



Sightline
INSTITUTE

2014 Gratitude Report



Sightline's mission is to make the Northwest a global model of sustainability—strong communities, a green economy, and a healthy environment.

Smart solutions for a sustainable Northwest

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Exploding oil trains. Nine of them have erupted since July of 2013, when the most famous such inferno took 47 lives in Quebec. That train, like all the others, was carrying oil from North Dakota—the same oil, in the same tank cars, now freighted daily through Cascadia's towns and cities. The same oil that Tesoro and other petroleum giants want to load on tankers and send westward from our ports, even as other fossil fuelers hope to sluice coal to Asia through the Northwest.

Yet Cascadians have formed a thin green line against fossil-fuel exports. "Not in our towns!" we are saying. With your support, Sightline has informed the press and armed with the facts a groundswell of ordinary people, people who believe that our place on Earth stands for clean energy, climate action, and safe communities—not coal and oil hauling, not exploding trains. And the thin green line is holding.

Community after community has used Sightline's research to adopt resolutions against unsafe fuel shipping. State legislators have used Sightline analysis to demand better safety standards. Investors and communities have used Sightline's exposés of coal and oil companies' finances to see just how shaky are their proposals: our investigation of Amber Energy contributed to its collapse late last year.

At Sightline, thanks to you, the year 2014 was extraordinary. Together, we held the thin green line and more. Here's to a 2015 with fewer exploding oil trains, and more progress toward a sustainable Northwest.

Thank you,

Alan Durning, *Executive Director*
SIGHTLINE INSTITUTE



Numerous oil-by-rail moratoria (WA)

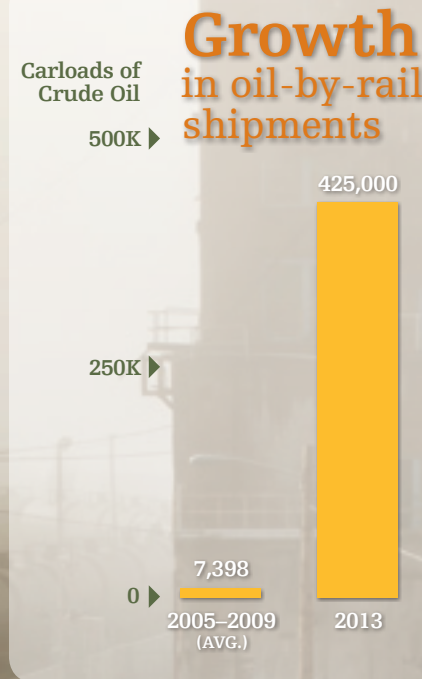
Seattle City Council and Mayor Ed Murray called for a statewide moratorium on oil train projects, largely informed by research and testimony from Sightline Policy Director Eric de Place. Similar resolutions passed the King County Council and the Vancouver (WA) and Aberdeen city councils.

“Sightline’s materials are the exact right mix of credible, fact driven analysis and hard-hitting advocacy. Sightline consistently nails it.”

Jan Hasselman
EARTHJUSTICE

Ambre Energy Collapses in the US (OR)

Sightline Deputy Director Clark Williams-Derry has spent over two years scrutinizing the financial shakiness of would-be coal export company Ambre Energy. After the Oregon Department of State Lands denied Ambre a key permit in August, the company failed to secure further funding for its two planned Northwest coal terminals and had to sell its North American coal business to its largest creditor.



“Sightline provides sophisticated big-picture analysis that takes the long view in crafting practical policy and practice.”

Cindy Jennings,
READER AND SUPPORTER

CDC Changes housing rule (US)

Based on research by Alan Durning, the US Center for Disease Control changed its minimum square foot rule in its Healthy Housing Reference Manual. This change has the potential to influence local codes in scores of cities, facilitating development of micro-apartments and neo-rooming houses.

“Sightline is the go-to source for in-depth research on how coal and oil issues in our region will impact our health, our economy, and our planet.”

Meighan Pritchard,
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST MINISTER
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Sightline research cited over 527 times.

Notable media mentions: *New York Times*, *Atlantic Cities*, *VICE News*, *Mother Jones*, *Outside Magazine*, *Politico*, *Vancouver Sun*, *Seattle Times*, *Seattle P-I*, *Grist*, *EarthFix Media*

Coal, oil, and gas shipments out of the Northwest would carry as much carbon annually as

5 Keystone XLs

Facebook audience grew 36% in 2014

Twitter audience grew 30% to almost 6,900 followers

Kristin Eberhard Senior Researcher



When I was 12, I knew that I wanted to work at the intersection of science, technology, and ethics. I knew I was living in an exciting era powered by an explosion of knowledge about how the world works and mind-blowing technological advances creating more stuff and faster information sharing. But, I wondered, **what's it all for?** I wanted to know not just what humans *could* do, but what we *should* do.

My fascination with science and technology hasn't changed, and my existential questions haven't abated, but my preferred answers seem to be getting sappier. In my high school and college years I thought: *what's it all for?* **It is for people.** We must use our powers of discernment and production for the good of people; for people now to live good lives, and people in the

future to have the opportunity to do the same. It turned out lots of other smart people were working on that and calling it "sustainability." That is my field. But I am now more likely to say: *what's it all for?* **Love.** (Yeah, yeah. Cue 90s Bryan Adams song). Putting Love, not fear, at the center of all our endeavors will foster cooperation over competition, inclusiveness over exclusion, and care over exploitation.

