Who We Are

InsideClimate News is a Pulitzer Prize-winning non-profit, non-partisan news organization that provides essential reporting and analysis on climate, energy and the environment for the public and decision makers. We serve as watchdogs of government, industry and advocacy groups and hold them accountable for their policies and actions. Already one of the largest environment newsrooms in the country, ICN is committed to establishing a permanent national reporting network, to training the next generation of journalists, and to strengthening the practice of environmental journalism.

ICN by the Numbers
as of December 31, 2016

- **20,771** subscribers
- **71.5K** Twitter followers
- **63,926** Facebook likes
- **1,700+** individual donors

Steady Growth in Traffic
2011-2016

- **1,431,967** users
- **2,573,870** page views
- **1,932,328** sessions

*Pulitzer win*
A Decade of Impact and Much More Ahead

Dear Reader,

InsideClimate News turns 10 years old in the fall, and this biennial report chronicles the most recent two years, revealing the great distance we’ve come since our founding.

We went from start-up to a Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting in five years, and from there doubled our staff again while around us journalism was going through a devastating financial crisis. Ours is an improbable story, and an important chapter in the coming of age of non-profit journalism when our society needs it most.

InsideClimate News became a safe harbor for talented environmental journalists with fewer and fewer places left for them to work. We published groundbreaking investigations that had real impact. We won a string of the most prestigious awards in journalism. We watched the steady growth of our traffic and readership and an equally steady growth in our operating budget. And we contributed a beneficial influence to the continued practice of watchdog journalism.

Yet both Earth’s climate and American journalism are facing a long season of reckoning ahead. The two crises at the heart of ICN’s concerns are in worse condition than when we started publishing in 2007. American leadership on climate solutions is now being thrown into reverse, and journalism’s central role as a bulwark of democracy is being attacked from the Oval Office itself.

It only means that our work at ICN is more important than ever, and we are laying track to meet the challenges of the decade to come. It’s why we’ve doubled the number of stories we’re producing over the last six months. It’s why we have two investigations underway. It’s why we’re starting to produce features on clean energy and a weekly newsletter on the clean economy. And it’s why we’re entering into many collaborations with multi-media outlets that will get our work on the airwaves and to more people.

That’s not all. We are also developing a program for high school students to train the next generation of environmental reporters, and another program to rebuild environmental journalism in the nation’s heartland – where local news has been hollowed out over the last decade.

Undark magazine, a respected journal of science out of MIT, said InsideClimate News has “dominated U.S. climate journalism.” It’s welcome validation of our first decade of achievement, and we intend to continue setting the pace for the next 10 years and beyond.

David Sassoon
Founder and Publisher, InsideClimate News
Our Reporting Spans the U.S. and the World

- Natural gas leak threatens endangered beluga whales
- Standing Rock Reservation vs. Dakota Access Pipeline
- Dwindling arctic ice threatens polar bears
- Government policies affecting climate and environment
- Dwindling arctic ice threatens polar bears
- Sea level rise putting coastal cities at risk
- Solar power takes hold in Nigeria
- African elephants in Tanzania also face climate threat
- Is climate change ruining the wild places in Chile?

What We Produce

- Clean Economy Wire - Daily Headlines on Clean Energy Economic Development
- Our Original Reporting, Published Daily
- Today’s Climate - Top Daily Climate Stories Curated by ICN
- Original Infographics
- Week In Review - A Compilation of ICN's Original Stories and the Most Important Headlines Delivered in a Weekly Email
- Enterprise Stories and Deep-Dive Investigations
- Documentary Videos In Collaboration With Media Partners
- Our Most Important Stories (continues through page 9)

Exxon Relents, Wipes Oil Sands Reserves From Its Books • Researcher’s 1979 Arctic Model Predicted Current Sea Ice Demise, Holds Lessons for Future
Our Media Partners

InsideClimate News partners with other media organizations to enhance distribution of our work, to collaborate on investigations, and to produce video documentaries. They include:
Corporate Sponsors

These sponsors provide financial support to help sustain the groundbreaking environmental journalism of InsideClimate News. As with our philanthropic funders and individual donors, they have no access to our editorial decision-making. To make an inquiry to become a corporate sponsor, please use the contact form at insideclimatenews.org and select “sponsorships” in the category menu.

