Climate change is the greatest challenge of our times. This book documents the ways in which civil society actors have tried to address it. I want to acknowledge the assistance of the many activists, advocates, and policy makers who gave their scarce time to participate in this project. During my research I was routinely impressed with their dedication and creativity in the face of immense global problems. I hope that I do them justice in explaining their actions and motivations. This research could not have happened without them.

I began research for this book in the summer of 2007. My work was initially motivated by a desire to study protest on climate change – something that was still mainly embryonic at that point. I ended up focusing much more on what I observed activists actually doing: negotiating the consequential relationships that produce collective action in the first place. This has proven to be a rich and rewarding topic of study. Much of this research was conducted during my time as a graduate student in the Department of Government at Cornell University. At every stage, I have benefited enormously from the support and mentorship of Sidney Tarrow. Sid’s pathbreaking work on these topics has been a continuing inspiration for my own research. I am immensely grateful for his insight and generosity.
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