

Guide to the Mothers Out Front Collection

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COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Mothers Out Front is a volunteer-driven, grassroots organization mobilizing for healthier children, healthier communities, and a livable climate. Founded in Massachusetts in 2013, the organization has assembled a movement of mothers, grandmothers, and caregivers to protect and preserve the future of the nation's children. By focusing on shared values across cultural, religious, racial, economic, political, and generational boundaries, members of Mothers Out Front unite to persuade elected officials to transition away from the use of fossil fuels and campaign for clean, renewable energy solutions. Mothers Out Front aims to educate and empower mothers to take an active leadership role in protecting their children by fighting for climate justice.

Since 2016, the Finger Lakes chapter of Mothers Out Front has been campaigning locally to protect children from a climate crisis that is having an increasingly negative impact on human health. In 2017, members of the Finger Lakes chapter targeted The New Market Expansion project at Borger Station in Dryden, NY. Owned by Dominion Transmission, Inc, the natural gas compressor station was under construction to be expanded and was designated a "major source" of air pollutants by the EPA. In response to this project, the Finger Lakes chapter of Mothers Out Front called on Governor Andrew Cuomo to intervene, and made a series of requests to Borger Station, including the retrofitting of the station's turbines with oxidation catalysts to reduce air pollutants, the replacement of its old turbines to reduce emissions, and proactive participation in the natural gas STAR program for climate protection. In addition, the organization completed an air quality study and confidential health assessments of residents living within a 2-kilometer radius of Borger Station to demonstrate the impact of the project and requested that the Tompkins County Department of Health conduct a comprehensive air quality and health study following the expansion. Using a 4-part strategy that prioritizes informing and engaging, monitoring, and addressing legal and safety concerns, the Finger Lakes chapter of Mothers Out Front has played an invaluable role in the protection of local children and the environment.

This collection consists of Mothers Out Front summary materials, as well as documents related to information and engagement, monitoring, and legal and regulatory and safety concerns. It also includes some newspaper clippings and a meeting Q&A on DVD.

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