Allocation of Funds
How we spent $1,352,000 in 2016:

- Program: 87%
- Fundraising: 8%
- Management: 5%

Where We Are
Revenue in 2016

- Philanthropies: 79%
- Corporate Sponsors: 7%
- Online Donors: 7%
- Individual Donors: 6%

What We’re Aiming For
Goals for Future Revenue

- Philanthropies
- Corporate Sponsors
- Online Donors
- Individual Donors

Annual Event
Syndication
Training
Our Awards

2016
- WINNER
- FINALIST

Exxon: The Road Not Taken
Neela Banerjee, John H. Cushman Jr., David Hasemyer, Lisa Song

Online Journalism Award
Althouth Innovation in Investigative Journalism Award, Small Market

Society of Environmental Journalists Award
Kevin Canaday Award for Outstanding In-depth Reporting, Small Market

John B. Oakes Award
Robert F. Kennedy Award

White House Correspondents’ Association
Edgar A. Poe Award for News coverage of regional or national importance

Society of American Business Editors and Writers Award
Digital Investigative Division (co-winner)

National Press Foundation
Thomas L. Stokes Award for Best Energy Writing

Scripps Howard Awards
Environmental Reporting

The Izzy Award

Society of Professional Journalists
Goldsmith Award for Informational Graphics

Pulitzer Prize

The Goldsmith Prize for Investigative Reporting

EPPY Award
Best Redesign/Relaunch with under 1 million unique monthly visitors (for InsideClimate News’ website)

2015

Big Oil, Bad Air
David Hasemyer, Lisa Song, CPI’s Jim Morris and The Weather Channel’s Greg Gilderman

The Knight-Risser Prize (awarded in 2016)
Western Environmental Journalism

Society of Environmental Journalists (awarded in 2016)
Kevins Canaday Award for Outstanding In-depth Reporting, Large Market

National Press Foundation
Thomas L. Stokes Award for Energy Writing

Association of Health Care Journalists Award
Large Investigation

Society of Professional Journalists
Sigma Delta Chi Award for Informational Graphics
(Paul Horn, Lisa Song)

John B. Oakes Award

Loeb Awards
Explanatory Reporting

Investigative Reporters & Editors Award
Large Investigation

Scripps Howard Awards
Best Investigative/Enterprise Feature on a Website

Pulitzer Prize

2014

Bloomberg’s Hidden Legacy: Climate Change and the Future of New York City
Katharine Baigley and Maria Gallucci

Deadline Club, NYC Chapter of The Society of Professional Journalists
Reporting by Independent Digital Media

San Diego Press Club
Daily Newspapers and Websites, General News (David Hasemyer)

Society of Environmental Journalists
Outstanding Feature Story

Deadline Club, NYC Chapter of The Society of Professional Journalists
Reporting by Independent Digital Media

San Diego Press Club
Daily Newspapers and Websites, Environment (David Hasemyer, Zahra Hirji)

Scripps Howard Awards
Environmental Reporting

2013

The Dilbit Disaster
Elizabeth McGowan, Lisa Song, and Dave Hasemyer

Pulitzer Prize

Rachel Carson Environment Book Award, Society of Environmental Journalists

Deadline Club, NYC Chapter of The Society of Professional Journalists
Reporting by Independent Digital Media

San Diego Press Club
Daily Newspapers and Websites, Environment (David Hasemyer)

Livingston Awards
National Reporting

San Diego Press Club
Daily Newspapers and Websites, Environment (David Hasemyer)

The Izzy Award

San Diego Press Club
Daily Newspapers and Websites, General News (David Hasemyer)

Exxon’s Own Research Confirmed Fossil Fuels’ Role in Global Warming Decades Ago • 2016: How Dakota Pipeline Protest Became a Native American Cry for Justice • Wyoming Bill Would All But Outlaw Clean Energy by Preventing Utilities From Using It • Map: The Fracking Boom, State by State
David Sassoon
Founder and Publisher
David Sassoon is the founder and publisher of InsideClimate News. He has been a writer, editor and publisher for 25 years, involved with public interest issues: human rights, cultural preservation, healthcare, education and the environment. He earned his undergraduate degree from Harvard University and a master’s degree from Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism.

Stacy Feldman
Co-Founder and Executive Editor
Stacy Feldman is co-founder, executive editor and occasional reporter for InsideClimate News. From 2008-2010, she was its energy reporter and foreign editor, reporting extensively on clean energy technologies, forestry issues and the United Nations climate change negotiations in 2009 and 2010. Feldman has a master’s degree in international affairs from Columbia University.

John H. Cushman, Jr.
Managing Editor
Jack Cushman is an editor and reporter for InsideClimate News. Before joining ICN, he worked for 35 years as a writer and editor in Washington, D.C., principally with the Washington bureau of The New York Times. Cushman has written extensively about energy, the environment, industry and military affairs, also covering financial and transportation beats as well as editing articles. He served on the board of governors of the National Press Club and was a previous president.

Stacy Morford
Senior Editor
Stacy Morford is the senior editor for ICN and a native of Midwestern farm country. She was a government reporter and national editor for the Associated Press for over 10 years, then helped launch ICN as a news site. Before returning to ICN, she worked for the World Bank and Columbia University, observing climate policy development from the inside and working with economists and climate scientists as a senior communications officer and digital strategist.

Neela Banerjee
Senior Correspondent
Neela Banerjee led ICN’s coverage of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize finalist series “Exxon: The Road Not Taken.” Before joining ICN, she spent four years as the energy and environmental reporter for the Los Angeles Times Washington bureau. Banerjee has also covered global energy and the Iraq War for The New York Times. Banerjee has a degree from Yale and grew up mostly in south Louisiana.

