

September 17

The weekend of September 16 and 17 saw massive demonstrations around the world demanding strong action on Climate change from world leaders. In New York tens of thousands marched. Large groups blocked the offices of the Federal Reserve Bank and the headquarters of Citi Bank demanding an end to investments in new fossil fuel development.

These demonstrations were right before the beginning of the U.N. "Climate Ambition" Summit meeting in New York where the Secretary General Guterres told leaders that they should come with their plans to cut emissions and if they were not taking serious action to stop the burning of fossil fuels and halting climate change they should not come to the meeting! It is concerning that Biden did not attend the meeting and the U.S. is still expanding the development of fossil fuels. The only official from the United States invited to speak was Gov. Gavin Newsom of California.

In Seattle, we rallied on a beautiful sunny day near the Space Needle and painted Broad Street with the slogan "End Fossil Fuels". A long list of organizations headed by 350/Seattle, TAPS, PSARA, and Stop The Money Pipeline worked to pull the lively event together. Many groups set up tables to exchange information and recruit new members. Passersby helped in painting the street, and many people visiting the Space Needle stopped by to listen to the speeches.

The program was varied with moving talks by indigenous leaders Ken Workman and Che Ok Ten (Paul Wagner). A representative of Vets for Peace talked about the enormous green house emissions from the military and the amount of money going to the military budget compared to what our government has committed to fight climate change. A young woman spoke about the effects of climate change on the Philippines and the fact that this country like so many others of the Global South, has to pay wealthy banks interest on loans rather than use the funds to help protect against hurricanes and sea level rise.

Lots of work yet to be done!