

# US journalist wins Norwegian environmental prize

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A demonstration in New York earlier this month against the Keystone XL pipeline. US environmentalist, author and journalist Bill McKibben, a leading opponent of the pipeline, has won Norway's Sophie Prize for environmental and sustainable development, the last time the award will be given due to lack of funds, organisers said.

US environmentalist, author and journalist Bill McKibben on Tuesday won Norway's Sophie Prize for environmental and sustainable

development, the last time the award will be given due to lack of funds, organisers said.

McKibben is the author of more than a dozen books on climate change and environmental issues.

He was honoured for his "mobilising force to fight global warming", said the Sophie Foundation, which awards the \$100,000 (77,500-euro) [prize](#).

Born in 1960, McKibben set up the 350.org campaign in 2008 which led thousands of [climate change](#) demonstrations around the world.

He is also one of the leading opponents to the controversial pipeline project Keystone XL, aimed at transporting tar sands oil from the Canadian province of Alberta to refineries in Texas' Gulf of Mexico.

"This planet desperately needs a global mobiliser for change. Fighting immensely powerful interests McKibben has shown that mobilising for change is possible. This brings hope," the Sophie jury said.

The Sophie Prize was created by Norwegian author Jostein Gaarder, the author of the bestselling novel "Sophie's World", and his wife in 1997 and has been awarded 16 times.

It recognises work for the protection of the environment.



Activists from 350.org and other groups unveil a banner on Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil last year. Bill McKibben set up the 350.org campaign in 2008 which led thousands of climate change demonstrations around the world.

Gaarder said the foundation's funds had now been depleted.

"This is how it was planned from the start," he told Norwegian news agency NTB.

"There are so many foundations that become so static, and we didn't want (the Sophie Prize) to become eternal," he said.

Previous prizewinners have included the international anti-globalisation organisation Attac, Australian journalist John Pilger, late Kenyan environmentalist Wangari Maathai, ex-NASA [climate scientist](#) James Hansen and former French anti-corruption magistrate Eva Joly.

The 2013 prize will be awarded at a formal ceremony in Oslo on October 28.

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