



Broadcast on Free Speech TV, Link TV, Vermont PBS
and DEMOCRACY NOW!

Produced in association with NHK-Japan

POWER STRUGGLE

An inspiring story of a rare grassroots victory

A film by Robbie Leppzer



**Available on DVD, Blu-ray & Digital Streaming
From New Day Films and Kanopy**

"A genuine David vs. Goliath battle. A rich story of whether grassroots democracy can triumph over entrenched, powerful interests."

— Steve Pfarrer, Daily Hampshire Gazette

www.PowerStruggleMovie.com



POWER STRUGGLE chronicles a rare victory of grassroots activists - a successful citizens' effort to protect the environment by shutting down an aging nuclear power plant in Vermont.

A timely inspiring story of democracy in action, the climate justice movement, and the power of citizens' voices against big money interests.

POWER STRUGGLE is excellent for catalyzing classroom and community discussions about what ordinary citizens can do to affect change.

Available in 86-minute and 52-minute versions on DVD, Blu-ray, and digital streaming from **New Day Films** and **Kanopy**.

SYNOPSIS

POWER STRUGGLE is a compelling story that gives audiences hope that grassroots activism can be effective at bringing about positive social change in the world.

Filed 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 Gundersen, a Vermont Yankee spokesperson, federal nuclear regulators, and the legendary activist Frances Crowe.

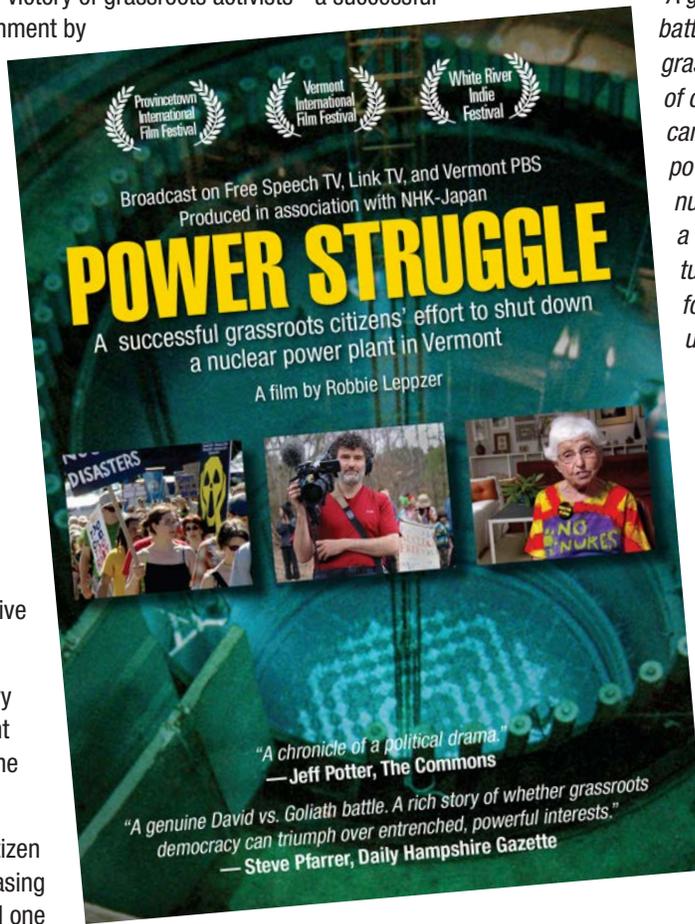
POWER STRUGGLE puts nuclear power and the long-term hazards of radioactive waste on the radar screen for current debates about environmental protection and the ethical impact of technology on our society. **It is one of the only films that links nuclear power and the climate justice movement.**

POWER STRUGGLE

Running Time: 86 minutes. (Also available in a 52-minute version.)

Directed by Robbie Leppzer.

A Turning Tide Production, in association with NHK-Japan.



"A genuine David vs. Goliath battle. A rich story of whether grassroots democracy, in the form of citizens and local government, can triumph over entrenched, powerful interests like the nuclear energy industry. Through a story with many twists and turns, Leppzer keeps the film's focus on the individuals caught up in the drama."

— **Steve Pfarrer, DAILY HAMPSHIRE GAZETTE**

"A chronicle of a political drama."

— **Jeff Potter, THE COMMONS**

"Riveting."

— **Richie Davis, THE RECORDER**

"Engaging."

— **Mike Jackson, MONTAGUE REPORTER**

Watch Film Trailer: PowerStruggleMovie.com

"POWER STRUGGLE is the 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**

FILMMAKER AVAILABLE TO SPEAK AT SCHOOLS



Filmmaker **Robbie Leppzer** is available to speak with **POWER STRUGGLE** on colleges campuses and at high schools to participate in a classroom or large forum Q & A with students — either in person or via an online video link. In addition, he can present a retrospective of his documentary films chronicling 40 years of grassroots social change activism.

"This is an inspiring story of grassroots activists not only making a huge difference, but actually winning! My goal for POWER STRUGGLE is for it to be a catalyst to inspire enhanced citizen participation in our democracy, as well as renewed discussion about nuclear power and the long-term hazards of nuclear waste, and how this issue relates to the climate justice movement." — **Robbie Leppzer**

www.PowerStruggleMovie.com • 978-544-8313 • info@turningtide.com

Academic Reviews

“**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. The film is also a compelling primer on persuasive communication by grassroots activists influencing elected officials and public opinion about one of the burning issues of our time.”

