

Environmental Action Newsletter

What YOU Can Do for Our People & Planet
Issue 2: Making a Difference Post-Election

Patterns of Resistance ♦ Drew Langan

Are today's Democratic protests reminiscent of the advent of the Tea Party?

Since the election, a torrent of news stories have appeared profiling attempts from the left to “imitate”, “borrow”, “adapt” etc. tactics from the Tea Party to advance their agenda in a government controlled by Republicans. For a more nuanced view on that listen or read a transcript of this [NPR interview](#) with a former Tea Party organizer and current Republican Strategist, Brendan Steinhauser, who says “the Tea Party [originally] borrowed some of the street protests and organizing from the left.”



Tea Party March on Washington, 2009

However not all liberals see the parallels between the Tea Party and the Trump resistance. A former Clinton staffer recently argued against this line of thinking in [TIME](#). According to the article, “the current resistance isn’t reacting to its lost status as the majority in American politics, as the Tea Party was. It is speaking out for the majority of Americans who feel inadequately represented in Washington.”

What do you think? Does the success of the Tea Party provide some hope for future Democratic resistance? Could Climate Change be the issue that sparks even more massive resistance from the left? Would that ultimately be a good thing?

Do you like **clean water**? Clean **air**?
Think everyone deserves a **just** and **sustainable** future?
Then come to the

PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH

in DC on April 29th!

Swarthmore will be providing three buses:

One bus leaves Friday morning (4/28) for a student-oriented day of workshops and actions

The other two will leave Saturday morning (4/29) in time for the march

All the buses will return Saturday evening

March for climate justice and be home in time for Worthstock!

Bird Walk/Talk
Tessa Rhinehart



How birds' behavior is affected by local & global climate trends

Sat. April 8th, 9am
Meet at Martin 204

Keep an eye out for mourning doves, nesting house finches, pileated woodpeckers & more!



Seed: The Untold Story

Green on Screen Film Series

Wed. April 12th,
7pm

Bryn Mawr Film Institute

A Case for Calling Your Representatives

Anthony Sigman-Lowery

How can you change the government after election day?

In the wake of this divisive election, you may have felt like your voice isn't heard. American participation in government seems to have been reduced to a single day every four years. Maybe, if you're a very responsible citizen, you vote every two years at the midterm elections. (The next one is November 6th, 2018, unless there is a special election in your district. Keep up with local news!)

But I live far from Philadelphia, I'm a busy senior with a thesis to write. What I can I do that makes a difference in between elections aside from standing in solidarity or commenting on Facebook while I'm procrastinating on my classwork?

If you've read the title to this piece, you can probably guess my answer to this question.

According to former state office-staffer Emily Ellsworth, calling your representatives works. Phone calls require a staffer to stay on the line with you. If you have questions, they have to respond, or even bring in a senior staffer if your representative has not released a statement about the issue or bill you're calling about. Phones ringing off the hook can be impossible for staffers to ignore. Even just writing down your opinions can slow down or even stop an entire office. This brings your issue to the forefront of your representative's mind, and can even push them to release a statement on their stance.

So how do you call your representatives? At the end of this op-ed, I list a few sites I have found helpful for showcasing bills and providing scripts. Once you find the bill and the number of your representative, you can call and read from a script to a staff member and leave your legal name and address where you're registered to vote. You can also go off-script and speak to how this issue affects you personally, and share as much of your own story as you'd like. According to Elmsworth, she

"couldn't listen to people's stories for six to eight hours and not be profoundly impacted by them" – and what staffers are impacted by gets passed along to your representative.



- ▶ **Feeling nervous or anxious about these calls?** Avoid business hours (local time) and you're more likely to go straight to voicemail
- ▶ **Hit a busy signal?** If you have the time, wait on the line until someone picks up or just call later
- ▶ **Wonder if one call is really going to make a difference in the tally?** Organize with friends in your district to call on the same day
- ▶ **Worried your state is too red or blue to make a difference?** If representatives only hear from their supporters, it can make them even more extreme on issues if they aren't held accountable by the other side

I genuinely believe our voices can be heard –especially on the state and local level. But we have to call often and start now. Check out 5calls.org, thesixtyfive.org, and callthehallsguide.com for more information on bills in your district, the numbers of your local representatives, and sample scripts to get you started. Our representatives should be accountable to us on more than just election day.

