Congratulations Judy! Judy is Community Outreach Coordinator of the Coal River Mountain Watch, which is based in Whitesville, WV. The Goldman Environmental Prize is the world's largest prize program honoring grassroots environmentalists.

We at OVEC are so excited that Judy has won this prestigious prize! We've watched her develop over the years. It's clear she's the perfect person for this great honor, as she's not only a highly effective, courageous leader and organizer, but also a dynamic speaker and a team player truly committed to ending mountaintop removal.

Judy is obviously motivated by a fierce, protective love for the Appalachian Mountains, which have nurtured six generations of her coal-mining family. She knows and lives the truth about mountaintop removal, and she speaks that truth despite intimidation and a torrent of public relations tripe from the coal industry. Her passion and bravery inspire others to speak up against coal's destruction of their communities, their waters and their mountains.

Judy's winning of this prestigious prize is a dramatic underscoring of what we
all know--that mountaintop removal is the most devastating and egregious planned environmental assault in the United States. We certainly hope Judy's award focuses nationwide attention on this very sad and unnecessary by-product of our nation's gluttonous energy appetite.

As more people know that when they flip on the light switch they are helping to blow the tops off richly-forested mountains, perhaps more people will take greater efforts to conserve energy and to demand that elected leaders make an all-out push for establishing truly clean alternative energy systems nationwide. That would be the greatest prize Judy could ever receive.

Below are some photos of Judy in action.

Friends of the Earth nominees win environmental prize (FOE asked OVEC to help provide MUCH background information on Judy Bonds and MTR.)

Coalminer's Daughter Wins World'S Largest Environmental Award - The Julia Bonds Story

France: Prix Goldman pour l'environnement (scroll down)

Sarasota Herald Tribune (AP): International grass roots activists honored with Goldman prize

San Jose Mercury News (AP): International grass roots activists honored with Goldman prize

KTVU (AP): Grandmothers Lead List Of Goldman Prize Winners

Reuters: Seven activists win top environmental prize

BBC: Award for US coalmine activist

Environment News Service: Environmental Awards

Judy Bonds (left) with Freda Williams. Behind them is one arm of Marfork Coal's massive Brushy Fork coal slurry impoundment. This Massey Energy subsidiary's impoundment could hold up to five billion gallons of coal slurry, liquid waste left over from processing coal for market. The impoundment looms over the headwaters of the Coal River, near Whitesville, West Virginia.
Celebrate Grassroots Action

Grist Magazine: West Virginia activist Julia Bonds takes on mountaintop-removal mining
Prize Fighters

San Francisco Examiner: Activists honored with green award

Oakland Tribune: Green Nobel Prizes to be given at S.F. ceremony

American Communication Foundation on Judy: Personal Perseverance

Africa OnLine: Goldman Prize honours environmental activists

Seven Environmental Activists Honored With 'Green Nobels'

German website, Brazil-based: Goldman-Preis an sieben Umweltschützer verliehen

WCHS TV: Julia Bonds (scroll down)

Argentina: SIETE ACTIVISTAS GANAN EL PREMIO MAS IMPORTANTE

Judy speaks at a June 2002 press conference in Washington DC about Bush administration changes to the Clean Water Act that legalize illegal mountaintop removal activities.
Judy (left) and Freda Williams at a valley fill near Artie, West Virginia.

*Photo by Bob Gates*
Judy, front, and friends at a Massey Energy coal sludge impoundment.
Judy as one of the crowd at a rally against a coal truck weight limit increase.