from the compressor station and pipeline, water quality, misuse of eminent domain, and discriminatory construction, maintenance and inspection rules outlined by Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

We will keep you updated as these complaints make their way through the bureaucratic process. ■

Working Alongside the Sioux to Preserve Native American History

Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) representing the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe and the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, both headquartered in South Dakota, took an interest in the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) project area in Franklin and Roanoke Counties, VA when Bonnie Law, chair of BREDL chapter Preserve Franklin, alerted them earlier this year to the presence of significant archaeological sites in that area. As a student of local history, Bonnie had known all her life that Siouan tribes had once inhabited Franklin County. She was perplexed by the fact that the Sioux had not been invited to engage in the Section 106 process for the pipeline.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to consult with any Indian tribe that attaches religious and cultural significance to historic properties that may be affected by an undertaking. In this case the “Federal agency” is Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC, the organization in Washington, DC that has developed notoriety for its propensity to “rubber stamp” proposals to build natural gas pipelines such as the MVP and Atlantic Coast Pipeline, both now approved for construction through pristine natural areas, streams and wetlands, family farms, sensitive habitat, historic landscapes, and important archaeological sites.

Federal regulation requires agencies such as FERC to “consult with Indian tribes when they attach religious and cultural significance to a historic property regardless of the location of that property. The circumstances of history may have resulted in an Indian tribe now being located a great distance from its ancestral homelands and places of importance.”

When the Sioux THPOs visited

archaeological sites in the MVP study area in Franklin and Roanoke Counties on March 4 and 5, they shared with local residents their tribes' tradition of having lived in our part of Virginia.

The fact that Siouan tribes lived in the MVP project area was confirmed by research conducted in April by BREDL’s Section 106 Coordinator, Ann Rogers. The research resulted in BREDL and Preserve Montgomery County’s April filing to FERC, which said:

The linguistic and historic connection between the Siouans of Appalachian/Piedmont Virginia and the western Sioux tribes legitimizes the desire on the part of the Cheyenne River and Rosebud Sioux Tribes to participate in the Section 106 process for the MVP as, indeed, the MVP study area is one of the places where their forebears resided in the distant past. The relationship of the Cheyenne River and Rosebud Sioux tribes to Appalachian/Piedmont Virginia is precisely the type of relationship addressed by the National Historic Preservation Act when it says, “The circumstances of history may have resulted in an Indian tribe now being located a great distance from its ancestral homelands and places of importance.”

We assert that the decision on the part of FERC to exclude the Sioux Indian Tribes has resulted in the Commission's failure to meet requirements under 36 CFR 800.2(c)(2)(ii) to make a “reasonable and good faith effort to identify Indian Tribes” that

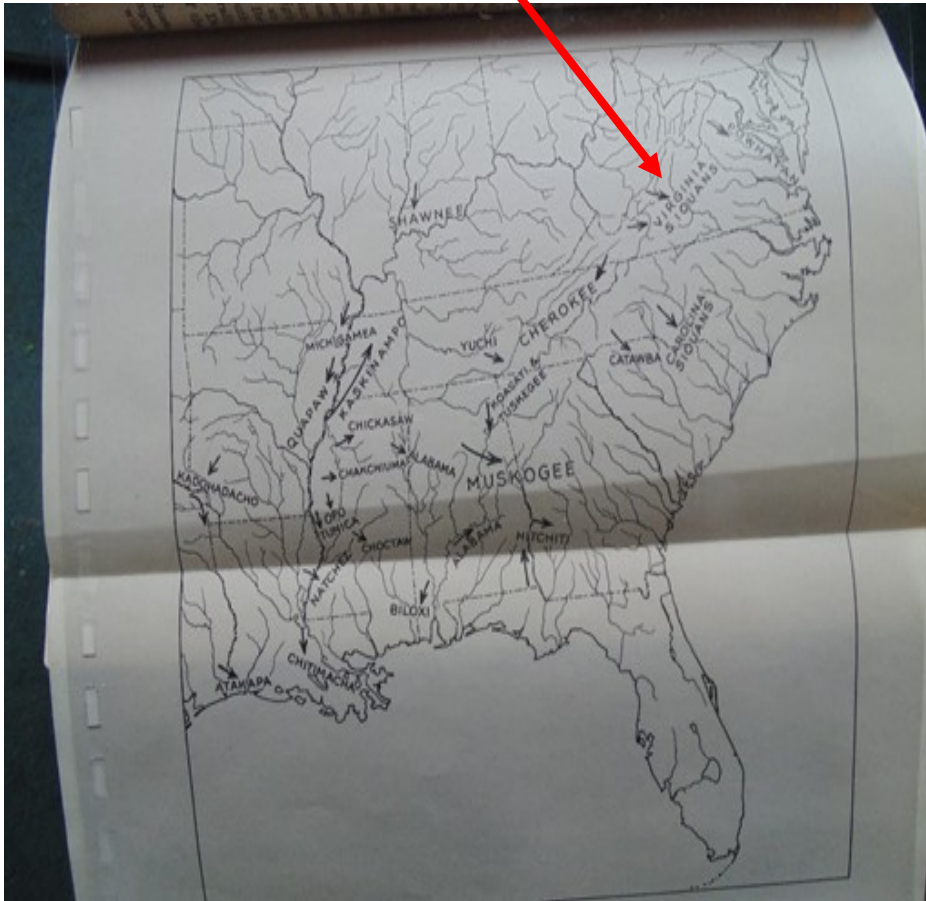
should be consulted under Section 106. We conclude that FERC's ongoing failure to engage with the Sioux Indian Tribes, after receiving repeated requests for engagement from the Cheyenne River and Rosebud Sioux Tribal Historic Preservation Officers in 2018, constitutes a violation of trust with the consulting parties who signed the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement for the MVP, rendering that Programmatic Agreement invalid.

