

HOW TO PETITION IN A CROWD

Whether you're on a busy street corner, in front of a bank, or lost in the crowd of your local farmers market or campus common, all you need is a clipboard, pen, and some basic information about the issue. And don't forget to ask your friends and family to sign your petition!

PETITIONING:

Petitioning is easy. It requires little set-up, and you can do it almost anywhere (though it's best to stay on public property).

1. Start with a friendly greeting and eye contact – that's the only way someone walking by will stop.
2. Go straight to your pitch – “Hi! Would you like to sign a petition to tell Merrill Lynch to stop funding dirty coal-fired power plants?” (Or, “Do you think Merrill Lynch should fund clean energy or dirty coal?”) Experiment and find what works best for you. Tell them more about it if they ask, and include a local angle if you can.
3. Hand over the clipboard – giving the clipboard to the potential activist empowers them to take action.
4. Get their contact info (especially their email address) on the petition. And give them a flyer!
5. Bring extra pens and clipboards so that when you're talking to groups of people, you can have many people sign at once.
6. Don't spend time trying to convince people who disagree – there are plenty of people out there who are happy to get involved!

NUTS AND BOLTS:

- Wear a RAN t-shirt if you have one. [is there a way to get one?]
- Keep multiple copies of the petition on your clipboard(s).
- Keep a stack of flyers in your pocket to give away. [give URL]
- Make sure people fill in everything, especially their email address! (Note: RAN will use their email address to keep them informed about our campaigns. We will never sell, trade, or otherwise misuse their email address.)

AFTER YOU'RE DONE:

- Download the Excel spreadsheet [add URL] and enter your names, addresses, emails and phone numbers. Email it back to us at activism@ran.org. If you can't do that, simply send us the filled out petitions in the mail:

**Rainforest Action Network
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Thank you so much! Your grassroots activism inspires all of us, it inspires the people that you interact with, and it makes a difference in the world.