Beth Daley
Director of Strategic Development
Beth Daley works to grow and diversify sources of revenue for InsideClimate News. Before joining ICN, she was a reporter for 25 years at the Boston Globe and then the New England Center for Investigative Reporting. She has won numerous journalism awards and was named a Pulitzer finalist for her climate work.

David Hasemyer
Reporter
David Hasemyer co-authored “The Dilbit Disaster” which won the 2013 Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting and co-authored the 2016 Pulitzer Prize finalist series “Exxon: The Road Not Taken.” Prior to joining ICN, Hasemyer had an award-winning tenure at The San Diego Union-Tribune as an investigative reporter.
Marianne Lavelle
Politics Reporter
Marianne Lavelle is a reporter for InsideClimate News. She has covered environment, science, law, and business in Washington, D.C. for more than two decades. She has won the Polk Award, the Investigative Editors and Reporters Award, and numerous other honors. Lavelle spent four years as online energy news editor and writer at National Geographic. She also has worked at U.S. News and World Report magazine and The National Law Journal. While there, she led the award-winning 1992 investigation, “Unequal Protection.”

Paul Horn
Graphics Editor
Paul Horn has been supporting ICN reporters’ stories with infographics, locators, charts, diagrams and other visuals since 2012. He brings an award-winning, 27-year pedigree to the table, featuring long tenures at the Reno Gazette-Journal, The San Diego Union-Tribune, Copley News Service/Creators Syndicate and Infographic World.

Georgina Gustin
Reporter
Georgina Gustin is a Washington-based reporter who has covered food policy, farming and the environment for more than a decade. She started her journalism career at The Day in New London, Conn., then moved to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, where she launched the “food beat,” covering agriculture, biotech giant Monsanto and the growing “good food” movement. At CQ Roll Call, she covered food, farm and drug policy and the intersections between federal regulatory agencies and Congress. Her work has also appeared in The New York Times, Washington Post and National Geographic’s The Plate, among others.

Sabrina Shankman
Reporter and Producer
Sabrina Shankman is a producer and reporter for InsideClimate News. She joined InsideClimate in the fall of 2013, after helping produce documentaries and interactives for the PBS show “Frontline” since 2010. Prior to working with Frontline, Shankman reported for ProPublica, The Wall Street Journal and the Associated Press. Shankman holds a master’s degree from UC Berkeley’s Graduate School of Journalism.

Nicholas Kusnetz
Reporter
Nicholas Kusnetz is a reporter for InsideClimate News. Previously, he ran the award-winning Center for Public Integrity’s State Integrity Investigation. He also covered fracking as a reporting fellow at ProPublica and was a 2011 Middlebury Fellow in Environmental Journalism. His work has appeared in Slate, The Washington Post, Businessweek, Mother Jones, The Nation, Fast Company and The New York Times.

Zahra Hirji
Reporter
Zahra Hirji is a catch-all energy and climate reporter for InsideClimate News. Previously, her work has been featured in a mix of online and print publications, including Brown’s alumni magazine, Discovery News and EARTH magazine. She has a master’s degree in science writing from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a bachelor of arts in geological sciences from Brown University.

Phil McKenna
Reporter
Phil McKenna is a Boston-based reporter for InsideClimate News. Before joining ICN in 2016, he was a freelance writer covering energy and the environment for publications including The New York Times, Smithsonian, Audubon and WIRED. He’s won the AAAS Kavli Science Journalism Award and the NASW Science in Society Award. Phil has a master’s degree in science writing from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

EPA Nominee Pruitt Ordered to Produce Documents About Fossil Fuel Ties • Scientists’ Group Launches Website to Help Federal Whistleblowers
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“The outlet has grown into a bastion of investigative reporting with a long institutional memory, following up on stories that the rest of the attention-deficit-disordered media has either ignored or forgotten about.”

—Columbia Journalism Review

“Some observers suggested that [ICN’s] Pulitzer was a statement of sorts by the five judges that selected the national reporting winner — a way to support both aggressive coverage of the subject matter and the thrifty way InsideClimate News goes about it.”

—The New York Times

“ICN has proven that perseverance matters more than size.”

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“InsideClimate News....(has) dominated U.S. climate journalism, but The New York Times and Washington Post now are trying to catch up.”

—Undark Magazine

“The project on Exxon was just the latest triumph for InsideClimate News. The news organization, founded in 2007, has become widely respected for its in-depth journalism.”

—Andy Revkin
ProPublica

“Artfully crafted, the articles used great writing, diligent reporting, multimedia sources and captivating interviewing to shed light on a major story. Bravo.”

—Society of Environmental Journalists Awards Committee

“...Their great work offers hope that even as the fortunes of the mainstream media wax and wane.....good journalism will always be with us.”

—Time Magazine