The April filing to FERC included the photo reproduced here



of a map from John R. Swanton’s 1946 history, *The Indians of the Southeastern United States*. The MVP project area (marked with red arrow) is clearly labeled “VIRGINIA SIOUANS”. This and another map, along with documentation of research conducted by BREDL at Virginia Tech, establishes incontrovertibly that authoritative 19th and 20th century American scholarship recognizes as historic fact the habitation by Siouan Indian tribes of the MVP project area.

By Ann Rogers, Campaign Coordinator



We were extraordinarily gratified to learn that the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Steve Vance, presented our research to his tribal council in May. The council agreed to give Mr. Vance permission to join BREDL chapters Preserve Roanoke and Preserve Franklin as plaintiffs in a lawsuit challenging FERC's failure to consult with the Sioux as required by federal law. The Rosebud Sioux Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Ben Rhodd, has also joined us as co-plaintiff.

Said Bonnie Law, "We are doing groundbreaking work. It was the privilege of a lifetime to be able to meet and work with the Sioux Tribal Historic

Preservation Officers in Franklin County, VA. It was an experience that I will not soon forget. Their history is part of our history. Nothing like this has ever happened in our state or our region. We are honored to be working alongside the Sioux to preserve Native American history."

We are also joined in our litigation by Bent Mountain landowners Mike and Liz Hudson, whose archaeologically significant property has been slated as a "lay down yard" for heavy equipment to be used during construction of the MVP. Said Liz, "I never would imagine that in my lifetime I'd be litigating with Sioux Indian tribes. Our land on Bent Mountain

is their ancestral territory. My family wants to protect it. MVP found artifacts everywhere they dug here. We are more than happy to be part of the effort to involve the Sioux. We want to save as much of their history as we possibly can."

If you are interested in helping BREDL chapter organizations preserve Native American history in Appalachian/Piedmont Virginia, please visit www.preservefranklin.org and click on donate. You may also mail a donation to Preserve Roanoke, c/o Rebecca Dameron, 10721 Bent Mountain Rd., Bent Mountain, VA 24059.

BREDL Welcomes 2018 Interns



Autumn Burton

is a rising sophomore at Duke University. Prior to attending Duke University, she was a literary arts magnet student at George Washington Carver Center for the Arts and Technology in Maryland. During that time, she received multiple literary awards from the Scholastic Arts and Writing Competition, and published her first book *Mirrors*, a collection of short stories and essays on array of topics regarding social justice in the modern world in 2017. Intending to major in environmental science policy at Duke University, she has interned at the Environmental Health department of Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health and Duke University's first-year environmental internship program. This summer, she has simultaneously been an intern for the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League and in her hometown at the Baltimore Office of Sustainability. Autumn's internship work involves environmental justice issues concerning the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. ■



Sneha Shashidhar

Duke University

Position: Communications Enhancement Coordinator

Bio: I completed my undergraduate studies in Industrial Engineering and Management from VTU University (India). Post my Industrial Engineering degree, I joined GATI-KINTETSU which is a mid-sized logistics and supply chain service provider in India. After gaining practical exposure at GATI-KINTETSU, I joined in IBM as a Package Solution Consultant to learn more about Operations and Consulting.

Intern Project: The focus is to gain a working familiarity with issues related to nuclear energy, renewables, and pollution. As a communications coordinator, I am assisting in collecting and organizing data from the website and information from various lines of work into a format that is more easily accessible. I am also developing and organizing fact sheets that focus on various issues. ■



Pressia Shilpa Raj Amulraj

Pursuing master's in engineering management at Duke University since 2018 January.

