



PEOPLE OF COLOR: ON THE FRONT LINES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Why We Say No to the Keystone XL Pipeline

The Keystone XL pipeline is a climate disaster. A Canadian oil company has proposed building a new pipeline across America that would carry the world's dirtiest oil—tar sands crude—to Texas. The pipeline would help accelerate global warming at a time when we should be fighting it. And it would put communities—especially indigenous folks and people of color—and risk from toxic water and air.

What we know about the affects of tar sands oil

- Tar sands oil creates three times the global warming pollution as traditional oil. And mining tar sands wipes out giant swaths of forest, destroying the earth's natural ability to fight climate change.
- The tar sands oil is already ravaging indigenous communities in Canada where it is excavated. The mining of tar sands is a horrifying process that guzzles water and energy, destroys the land, kills wildlife, and leaves behind toxic chemicals.
- High levels of arsenic, lead, and mercury have been found at tar sands sites near indigenous communities, and cancer rates in these areas are 30 percent higher.

Coming to a neighborhood near you?

- Keystone pipeline would carry world's dirtiest oil—tar sands crude—to be refined in Port Arthur, TX, a predominantly black and Latino community that already suffers from serious pollution due to oil refineries.
- Residents of Port Arthur are standing up to the pipeline because of the threat it poses to their health, and indigenous groups in both the U.S. and Canada have spoken out against the project.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES

- **Tell President Obama to say NO to the Keystone XL pipeline.** The president has the power to reject this dirty and dangerous project. Agreeing to the pipeline would signal that our country is willing to put the profits of foreign oil companies above the health and safety of our own communities. Instead, we should be investing in the kind of clean, American energy that will help fight climate change, keep our air and water safe, and create good jobs.

In addition to rejecting the pipeline, there are three key steps we need to take to fight climate change:

1. Tell our leaders we need climate resilience plans and investments in infrastructure that will help our communities weather storms and disasters.
2. We need to double down on clean energy. Only by getting serious about investments in wind, solar, and energy efficiency, can we end our dependence on the fossil fuels that are causing climate change.
3. We need to hold polluters accountable, through strong safeguards that protect our air and water. And we need to demand that industries cover the full costs of their pollution—from public health expenses to damage to our shared resources.