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### **WSU Vancouver announces new educational resource for documenting fossil fuel resistance**

VANCOUVER, Wash. – The Thin Green Line is People: Documenting Pacific Northwest Fossil Fuel Resistance is an online, open-source archive that collects and preserves critical documents and filmed oral history interviews on fossil fuel impacts. Start-up funding from the WSU Vancouver Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion helped create this archive, and will provide research opportunities to inform the public about fossil fuel impacts and how to resist them.

The community-based research team from WSU Vancouver is committed to working with teachers and professors throughout the Pacific Northwest to adapt this online resource at community colleges, universities and K-12 education. This accessible tool highlights the diverse voices involved in the struggle. Tribal chairs and elders, farmers, physicians and other experts are sharing their insights to beat back Big Oil and prevent possible damage to our communities.

The Pacific Northwest is a fossil-fuel transit corridor. Increased fossil fuels impact salmon spawning grounds and treaty-protected fishing rights. When fossil fuels like oil and mercury enter bodies of water, salmon and other fish's development, heart rate and reproduction are impacted. In turn, this may impact the entire food chain's development. Airborne fossil fuel pollutants are known to impact human cognition and once they enter the lungs, they may lead to respiratory illness, stroke and other disorders.

The Seattle-based Sightline Institute has dubbed the Pacific Northwest the Thin Green Line for its strategic place in holding the line against an unsustainable fossil fuel future. The project name evokes the dystopian world of the 1973 cult classic film "Soylent Green" and the extraordinary roles ordinary people play in shaping social movements as documenting by historian Howard Zinn.

"Spectacular people's history work," said Bill Bigelow when referencing The Thin Green Line is People. Bigelow serves as a curriculum editor at Rethinking Schools, co-director of the Zinn Education project and a frequent Huffington Post guest columnist.

To learn more about The Thin Green Line is People: Documenting Pacific Northwest Fossil Fuel Resistance, visit [labs.wsu.edu/thethinggreenlineispeople/](https://labs.wsu.edu/thethinggreenlineispeople/) or contact Desiree Hellegers, WSU Vancouver associate professor of English and Collective for Social and Environment Justice member at (503) 927-1709.

#### **About WSU Vancouver**

As one of six campuses of the WSU system, WSU Vancouver offers big-school resources in a small-school environment. Both in person and online, the university provides affordable, high-quality baccalaureate- and graduate-level education to benefit the people and communities it serves. As the only four-year research

university in Southwest Washington, WSU Vancouver helps drive economic growth through relationships with local businesses and industries, schools and nonprofit organizations.

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MEDIA CONTACT(S)

Brenda Alling, Office of Marketing and Communication, 360-546-9601, [brenda\\_alling@wsu.edu](mailto:brenda_alling@wsu.edu)