



Happy holidays and all good wishes for a peaceful and healthy 2012 from Brighter Green. We truly appreciate your interest in Brighter Green's work. As 2011 draws to a close, we wanted to share some of what we've accomplished this year in raising awareness about and providing policy ideas to address [climate change, livelihoods, and rights](#); [sustainability and community](#); and [food policy and equity](#). In 2012, we plan to do even more.

- Brighter Green completed its multi-year, multi-country analysis of the challenges to the environment, food security, public health, animal welfare, and global climate change posed by the growth of intensive animal agriculture (factory farming) in [India](#), [Brazil](#), [China](#), and [Ethiopia](#) (PDF). This research (policy papers and accompanying policy briefs and videos) has been translated into [Chinese](#), [Portuguese](#), and [Amharic](#), and disseminated in all four countries, as well as in Europe, the United States, and many countries in Asia, Latin America, and Africa—most recently at the [COP 17 climate change summit in Durban](#).

- Executive director Mia MacDonald traveled widely, speaking at universities and research institutions in [Beijing and Shanghai](#) on animal agriculture, climate change, and sustainable, equitable food systems; at a conference on [animals and the law](#) in Pretoria, South Africa; and at [COP 17](#). In Durban, Brighter Green had an exhibit booth and organized an official "side event" (a [panel discussion](#)) on animal welfare, organic farming, food security, and sustainability in a climate- challenged world, in partnership with [Humane Society International](#), [Compassion in World Farming](#), and the [International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements](#). Mia's blogs from Durban can be read [here](#).

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- Mia and Brighter Green colleagues discussed issues related to the environment, animals, and global development on the [Progressive Radio Network](#), at Farm Sanctuary's [National Conference to End Factory Farming](#) in Washington, D.C., and at the [FoodFight conference](#) hosted by Columbia University's Teacher's College. In the Spring, Mia taught a "capstone," a project-based senior seminar on animal-based foods and climate change in New York University's environmental studies program (perhaps the first course of its kind in a university), and will do so again in Spring 2012.

- Mia traveled to Kenya twice in 2011 as part of her work as a board member of the Green Belt Movement-North America, following the untimely passing of Green Belt Movement founder Nobel Peace Laureate [Wangari Maathai](#). Wangari was an inspiration, mentor, and immensely valued colleague of Mia's and Brighter Green's. To read Mia's remembrance of Wangari's extraordinary life and work, click [here](#). While she was in Kenya in October, Mia visited with the five Kenyan students in Brighter Green's [Girls' Leadership Initiative](#) and received an update on their lives, studies, and how their leadership skills are developing. To view a slide show of the girls and their schools, please click [here](#).

- Brighter Green's 2009 documentary film "[What's for Dinner](#)," which explores the rise in meat consumption and factory farming systems in China, reached new audiences in several venues, including through screenings at the San Diego (Calif.) Asian Film Festival, the Awareness Film Festival, and Green Film Festival in South Korea. Mia wrote for, or was quoted by, the [Huffington Post](#), [ChinaDialogue](#), and the [Independent](#) (U.K.), and Brighter Green's work was spread widely via its [blogs](#), [Facebook page](#), [Twitter feed](#), and its videos on [YouTube](#) and [Vimeo](#)—generated by a [terrific cadre of associates, researchers, and interns](#).

Brighter Green operates with a small staff and low overheads as we strive to make a big impact on the world. We'd like to do even more in 2012 to extend our reach, and hope that you'll consider supporting us with an [end-of-the-year gift](#). Thank you. It's with your help that Brighter Green is able to further its mission to transform public policy and dialogue on the environment, animals, and sustainability, both globally and locally, with a particular focus on equity and rights, and to strengthen and expand its programs.

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to colleagues and friends. With best wishes for a more peaceful, equitable, and sustainable world.