

GREEN LEGACY

Fall 2014

In Defense of the Arctic

by Pete Willcox

There were 30 of us held in total, 28 Greenpeace activists and two freelance journalists, taken from the Greenpeace ship *Arctic Sunrise* after a peaceful protest at an Arctic oil platform operated by the Russian energy behemoth Gazprom.

Our crime? We attempted to hang a banner to draw public attention to the massive and irreversible threat oil companies like Gazprom pose to the Arctic.

TREATED LIKE CRIMINALS

In response, we were shot at and threatened by masked men in Navy launches. The *Arctic Sunrise* was boarded by armed commandos from a helicopter in international waters. Our passports were taken. We were accused of hooliganism and piracy. Our ship was locked away in Murmansk.

We were jailed for over 100 days, kept from our families and treated like criminals, all because we wanted the world to know that drilling in the Arctic is a reckless and irresponsible act.

If a spill were to occur in that pristine, frozen region, there

would be no way to reverse the damage. The oil companies have not developed any innovative ideas or revolutionary technology to address the complications the Arctic's unique environment presents.

WHAT MATTERS

What matters to them is the idea that there is money to be made from Arctic oil. What matters to me and to Greenpeace and to our supporters around the world is that we don't allow foolish schemes to destroy the Arctic.

What matters is that we stop allowing a handful of powerful companies and influential individuals with narrow interests to continue leaving a trail of destruction as they mindlessly pursue failing, dirty and backward sources of energy.

What matters are the people who stand with Greenpeace, the people who write letters, sign petitions, and ask, "What can I do next?" It doesn't have to be a banner on an oil rig. Sometimes the most extraordinary changes begin their lives as ordinary, everyday acts.

GREENPEACE
FUND



Captain Pete Willcox on the *Arctic Sunrise*

Inside:

- Taking Stock and Giving It
- Compare the Benefits
- Tom Wetterer: Bearing Witness

Taking Stock and Giving It

With the Dow Jones and other popular stock market indexes posting record levels, many investors have seen their securities increase in value significantly over the last few years. But often times these investments are yielding little to no dividends. With these factors in mind, long-term appreciated securities can be a wise choice when making gifts to Greenpeace, as they offer multiple tax benefits.

Here are some frequently asked questions about the advantages of giving securities to Greenpeace:

Q. What are the advantages of using securities to fund my gift?

A. If you own securities that have appreciated in value, you may owe a substantial capital gains tax if you sell them. By using these assets to fund a charitable gift, you will not owe capital gains tax. You can also enjoy a federal income tax deduction for the full value of the securities. If funding a CRT, the value of the charitable gift under IRS rules is deductible.

Q. Which security should I give?

A. For maximum tax benefits, it is usually best to give securities that have increased the most in value since you have owned them. Or, in other cases, you may wish to give a particular security as a means of balancing or simplifying your portfolio.

Q. Is there a way I can give a portion of my securities and sell the rest?

A. Yes. A “balanced sale” may be a good option for greatly appreciated securities that you believe may have reached their peak. Using this approach, you make a gift of a portion of the securities while selling the remainder. By doing so, the tax savings from your gift can help offset the tax on the securities you sold. Your advisors can help you do this in a way that will result in maximum capital gains and income tax savings.

Six Reasons to Give Appreciated Property This Year-End

When you are considering how to make your gifts to Greenpeace this year, don't forget long-term appreciated property. This can include stocks, bonds and mutual funds that have risen in value and have been owned longer than one year.

Giving these assets can make good sense from both a philanthropic and financial planning perspective. Consider the following:

- 1.** You may deduct the current value of the asset, not what you paid for it.
- 2.** You bypass any capital gains tax you would owe if you sold the asset.

- 3.** Your capital gains tax savings may never be more beneficial.
- 4.** Your deduction may provide up to six years of tax savings.
- 5.** You conserve your cash for other purposes. You might even want to repurchase the asset with a new, higher cost basis.
- 6.** You make a wonderful gift to Greenpeace.
Check with us or your advisors for more information about tax-favored gifts of securities and other assets.



