ECOSOCIALIST SONGBOOK

Compiled by

OCCUPELLA

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Lyrics for:

BEE—MY BABY
BYE BYE COAL
DE COLORES
DO IT NOW
GEE, GOVERNOR JERRY
GROWING CLIMATE MOVEMENT
IT ISN’T NICE
JUST A DINOSAUR
MEETING AT THE CROSSROADS
NO DAPL
PUT IT ON THE LABEL
TAKE ME OUT OF THE BIG BANKS
TRANSIT EQUITY DAY SONGS
WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH A DRUNKEN SAILOR
ZIPPER SONGS
for the ENVIRONMENT
Welcome to the Ecosocialist Songbook!

We hope that you’ll add to it and adapt it to the work in your communities and organizations. Feel free to reproduce it, copy a song or two for an action, or send it on to anyone who might need it.

These lyrics were compiled, adapted and penned by members of Occupella: Betsy Rose, Bonnie Lockhart, Hali Hammer, Leslie Hassberg, Marcie Boyd and Nancy Schimmel. We came together in the whirlwind of the Occupy Movement. We’d all known of each other through decades of Antiwar, Union Solidarity, Feminist, and LGBT cultural work in groups such as The Freedom Song Network, The Children’s Music Network, The Red Star Singers, Singing for Peace, The Choral Majority, and People’s Music Network. We felt excited by Occupy and its potential to grow the better world we know is possible. And we knew that music—not only commercially distributed songs with their hearts in the right place, but participatory, community-made, culturally transformative music—must accompany the political and economic changes Occupy brought to light. And so, we set about bringing that kind of communal singing to public events.

As the moment of Occupy passed, the relationships and movements it spawned developed and grew. Occupella found ourselves singing more than ever, and among the most compelling projects we supported were Climate and Environmental Justice events. This Ecosocialist Songbook is a collection of some of our favorite pieces from that work.

Although we are all songwriters, nearly all the songs we use, and all of those included here, are updates and rewrites of old songs, traditional songs, and popular songs. We want people to sing! And we’ve found that using a tune that’s at least somewhat familiar to at least some of the people improves the odds of folks opening up their mouths and letting it rip.

We’ve included some songs specific to our local Bay Area and California state campaigns—among them, Bye Bye Coal and Gee, Governor Jerry. We hope these will inspire you to write and sing about what’s up in your area. Most of the songs, more’s the pity, apply almost anywhere.

The genius of the improvised lyric, so prevalent in African American traditional song, as well as in many world folk traditions, is particularly well suited to the kind of full out, up-to-date singing we need. It was probably Pete Seeger who coined the term ”Zipper Songs”—zip in a new word or two to create a verse to fit the moment. You’ll find some of those here. We encourage you to adapt them to your events.

Please contact us and let us know how you’re integrating singing into your ecosocialist work. Send us a video, or lyrics of a song you’ve used in your project. Visit us at www.Ocupella.com to find more songs on economic, racial, and gender justice. Or find us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Occupella-223145394427604/ Let’s keep on singing and supporting the work of ecosocialists everywhere. Who knows, with a little luck and a lot of mind and muscle, we just might make some of these songs obsolete!

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BEE – MY BABY
(Original Be My Baby by Jeff Barry, Ellie Greenwich, Phil Spector; new words by Hali Hammer)

You buzzed into my garden – it needed you so
You spread around the pollen, flitting to and fro
You have the gentle power
To help create the flower
And now it’s come – the hour for us to help you, oh

We want you bee, my bee, my bee baby
Stay, bee, my darling, my bee, my bee now –
woah, ho ho ho

Your species now endangered - It is a sin
The making and the selling of Clothianidin*
The beekeeper and farmer
Have figured out the harmer
We need you, little charmer, for eternity
We want you bee, my bee, my bee baby
Stay bee, my darling, my bee, my bee now –
woah, ho ho ho
Bee, my - my bee, my bee baby
Stay bee, my darling, my bee, my bee now –
woah, ho ho ho--- ooo

*alternate lines (choose your demo): “Lowe’s and Home Depot selling...” or “Cause Bayer keeps producing...”
BYE BYE COAL (tune of Bye Bye Love by Felice and Boudleaux Bryant /recorded by the Everly Brothers)
new words by Bill Pinkham and Bonnie Lockhart

CHORUS:
Bye bye coal
Bye bye filthiness
Hello healthiness
Bye bye to coal, goodbye
(sing chorus twice)