— **Sut Jhally, Chair, Department of Communication, University of Massachusetts-Amherst;**
Executive Director, Media Education Foundation

“Director Robbie Leppzer patiently follows the story over years, showing how activists worked both in elections and on the street to challenge the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant. In telling the story, **POWER STRUGGLE** gives people on all sides a chance to speak.

What emerges is a story that is, sadly, too familiar. A corporation uses its resources to block a democratic process, and as a result human health and environmental protection are trumped by corporate profits. Leppzer celebrates how citizen engagement eventually prevailed, but wisely avoids imposing a happy ending, by reminding us about the long-term legacy of the nuclear waste that gets left behind. The film invites self-reflection, about our political and economic systems and what role each of us wants to play in these struggles.

These kinds of stories, so important to creating a more deeply democratic society, would often go untold without independent media. For more than four decades, Leppzer has been an exemplar of that independence, combining a mastery of the craft of storytelling through documentary films with an incisive analysis of how power operates. This is journalism at its best.”

— **Robert Jensen, Professor Emeritus of Journalism, University of Texas at Austin**

“With his documentary film **POWER STRUGGLE**, Robbie Leppzer has created an important and detailed study of a social movement in a specific political and environmental campaign.

POWER STRUGGLE can be used in university and high school classrooms to show what it means to organize around a social, political, or environmental issue. I used this in my course on Global Social Problems at the Community College of Vermont. Students went on to apply the analysis of stakeholders and the creation of policy advocacy strategies that are vividly presented in the film to their own projects designing political action strategies on issues of their own, ranging from opioid abuse to homelessness and mental health to climate change.

I hope this film will be widely used in a broad range of classes that are teaching strategies and methods for policy advocacy, political organizing, and social action.”

— **Professor Dr. John Ungerleider, Former Chair of Peacebuilding and Conflict Transformation M.A.,
School For International Training Graduate Institute; Adjunct Faculty at Brandeis College, Marlboro College,
and Community College of Vermont**

“**POWER STRUGGLE** should ensure engaging classroom 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 and Performing Arts, Bennington College**

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 • American Studies • Communications • Documentary Film Studies • Journalism • Media and Contemporary Culture

DVD or Blu-ray:

- **Institutions (Colleges and Universities) - \$299**
(Includes Educational License)
- **Community Colleges - \$149**
(Includes Educational License)
- **Community Organizations, High Schools, & Public Libraries - \$95**

HD Digital Streaming (via New Day Films):

- 14-Day - **\$60** • 1-Year - **\$150** • 3-Year - **\$350**
- 5-Year - **\$399** • Life of File - **\$449**

Digital Streaming is also available to participating educational institutions via **Kanopy**.

Educational customers who purchase a DVD, Blu-ray or digital streaming options on **New Day Films** and **Kanopy** will receive both the 86-minute and 52-minute versions of **POWER STRUGGLE**.



Director Robbie Leppzer on NECN's "THE TAKE with Sue O'Connell."

TO BOOK A SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT WITH FILMMAKER ROBBIE LEPPZER

Contact:

Robbie Leppzer
robbie@turningtide.com
(978) 544-8313

FILMMAKER BACKGROUND: Robbie Leppzer is an award-winning independent documentary filmmaker and radio producer who has directed over thirty documentaries over the past forty years. His critically acclaimed feature-length and short documentaries, as well as commissioned television news magazine segments, about contemporary social issues, grassroots activism and multicultural themes have been broadcast by **CNN International**, **NHK** (Japan Broadcasting Corporation), the **Canadian Broadcasting Corporation**, **HBO/Cinemax**, **PBS**, **CNN**, **Sundance Channel**, **HDNet**, **Link TV**, **Free Speech TV**, **National Public Radio**, and **Pacifica Radio**.

Press Coverage About POWER STRUGGLE

Watch • Listen • Read

WPTZ-NBC 5 (3-minutes)

"Documentary chronicling shutdown of nuclear plant premieres Sunday"

<http://www.mynbc5.com/article/vt-yankee-story-finally-hits-big-screen/13109944>

NECN - New England Cable News Network (5 minutes)

"'Power Struggle' Film Documents Nuclear Safety Concerns"

https://www.necn.com/on-air/as-seen-on/power-struggle-film-documents-nuclear-safety-concerns_NECN-455966793.html

Vermont Public Radio (12 minutes)

"'Power Struggle' Documentary Chronicles Efforts To Close Vermont Yankee Nuclear Plant"

<http://digital.vpr.net/post/power-struggle-documentary-chronicles-efforts-close-vermont-yankee-nuclear-plant#stream/0>

Project Censored - Pacifica Radio Broadcast on 40 Radio Stations (21 minutes)

"Nuclear Power Problems with Robbie Leppzer, Arnie and Maggie Gundersen"

<https://www.projectcensored.org/nuclear-power-problems-with-robbie-leppzer-arnie-and-maggie-gundersen/>

Daily Hampshire Gazette (feature article)

"David vs. Goliath: Documentary film explores closing of Vermont Yankee"

<http://www.gazettenet.com/David-vs-Goliath-5441194>

Vermont Digger (feature article)

"New film reveals 'Power Struggle' to close Vermont Yankee"

<https://vtdigger.org/2016/10/30/new-film-reveals-power-struggle-close-vermont-yankee/>