CHANGING THE STORY BY REDEFINING APATHY

Ever feel like people just don't care? [In this clip](#), David Meslin challenges this idea by redefining apathy as a "complex web of cultural barriers that reinforces disengagement" and identifying barriers to engagement. Through civic engagement, such as calling your representative, we can dismantle these barriers!

Call Your Rep's: Bills of the Week

Here are this week's most controversial bills related to environmental issues.

Call your representatives and have your voices heard!

Who to call:

Sen. Robert P. Casey Jr. (D)

+1 202-224-6324

Line busy?

Try local office numbers:

Central PA: 814-357-0314

Erie: 814-874-5080

Harrisburg: 717-231-7540

Lehigh Valley: 610-782-9470

Northeastern: 570-941-0930

Philadelphia: 215-405-9660

Pittsburgh: 412-803-7370

Sen. Patrick J. Toomey (R)

+1 202-224-4254

Line busy?

Try local office numbers:

Erie: 814-455-9925

Harrisburg: 717-782-3951

Johnstown: 814-266-5970

Lehigh Valley: 610-434-1444

Philadelphia: 215-241-1090

Pittsburgh: 412-803-3501

Scranton: 570-941-3540

Rep. Robert A Brady (D)

+1 202-224-4731

Line busy?

Try local office numbers:

Delaware County: 610-874-7094

Philadelphia (E. Clearfield) 267-519-22

Philadelphia (Memphis St.): 215-426-4616

Philadelphia (S. Broad St.): 215-389-4627



Protect EPA's Science Advisory Board

HR 1431 would:

Prevent the SAB from using the best scientific data if that data comes from non-repeatable experiments (aka: studies that can't be repeated due to long study times, changing population demographics, and budget concerns)

Prevent scientists who have received EPA grants from serving on the board

Allows scientists with industry conflicts of interest to serve on the board

Call your senators!

Tips:

- ▶ Say your name, city, and zip code to the staffer who picks up
- ▶ Mention why you care! Add something related to why this bill matters to you
- ▶ If leaving a voicemail, give your full address
- ▶ Remember to thank them for their time & attention!

Go to 5calls.org to learn more!

Protect Against Pollution

HJ Res 36 would:

Repeal Obama's methane waste prevention rule which limits the allowable amount of methane released onto public lands by oil and gas drilling companies

Reduces the natural gas royalties taxpayers collect from methane recapture

Call your senators & reps!

Protect EPA's Funding

Trump's budget would:

Eliminate 3,200 jobs and \$100 million in funds for climate change programs

Cut funding for clean up at Superfund sites

Eliminate the UN-affiliated Green Climate Fund & Global Climate Change Initiative

End NASA funding for monitoring Earth's oceans and CO2 levels

Reduce/eliminate renewable energy funding

Call your senators & reps!

How to Make Your Own Compost Bin

Sarah Freda

Get a plastic bin with fitted lid at least 2 ft tall



Drill/screw 8-10 small holes on bottom & lid of container

Place shredded newspaper/dry leaves on bottom till 1/8-1/4 full



Place dirt on top till 1/2 full & place scraps into bin



Stir so scraps are covered



Spray with lukewarm water until moist



Secure bin with lid & place in shady place



Compost can be used after 2-3 months. Save at least 1/3 for future use!

Things you **can** compost: Plant material, cardboard, paper coffee grounds, dryer lint, flowers, fruit peels (not limes!), hair

Things you **can't** compost: colored paper, meat, fat, grease, oils, bones, non-biodegradable materials, toxic materials

Learn more at youngouselove.com!

Tip

CARRY REUSABLE CONTAINERS

Instead of takeout containers or plastic bags, carry reusable ones to reduce waste!

DIY

Toothpaste

1/2 cup coconut oil
2-3 tbsp baking soda
2 small stevia powder packs
15-30 drops essential oil
Mix & enjoy!
Pop-up coming soon!

Fact

In the USA, 30-40% of our food supply is wasted. That's more than **20 lbs** of food per person every month!