

**SUMMARY REPORT**

**CSGA Meeting for Learning**

**September 15, 7 – 9 pm**

**Annapolis Friends Meetinghouse**

**351 Dubois Rd. Annapolis, MD**

**Speaker: Mike Tidwell, Chesapeake Climate Action Network**

**Subject: “The Politics of Global Warming”**

**Synopsis of The Meeting: The clock is ticking: Climate change might not be more important than other issues, but it has a deadline that gives it priority over all others. Lack of action on climate change will override the value of action on any other.**

**A More Complete Discussion of the Meeting:**

**With experience that includes newspaper reporting, writing, documentary filmmaking, protesting, civil disobedience, and environmental advocacy, Mike Tidwell draws from a wealth of knowledge to advise public action on Climate Change.**

**He founded Chesapeake Climate Action Network in 2002 when he found himself overwhelmed by the scientific evidence and confounded by the lack of political action to avoid the impacts of climate change. Other environmental organizations listed climate change among their priorities, but none embraced it as a sole focus. Mike felt this was a short sighted approach because climate change was an environmental issue with a fast approaching deadline that would ultimately overshadow or negate any positive action taken on the others. Solving climate change would give us time to addresses the others.**

**After 14 years of advocacy, Mike remains hopeful. He acknowledges increasing evidence of climate change impacts: loss of polar ice, increased rate of glacial melt, global temperature extremes, severe weather events, excess of 400 ppm of CO2 in the atmosphere,... But, while the impacts have gotten more severe and the polluters have become more extreme, the fossil fuel resistance movement has become more passionate and organized. Steadfast grassroots action has proven to be an effective instrument of change.**

**In 2011, such action defeated the plan for the Keystone Pipeline. Mike and CSGA’s own Will Candler were among the first group of 50 protesters arrested at the White House protesting the pipeline. Their efforts were followed by similar deliberate action every day that followed with tens of thousands of protesters ultimately involved in action that resulting in shutting down the planned development.**

**Similar action was recently undertaken to fight the Dakota Access Pipeline. Journalist Amy Goodman’s live reporting of security officers engaging Native American protesters (**[**https://youtu.be/kuZcx2zEo4k**](https://youtu.be/kuZcx2zEo4k)**) highlights the integrity of the protester, the strength of their resolve, and helps secure broader support across the nation. Their action won a temporary order from the Obama administration to stop the of construction of the pipeline. It also earned them respect, built empathy, and rallied reinforcements who are already fortifying camps on the pipeline route.**

**But. we remain in a race against time. We need ongoing organized action to fight the fossil fuel interests that want to lock us into additional generations of fossil fuel dependence. We need to keep it in the ground and make wind and solar competitive to win this race.**

**Polls show that a wide majority of Americans believe in climate change and support sustainable energy. Unfortunately, the special interests have huge influence on our policymakers.**

**Their pockets are deep and their influence is great, but organized individuals beat organized money every time. People can win this war, but it will require everyone to do more: write, lobby, protest,...**

**Start by getting yourself signed up on the email list of at least one group taking action on climate change. Email notifications will notify you when your voice is required and give you specific actions you can take.**