Bachelor of engineering in Electronics and Communications from Anna University, India.

2.1 years of experience in IT Service operations as an Process Manager - Incident, Problem and Change management in HCL Technologies, India & Ireland.

Personal Interests: Travelling and researching on general issues.

Career Interests: Project and Product Management

Intern Project Description:

To track the air quality of Richmond County identifying additional equipment needs and contacting the vendors for pricing and market analysis. Developing training materials, and although the project is not limited to coal ash, identifying risks to workers and communities near coal ash disposal facilities. On-site monitoring, and training community members. ■

From Duke University and Paine College



Sha'Qunta Calles

is an Augusta native and a current Senior at the prestigious historically black college Paine College.

I am currently majoring in the field of Business Administration with a minor in Accounting. I am a strong advocate for hands-on, inquiry-based learning and involve myself in a variety of community services, problem-solving, technology-infused activities that provide me with opportunities to help others. I am very passionate about helping the community regain a safe and healthy environment and I am willing to assist in any way to ensure that my goals and the goals of many others are met. I have displayed leadership skills which is why I was elected to be the President of the Business Club at Paine College. When I am not in school or not preoccupied by other community activities I love to spend time with my family, especially my children.

For my BREDL internship project I am working with my advisor Rev. Charles Utley to research land acquisition by Georgia Power for their nuclear power plant in Burke County, Georgia. I am conducting interviews with residents in the area to determine if they were treated fairly. ■

Sai Siri Sunkara

Summer Intern, Data Analysis & Project Management, Nuclear Energy Project

I completed my undergraduate studies in Electrical Engineering with summa cum laude from SRM University. After my studies, I worked for Schneider Electric IT Division, India for two years as a Product Application Engineer.

I joined this prominent organization as a summer intern to advocate against nuclear energy by BREDL authoring a white paper and performing data analysis to understand the financial feasibility of nuclear power plant at Savannah River Site. I am also designing posters for the cause.

I am pursuing my master's in engineering management with focus towards Data and Decisions.

I currently live in Durham but was born in India. I travelled almost all parts of India.

In my past time, I like travelling, collecting stamps, dancing and reading books. I like to meet new people. I am also inquisitive and positive by nature. ■

WELCOME!

Augusta, Georgia Advances Climate Solutions and Zero Waste by 2050

County adopts motion preserving our world for the next generation

The responsibility of taking care of our world for generations to come falls on our present generation. We cannot take the attitude that it's not our responsibility; because we are the overseers of this present world. Having that responsibility is call to action now! We cannot afford to neglect the signs that are so prevalent in our atmosphere today. The unbearable heatwaves, melting snow-caped mountains, and winter storms that have never been witnessed before. All of these are signs that it's time for us to become better stewards of our environment. We must address these problems in order to preserve our world for the up-coming generations if they are to survive. We have started with our local county commissioners by presenting to them a Climate Solution and Zero Waste proposal plan for the city of Augusta.

On April 17, 2018, a resolution for 100% clean renewable energy and a goal of zero waste was adopted by the Richmond County Commission in Augusta, Georgia. We proposed this and other steps be taken to reach the twin goals of 100% clean renewable energy and zero waste by 2050. The resolution states:

“Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Richmond County Commissioners that it endorses the following: that the county establish a transition from a fossil fuel-based economy to a 100% clean renewable energy for all energy sectors, including transportation by December 31, 2050 to avoid climate catastrophe, to promote job creation and economic growth, and to protect the Earth for current and future generations from climate catastrophe, Further, the county shall achieve 80% clean renewable energy for all energy sectors by December 31, 2030.”

With the vote, the Commission made a formal request for additional information proceeding to the full process to be implemented. Next, I was asked to form a committee including Blue Ridge Environmental Defense, Paine College, Augusta State University and the Augusta Engineering Department. Within the framework of the approved resolution the plan will be implemented through ordinance or resolution.

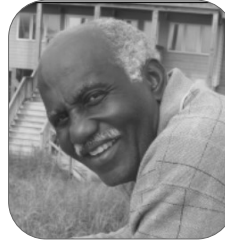
The proposal requires each of us to take an active role as citizens of Richmond County to fully execute and implement a Climate Solution and Zero Waste Program. The program starts with having those who are responsible for our health, safety and wellbeing to impose legislation beginning at the local level. We have taken the first step in that direction with the resolution to address these changes by implementing a Climate Solution and Zero Waste plan. Such changes would include going from gasoline engine vehicles to electrical and solar powered vehicles.

