

POWER STRUGGLE



Grassroots Activists Making A Difference

Democracy prevails when a nuclear engineer turned whistle-blower, a 93-year-old grandmother, and a scrappy new governor join forces with a dedicated array of citizen activists to accomplish a rare grassroots environmental victory in closing an aging nuclear reactor in Vermont.

Filmed over five years, this feature-length documentary portrays the heated political battle to close the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, located on the banks of the Connecticut River in southern Vermont. **POWER STRUGGLE** follows the unfolding drama as citizen activists and elected state officials—alarmed at increasing safety violations—take on the federal government and one of the biggest power companies in the United States and eventually win.

The film captures perspectives on all sides of the controversy, including from local residents both for and against nuclear power, elected officials (including U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders and Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin), nuclear engineer Arnie Gunderson, a Vermont Yankee spokesperson, federal nuclear regulators, and the legendary activist Frances Crowe.

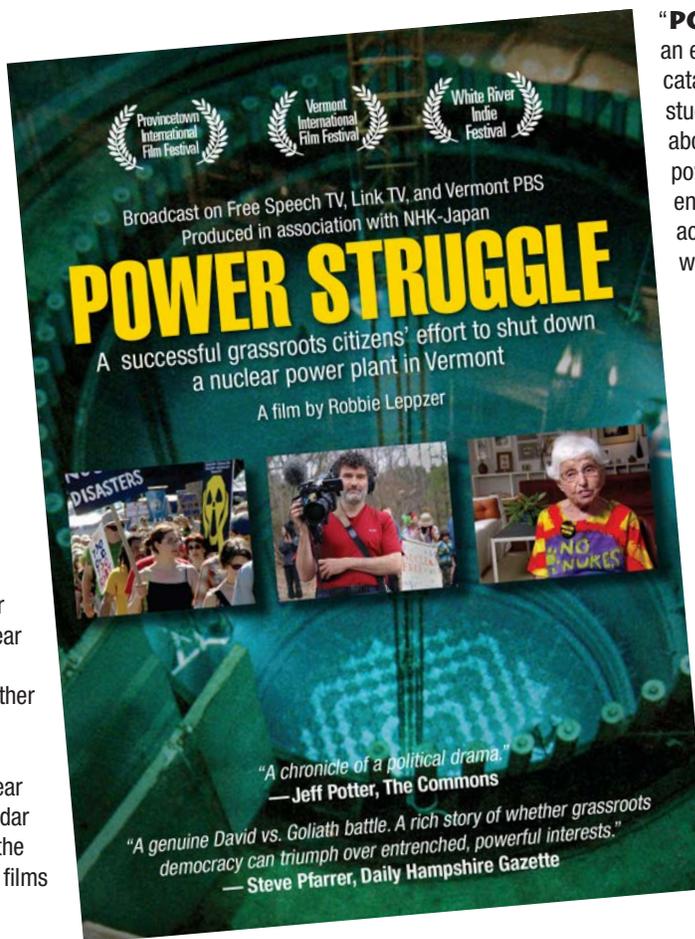
A timely, inspiring story of democracy in action; about whether citizens' voices will be heard against big moneyed interests, and what people are doing right now to make a difference for a sustainable energy future. **POWER STRUGGLE** puts nuclear power and the long-term hazards of radioactive waste on the radar screen for current debates about environmental protection and the ethical impact of technology on our society. It is one of the only films that links nuclear power and the climate justice movement.

- Nationally Broadcast on Free Speech TV and Link TV
- Broadcast on Vermont PBS
- Excerpts Broadcast Globally on DEMOCRACY NOW!
- Produced in association with NHK-Japan
- Broadcast Nationally in Japan on NHK

POWER STRUGGLE

Directed by Robbie Leppzer

86 minutes and 52 minutes • 2019 • CC



“POWER STRUGGLE is an effective classroom tool to catalyze discussions, inspire students to think critically about political and corporate power structures, and encourage people to become active change agents in the world.”

—Sut Jhally
Professor/Chair,
Department of
Communication
University of
Massachusetts-Amherst

“POWER STRUGGLE is an important study of a social movement in a specific political and environmental campaign. This film can be used in university and high school classrooms to show what it means to organize around a social, political, or environmental issue. I hope this film will be widely used in a broad range of classes.”

—Dr. John Ungerleider
Former Chair of Peacebuilding and
Conflict Transformation M.A.,
School For International
Training Graduate Institute

Watch Video Excerpts:
www.TurningTide.com

“A remarkable story about how people power overcame corporate power and government cover-ups to finally shut down an aging and dangerous nuclear plant. We see how small town citizens were transformed into tenacious environmental activists who triumphed against the odds. **POWER STRUGGLE** is a hopeful story that reminds us that citizen activism is not just possible, it is essential to saving our endangered planet.”

David Goodman
best-selling author, journalist
and radio host,
THE VERMONT CONVERSATION

“POWER STRUGGLE should ensure engaging conversations on a number of topics, including the role that citizens can play in a participatory democracy, the fight for a safe and sustainable energy future, and the long-term impact of nuclear technology on our society.”

Kate Purdie
Professor
Department of Visual &
Performing Arts
Bennington College

“For more than four decades, Robbie Leppzer has been combining a mastery of the craft of storytelling through documentary films with an incisive analysis of how power operates. **POWER STRUGGLE** is journalism at its best.”

Robert Jensen
Professor Emeritus of Journalism
University of Texas at Austin

RECOMMENDED SUBJECT AREAS Political Science • Politics & Government • Sociology • Environmental Studies • Sustainability • Energy Policy • Climate Change • Renewable Energy • Contemporary Social Movements • Social Change • Philosophy of Nonviolence • Science and Technology • Law Studies • American Studies • Communication • Documentary Film Studies • Journalism • Media and Contemporary Culture

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