I am an INTJ, so I don't really talk about "Love" to actual, you know, people. I mostly just think about it. (For those of you who are not Meyer-Briggs buffs, INTJs are the types who sit in their secret basement lab planning how to rebuild all the world's flawed systems and make everything work better). Also true to my INTJ nature, I swing between euphoric optimism and cynical pessimism about the future.

For example: I think it is entirely likely that within my lifetime we will see an age of abundance where a combination of artificial intelligence, urban permaculture advances, clean energy technologies, and 3-D printing make

a good life available to every person on earth. We will upgrade our social institutions and governance structures to stop perpetuating false scarcity through inequitable distributions of power and wealth, and instead facilitate a true post-scarcity society. All us humans, freed from the bonds of poverty and toil, will spend our days doing the things that humans do best: learning more about ourselves and our world, creating works of art and new technologies, and caring for each other. In some sense, advances in science and technology will ultimately help humans achieve more Love.

But on other days I mope that we as a species are too stupid to actually safeguard the health of *the only planet in the Universe that we can live on*. Maybe it would be better if super-artificial-intelligence wipes us out and creates a new world order that makes more sense. On those days, I try to stay in my basement lab and take deep breaths.

Once I have sufficiently re-engaged my parasympathetic nervous system, I go back to strategizing how to bring about the former vision and quash the latter. Plotting for a world of Love may sound well and good, but imagine how it goes over in most job interviews if I say: "My driving goal in life is to help humanity evolve into a more loving species. I want to achieve that goal by re-writing humanity's unhelpful rules and re-making humanity's outdated institutions so they are more logical, more efficient, more equitable, and more conducive to a world of Love, cooperation, and care." *Um, yeah, but what are you going to do for our law firm?* As Archimedes found, it can be hard to find a place on which to stand.

I found my place at Sightline.

Sightline has spent decades finding practical ways to bring about a better future. This brighter future is unimaginable to those whose vision is limited to the present realities of this year, this quarter, this day. But Sightline's vision illuminates a bigger realm of possibility. Sightline charts a course not just to the edge of our current reality, but to as-yet-unseen horizons. We fight not just for the wins we can get today, but for the long-term structural changes that can bring about a truly sustainable Pacific Northwest. This is my fight. This is my place.

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2014

ASSETS

Cash and investments	\$ 2,233,322
Accounts receivable	157
Donations and grants receivable	609,322
Other assets	20,657
Total assets	\$2,863,458

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 148,402
Total liabilities	148,402

Net assets

Unrestricted	2,037,171
Temporarily restricted	677,885
Total net assets	2,715,056
Total liabilities and net assets	\$2,863,458

Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended December 31, 2014

REVENUE

Grants	\$ 1,002,502
Contributions	556,675
Publication sales and fees for service	29,985
Investment income	46,182
Total revenue	1,635,344

EXPENSES

Programs	1,162,770
Fundraising	220,068
Management and general	49,438
Total expenses	1,432,276
Change in net assets	203,068
Net assets, beginning of year	2,511,988
Net assets, end of year	\$2,715,056

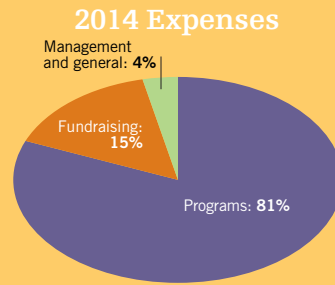
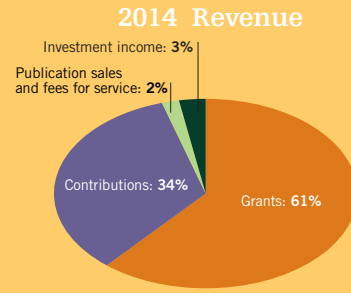
Change in Cash and Investments

For the Year Ended December 31, 2014

Net change in cash and investments	\$ 67,025
Cash and investments, beginning of year	2,166,297
Cash and investments, end of year	\$2,233,322

These figures have not yet been audited by an independent accountant. For a copy of the audited financial statements, please contact Migeo Han by calling 888-447-1880 ext. 118.

In accordance with accounting principles, Sightline records income when promised, not when received. In 2013 and 2014, Sightline received bequests and grant commitments totaling more than \$1 million that are designated for gradual use over many years. Because this statement shows these gifts but not the corresponding spending plans, it overstates our uncommitted assets.



Smart solutions for a sustainable Northwest

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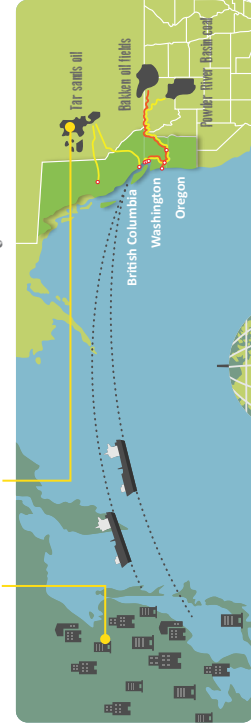
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The Pacific Northwest Stands at a CROSSROADS

But between these... and these... stands us—the thin green line of the Pacific NW



Our choices in the coming years will impact our region's health and safety while they shape our planet's future.

Let's make the right decision, together.

GRAPHIC: Don Baker