

What's effective?

Mountain Justice is a decentralized concert of efforts involving regional and local campaigns throughout Appalachia. It is non-hierarchical and follows the consensus decision making model. A diverse range of tactics are employed to be most effective.



On the Ground

Community listening projects, basic water testing, and GIS mapping of mine activity are effective tactics that provide key information to residents who aim to protect their own health and safety.

Instigating Change

The corporate power behind coal weighs heavily on policy decisions. Mountain Justice works alongside other grassroots organizations to build a strategic movement against the injustices of coal. Lobbying, letter-writing, petitions, and public hearings are common tactics, but Mountain Justice also uses non-violent direct action to put pressure on coal companies and raise consciousness about our commitment to justice.



Get Involved

1. Find a local Mountain Justice chapter near you.
2. Attend Mountain Justice Spring Break or Summer Camp!
3. Volunteer for an internship at a regional campaign house.
4. Learn more about 1, 2, & 3 online at: mountainjustice.org

Mission Statement

Mountain Justice seeks to add to the growing anti-MTR citizens movement. Specifically Mountain Justice demands an abolition of MTR, steep slope strip mining and all other forms of surface mining for coal. We want to protect the cultural and natural heritage of the Appalachia coal fields. We want to contribute with grassroots organizing, public education, nonviolent civil disobedience and other forms of citizen action.

Historically coal companies have engaged in violence and property destruction when faced with citizen opposition to their activities. Mountain Justice is committed to nonviolence and will not be engaged in property destruction.

MOUNTAIN JUSTICE

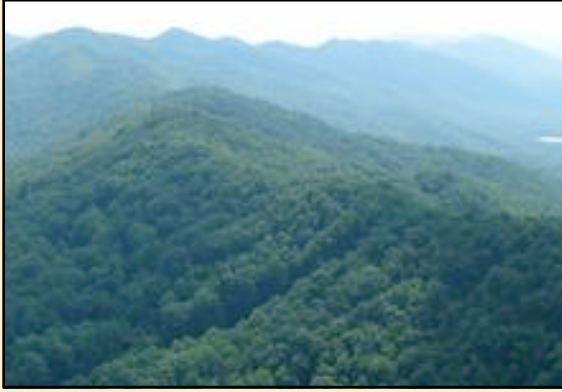
www.mountainjustice.org

MOUNTAIN JUSTICE



A movement for the mountains and people of Appalachia

Why Appalachia?



Appalachia is rich in culture and natural beauty. Its mountains are among the oldest known today and their forest ecosystems represent the second most diverse biome on the planet, spare the Amazon rainforest. However, its mountains are also rich in coal, the natural resource that fueled our industrial revolution and established the United States as an economic giant.

Over a hundred years of coal mining in Appalachia has had a profound impact on the land and people sacrificed for our growing energy needs. Today, black gold remains the major player in the United States' energy portfolio and is still the dominant employer in Appalachia's struggling economy.

Coal, an issue of justice...

The coal industry penetrates all aspects of life in Appalachia. Every step of the coal life cycle has potential to weaken communities and ruin the beautiful vital land upon which Appalachians depend. Mountain Justice is a network of people helping people deal with these issues at the community level. Typically, problems associated with coal affect public health and shared resources such as air and water.



Mountaintop Removal Mining . . .

A type of mining where explosives are used to extract shallow coal seams. Detonation destroys entire mountain ranges and headwater streams, cracks home foundations and creates dust that leads to respiratory problems for nearby residents. Coal barons are literally waging war on Appalachia and when they're done, it cannot be restored.



Dirty Power Plants . . .

Before combustion, coal must be washed with harmful chemicals that can poison drinking water. Mercury and carbon emissions from combustion frequently violate health standards leaving nearby communities victims of circumstance. Across our country, poor communities are "sacrifice zones" for energy production, forced to live with outdated, dirty power plants.



Coal Combustion Waste . . .

Although only weakly regulated, disposal of coal waste is potentially very hazardous. Ash landfills can leach carcinogens into groundwater, liquid ash "sludge" ponds have even been known to break, poisoning towns below, and coal companies are often legally powerful enough to dodge responsibility for their crimes.