Credit: © Nick Cobbing / Greenpeace

Compare the Benefits of These Giving Methods

Gift Method	Tax Savings	Advantages to Donor	Greenpeace Benefits
Securities	Charitable income tax deduction (up to 30% of adjusted gross income) for those who itemize.	No capital gains tax; full value of asset is deductible.	Full value of assets to benefit Greenpeace.
Retirement Plan Assets	Possible income and estate tax savings for amounts left to charity.	Maintains access to retirement funds while providing a contingent gift.	Whatever remains in the retirement plan, tax free.
Charitable Lead Trust	May substantially reduce or eliminate gift and estate taxes.	Can provide a larger gift to loved ones free of additional gift and estate taxes at a predetermined date in the future.	Either fixed or variable payments annually for the term of the trust.
Bequest by Will	Full income and estate tax deductions when the gift passes to Greenpeace.	Make a substantial gift without depleting funds needed during life.	A substantial gift to further support the work of Greenpeace.
Beneficiary Designation	May save estate or income taxes depending on the type of asset.	Can be a convenient way to arrange a gift of life insurance or retirement plan.	The full value of designated funds from retirement account or life insurance policy.
P.O.D. Accounts	Possible estate tax deduction.	Donor maintains full access to funds during life.	Greenpeace receives remaining balances.

Please Remember Greenpeace in Your Will

If you are ready to name Greenpeace in your will or other plans, here are a few simple facts to note. Our full legal name is:

Greenpeace Fund, Inc.

and our federal tax ID number is:

95-3313195.

The Greenpeace ship
Arctic Sunrise departs
from Murmansk, Russia





Tom Wetterer: Bearing Witness

As the General Counsel of Greenpeace USA, Tom Wetterer is one of the busiest people at Greenpeace. With all of us depending on him to protect Greenpeace legally, it's easy to understand how his job is very pressure-filled.

But despite the hustle and bustle and everyday stresses that come with being the General Counsel, Tom is always the first one to come to your side in a time of need. Whether it's knowing you can count on him as the best third baseman on the Greenpeace softball team, or if your liberties are on the line due to an act of civil disobedience for a cause you believe in, you can count on Tom to be there for you.

Perhaps that's why so many of us at Greenpeace describe Tom as not just a coworker, but the most trustworthy, dependable friend one could have.

It was Greenpeace's mission that drew Tom here 16 years ago, especially the principle of bearing witness. "Greenpeace puts everything on the line and goes to the scene of the crime."

Tom has proven his belief in the importance of bearing witness and his loyalty to Greenpeace on many occasions. He once dressed up in the weighty, head-to-toe polar bear costume and marched to the Department of Interior to draw attention to the Arctic.

"I care very much about the Arctic," says Tom. "What's happening with climate change in the Arctic affects the entire world...and if climate change continues at its current rate, it will have a devastating effect on the world."

GIVING FOR THE CAUSE

That's why Tom makes a monthly donation to Greenpeace and has included Greenpeace in his estate plans. Knowing that Greenpeace "won't give up and will continue fighting" gives Tom peace of mind. But having Tom as the General Counsel, and knowing that he is here fighting for Greenpeace, the Arctic, and for all of us, gives us hope and security.



Credit: @Mannie Garcia / Greenpeace

Greenpeace activist and General Counsel Tom Wetterer, dressed in a polar bear costume, outside the U.S. Department of the Interior.

For More Information...

For more information on how your plans can balance your own personal and financial goals with a desire to help Greenpeace in a substantial way, please contact, without obligation:



Corrine Barr
Gift Planning Director
800-328-0678

GREENPEACE FUND

702 H Street NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20001
greenpeacefund.org



Florence Grazi
Planned Giving Associate
800-621-6038

*Greenpeace Fund is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization set up to continue the vital work of Greenpeace by increasing public awareness and understanding of environmental issues through research, the media, and other educational programs. Greenpeace Fund also provides grants to support Greenpeace's work around the world for activities that are consistent with its mission.



Recognized by Charity Navigator as having demonstrated excellent financial efficiency.

Awarded "Best in America Seal" by Independent Charities of America. Of the one million charities operating in the USA, less than two thousand have been awarded this prestigious seal.



Proud to meet all of the Better Business Bureau's "Wise Giving Alliance Standards for Charity Accountability."

Top-rated environmental charity by the American Institute of Philanthropy. Grade A.