1. Old Phil Tagami, he had a plan
   He’d transport coal trains through West Oakland
   But the city council told him “No way!”
   That coal in Utah is there to stay

2. So Phil is suing our coal-free town
   But his coal lawsuit is going down
   ‘Cause we want Oakland to be coal free
   And we believe in democracy

3. So Phil Tagami, your plan’s a bust
   We’ll have new jobs here without coal dust!
   So drop the lawsuit, and be a sport
   Let’s bring some clean jobs to our home port
DE COLORES
*traditional, Spain, sixteenth century*

adopted as the anthem of the United Farmworkers

*The United Farmworkers were responsible for some of the first legislation protecting workers and communities from toxic chemicals used in agribusiness*

De colores, de colores se visten los campos en la primavera.
De Colores, de colores son los pajaritos que vienen de afuera.

De colores, de colores es el arco iris que vemos lucir.

Y por eso los grandes amores
de muchos colores me gustan a mí.

Y por eso los grandes amores
de muchos colores me gustan a mí.

Canta el gallo, canta el gallo con el kiri, kiri, kiri, kiri, kiri.
La gallina, la gallina con el cara, cara, cara, cara, cara.

Los pollitos, los pollitos con el pío, pío, pío, pío, pí.

Y por eso los grandes amores
de muchos colores me gustan a mí.

Y por eso los grandes amores
de muchos colores me gustan a mí.
DO IT NOW  music: Italian traditional; lyrics: Nic Balthazar & Stef Kamil Carlens, verse 4 by Michael Gasser

In September 2012, 380,000 Belgians came into the streets singing their demand for strong climate legislation. A video clip uniting all the voices was used to convince European leaders to sign on to UN agreements. New lyrics are set to the melody of the Italian anti-fascist resistance anthem “Bella Ciao,”

1. We need to wake up
   We need to wise up
   We need to open our eyes and do it now, now now!
   We need to build a better future
   And we need to start right now!

2. We’re on a planet
   That has a problem
   We’ve got to solve it, get involved
   And do it now, now, now now!
   We need to build a better future
   And we need to start right now!

3. Make it greener
   Make it cleaner
   Make it last, make it fast, and do it now, now, now now!
   We need to build a better future.

4. And those in power
   They just want profit
   So let's resist 'em, change the system, do it now, now, now!
   We need to build a better future.

5. No point in waiting
   Or hesitating
   We must get wise to their lies
   And do it now, now, now now!
   We need to build a better future.
**GEE, GOVERNOR JERRY**  To the tune of the chorus of "Officer Krupke",  
new words by Nancy Schimmel

Gee, Governor Jerry, we’re really upset  
At all the tons of water that the frackers will get.  
You say shorter showers  
Will help with the drought,  
We sing in the shower, cut it out!  
Cut it out! cut it out!  
Oh, there is no doubt  
We’ve got to cut the fracking out.

Gee, Governor Jerry, I like me a bath  
If frackers take it from me, well, that raises my wrath.  
I use by the gallon,  
They use by the lake  
I say that fracking’s a mistake.  
A mistake, a mistake  
Oh, you make me ache  
You know that fracking’s a mistake.

Gee, Governor Jerry, they’re making a mess,  
The frackers spoil the water and they leave us with less.  
The aquifer’s shrinking,  
We’re drinking their slop,  
Governor Jerry, make it stop!

Make it stop, make it stop,  
Make them close up shop,  
We all demand you make it stop.
GROWIN’ CLIMATE MOVEMENT  
(Music: Proud Mary by John Fogerty, new words: Bonnie Lockhart)

If you go down to the demo
Bet you’re gonna find some people who care
People need the power
Got to seize the hour
San Francisco* and everywhere!
  Big Oil can’t keep burnin’
  We got the tide a’turnin’
Growin’, Growin, Growin’ climate movement (2X)

We can make jobs in the city
We don’t have to burn those fossil fuels!
There is wealth aplenty
Use it for the many
One percent won’t keep on makin’ rules
  Big Oil can’t keep burnin’ . . . .

We got imagination
We can build up new technology
With a common vision
Make a just transition
Workplaces with real democracy.
  Big Oil can’t keep burnin’ . .

* insert local/national/international action sites
It Isn’t Nice

D           A
It isn’t nice to block the doorway, it isn’t nice to go to jail,

D           A
There are nicer ways to do it, but the nice ways always fail.