BREDL'S COMMUNITY CLIMATE SOLUTION PLAN

PHASE 1 is to adopt an ordinance or resolution. Such climate resolutions are aspirational; they involve a community endorsing the Jacobson Climate Solutions Plan of 100% clean renewable energy by 2050. (For further information on the Jacobson plan, go to <http://thesolutionsproject.org>)

PHASE 2 begins with a study of how much energy the community uses in various categories; for example: heating and cooling, lighting, transportation and so forth. Further breakdowns would include energy use sectors—such as schools, residential, commercial, industry—to get a more complete local energy picture.

by Charles Utley,
Environmental Justice Campaign Director



PHASE 3 is entry level on-the-ground energy installation, such as purchase of electric vehicles and installation of charging stations, or replacement of aging fossil-fuel boilers at public schools with wind and/or solar. The length of this installation period would vary but could be perhaps a dozen years or so.

The Boone, NC, example: Renewable energy capacity of seven megawatts to produce the energy in kilowatt-hours was found to be needed for electrifying buildings and electric vehicles. At this time, EVs cost more than gasoline/diesel vehicles, but are expected to be at parity in cost by 2025. Another positive factor is that by 2025, solar is expected to be 60% less costly than today.

ZERO WASTE

A zero waste approach is one of the fastest, cheapest, and most effective strategies we can use to protect the climate and the environment. Significantly decreasing waste disposed in landfills and incinerators will reduce greenhouse gases the equivalent to closing one-fifth of U.S. coal-fired power plants. This is comparable to leading climate protection proposals such as improving vehicle fuel efficiency. Indeed, implementing waste reduction and materials recovery strategies nationally are essential to put us on the path to stabilizing the climate by 2050.

Our zero waste proposal entails some of the following suggestions for communities, cities and states to adopt in order to eliminate the need for waste dumps and incinerators. The 10 basic steps were developed by Brenda Platt of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance. The ten steps are:

1. Make waste prevention, reuse, repair, recycling, and composting the heart of the plan. Adopt waste elimination goals as well as recycling goals.
2. Allow for decentralized functioning and community efforts rather than an emphasis on one central initiative to solve all waste problems.
3. Target a wide range of materials for reuse, recycling, and composting (especially several grades of paper and all types of organics) and keep these materials segregated at the source from mixed trash to maintain quality and enhance diversion levels
4. Compost. Composting is key to achieving 50% and higher diversion levels and doing so cost-effectively. Keeping organics and putrescibles out of landfills will make landfills less of a nuisance and source of pollution.
5. Make program participation convenient and meaningful. The more households and businesses participating, the more materials diverted from disposal. More people will reduce, reuse, recycle, and compost if programs are convenient, easy, and simple.
6. Institute economic incentives that reward waste reduction and recovery over disposal, such as reduced tipping fees for delivering recyclable and compostable materials to drop-off sites, tax incentives to encourage businesses and haulers to recycle, and pay-as-you-throw fees for trash collection. Eliminate any subsidies for waste burning.
7. Develop markets for materials with an eye toward closing the loop locally (that is, within the local economy), producing high-value end products, and linking recycling-based economic development with a larger vision of sustainable community development.
8. Acquire public property for reuse, recycling, and composting in order to provide a stable land base for eco-industrial parks and reuse and recycling facilities. Support local nonprofit or for-profit mission-driven recyclers and reuse operations and the informal recycling sector.
9. Work to hold manufacturers responsible for their products throughout their life-cycle.
10. Educate, educate, educate. Education and outreach is critical. Educational and technical assistance programs provide residents and businesses with information about "how" and "why" to reduce, reuse, recycle, and compost. ■

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Glendale Springs
NC 28629

**Contact BREDL to help organize your community and
plan events to educate others about your issue and
expand your membership so you can win!**

BREDL is a regional, community-based non-profit environmental organization founded in 1984. BREDL encourages government agencies and citizens to take responsibility for conserving and protecting our natural resources. BREDL advocates grassroots involvement in environmental issues. Protecting children's health from environmental poisons, empowering whole communities to engage in crucial decision making, and changing the balance of power to prevent injustice are key components of our work.

**Visit www.bredl.org to view our interactive timeline that spans 30 years of
environmental work across the southeast.
Your donation will help us to carry on for years to come!**

Thank you for supporting Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League
It's easier than ever to **join**, **renew** and **donate** online.
Check out our secure online donation forms and use your credit card at **www.BREDL.org**.
Or send your check to: BREDL PO Box 88 Glendale Springs, NC 28629
For more information contact BREDL at 336-982-2691.
All donations are tax deductible.

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