D                 Bm                      Em                      A
It isn’t nice, it isn’t nice, you told us once, you told us twice,

D        G              D      A             D
But if that is freedom’s price we don’t mind.

It isn’t nice to carry banners, or to sit in on the floor,
Or to shout our cry of freedom at the hotel and the store.
It isn’t nice, it isn’t nice, you told us once, you told us twice,
But if that is freedom’s price, we don’t mind.

We have tried negotiations and the token picket line,
Mr. Charlie didn’t see us, we didn’t even cross his mind.
Now our new ways aren’t nice, when we deal with men of ice,
But if that is freedom’s price, we don’t mind.

When the corporation bandits tanked our economy,
Did you say it wasn’t proper? Did you stand for you and me?
You were quiet just like mice, now you say we aren’t nice,
And if that is freedom’s price, we don’t mind.

It isn’t nice to get arrested, it isn’t nice to make demands,
Or to gather by the thousands, no matter what the law commands,
It isn’t nice, it isn’t nice, Well, thanks for your advice!
‘Cause if that is freedom’s price, we don’t mind.
JUST A DINOSAUR (Can’t Get Easy Oil)

Words by Bonnie Lockhart; chorus to Hard Ain’t It Hard, (Woody Guthrie); verse to New River Train, traditional

C          F
It’s hard, ain’t it hard, ain’t it hard,

C                                 G
Ya can’t get easy oil anymore,

C          F
It’s hard, ain’t it hard, ain’t it hard, great God!

C                G            C
‘Cause fossil fuel is just a dinosaur.

C          G
Darlin’ you can’t drill in the sea, Darlin’ you can’t drill in the sea,

C             C7            F
If you drill in the sea, just remember BP!

C                G            C
Darlin’ you can’t drill in the sea.

Darlin’ you can’t pump the Tar Sands, (2x)
If you pump the Tar Sands you pollute the heartlands,
Darlin’ you can’t pump the Tar Sands.

Darlin’ you can’t drill the North Slope, (2x)
If you drill the North Slope people rise up and say “Nope!”
Darlin’ you can’t drill the North Slope.

Darlin’ you can’t take it from Iraq, (2x)
If you take it from Iraq there is major blow back,
Darlin’ you can’t take it from Iraq.

Darlin’ you can’t frack natural gas, (2x)
If you frack natural gas, that’s a gas we ought to pass!
Darlin’ you can’t frack natural gas.

Darlin’ you can’t drill anywhere, (2x)
You can’t drill anywhere, there’s too much carbon in the air,
Darlin’ you can’t drill anywhere.
MEETING AT THE CROSSROADS

Music adapted from Leadbelly’s Meeting at the Building; new words, Bonnie Lockhart

D

**Meeting** at the Crossroads

A7 D

Come on over, come on over, come on over

**Meeting at the Crossroads, come on over**

A7 D

All over this world

G

**Meeting here for gender justice**

D

**Meeting here for racial justice**

A

**Meeting here for climate justice**

A D

**Economic justice too**

**Women** at the Crossroads... **Organize** the Crossroads...

**Marching** at the Crossroads... **Rally** at the Crossroads...

**Singing** at the Crossroads... **Struggle** at the Crossroads...

**Power** at the Crossroads...
NO DAPL
To the tune of “Yellow Rose of Texas” New words by Nancy Schimmel & Bonnie Lockhart

The Dakota Access Pipeline
Is a pipeline straight from hell
And where it meets the river
They’re bound to have a spill
A lot of Sioux from Standing Rock
Are standing ‘gainst the pipe
They know the safety promises
Are just a lot of hype.

It’s a company in Texas
That threatens Standing Rock
Keley Warren owns it
Or he owns a lot of stock
Mr. Warren gave Republicans
A million and a half
So in every bill in Congress
He’ll own a paragraph

You oilmen down in Texas
It’s time to get a clue
Your oil thing is over,
Quit belching CO2
The tribes have come to tell you
From Oneida to Lanai
Leave the oil in North Dakota
And kiss fossil fuel goodbye
Put It on the Label

Tune: Do Lord Remember Me New words: Nancy Schimmel

What is this I’m eating? I want to know.
What is this I’m eating? I want to know.
What is this I’m eating? I want to know.
So I won’t eat GMO.

Put it on the label, I want to know.
Put it on the label, I want to know.
Put it on the label, I want to know.
So I won’t eat GMO.

I won’t be your guinea pig, I want to know (3x)
And I won’t eat GMO

Gonna make Monsanto tell me, I want to know. (3x)
So I won’t eat GMO

I got an allergy to ignorance, I want to know. (3x)
So I won’t eat GMO

Put it on the label, I want to know. (3x)
So I won’t eat GMO
Take Me Out of the Big Banks

(Take Me Out to the Ball Game) New words by Betsy Rose and Nancy Schimmel

Take me out of the big banks
Take me out of their game
The credit union can have my dough
I'll cut up my credit cards, pay as I go
And it's root root root for the locals
Give them our business and thanks
And it's 1, 2, 3 million more and we'll close big banks

Take me out of the big banks
Citibank for a start
They put our money in pipes for oil
That leak in the water and poison the soil and its
Root, root root for the people
Standing up to their claim
And it’s 1, 2, 3 put them out!
It’s a new ball game
IF YOU MISS ME FROM THE BACK OF THE BUS

If you miss me in an SUV, and you can’t find me nowhere . . .

Come on over to the public bus, I’ll be riding right there

If you miss me in an Uber car, and you can’t find me nowhere . . .

Come on over to a BART train, I’ll be riding right there

If you miss me in a self-driving car, and you can’t . . .

Come on over to the bus stop, I’ll be boarding right there

If you miss me in the “gig economy” and you can’t . . .

Come on over to a union shop, I’ll be working right there . . .

SHE’LL BE COMIN’ ROUND THE MOUNTAIN

We’ll be riding public transit when we come. . .[Yahoo!]

We’ll make sure we all have access when we come . . . [No Barriers!]

We’ll be discounting the bus fare when we come . . .[Make it Free!]

We’ll be adding stops and hours when we come . . .[More Busses!]

We’ll be singing union anthems. . .[Solidarity]

We’ll be making union wages. . . [Fight for 15!]

We’ll be riding in the bike lanes . . . [Ding, ding]

We’ll be power’d by wind and solar . . . [Here Comes the Sun!]

We’ll protect our air and water . . . [Water is Life!]

We’ll sing “Happy Birthday Rosa!” . . . [Happy Birthday!]
WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH A DRUNKEN SAILOR

Steven Zunes remembered the Exxon Valdes verse from somewhere and Nancy Schimmel wrote the rest.

What shall we do with a drunken sailor? (3x)
Earlie in the morning?
Make him the skipper of the Exxon Valdez (3x)
Earlie in the morning.

Way up, the carbon rises (3x) Earlie in the morning.

What shall we do with the tar sands crude? (3x)
Earlie in the morning?
Put it on a train that runs through Berkeley, (3x)
Earlie in the morning.

Way up, the carbon rises . . .

What shall we do with the fracking water?
Earlie in the morning?
Pump it underground and cause an earthquake
Earlie in the morning.

Way up, the carbon rises . . .

What shall we do with the toxic coal ash?
Earlie in the morning?
Dam it up and spill it in the river
Earlie in the morning.

Way up, the carbon rises . . .

What shall we do with the carbon profits?
Earlie in the morning?
Buy a yacht and a politician
Earlie in the morning.

Way up, the carbon rises . . .
ZIPPER SONGS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

AIN’T GONNA LET NOBODY TURN ME AROUND
(adapted from the African American traditional)

1. No Fracking
2. No Big Oil
3. No 1%
4. No Corporations
5. No Lobbyists

COME & GO WITH ME TO THAT LAND
(adapted from the African American traditional)

1. There’s no fracking in that land. . .
2. Solar power. . .
3. No fossil fuel. . .
4. There’s Climate Justice. . .
5. There’s Conservation. . .
WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED
(adapted from the African American traditional)

1. No more oil dependence, we shall not. . .
2. No more fracking
3. Fund green jobs
4. Subsidize solar
5. Fossil fuel’s a dinosaur
6. Chevron, pay your taxes
7. No, no, no nos moverán (x2) Como un árbol, firme junto al rio, no nos moverán
8. Green power to the people

WE’LL BE ENDING OIL DEPENDENCE
To the tune of She’ll Be Comin’ Round the Mountain

1. We’ll be ending oil dependence when we come
2. Saying “No” to fracking
3. Subsidizing solar
4. Funding green jobs
5. Curbing our consumption
6. Riding in the bike lanes
7. Challenging the power
8. Making peace on earth