Credit: Mark Spearman via Flickr

How your support is saving the bees

Unsustainable colony collapse across the U.S.

Beekeepers report losing an average of 30 percent of all bee colonies each year—twice the loss considered economically tolerable. Yet, big agrichemical companies are pushing the use of dangerous pesticides that are killing off the very bees that pollinate 71 of the 100 crops that provide 90 percent of the world's food.

With your help, Environment Ohio and Environment Ohio Research & Policy Center are fighting back. Last year, our national team, along with a coalition of beekeepers, farmers and others, delivered more than 4 million petitions calling on the Obama administration to protect bees and our food supply.

Some of our favorite foods…gone?

Scientists point to a class of pesticides called neonicotinoids (neonics) as one of the causes of recent bee die-offs. When seeds are treated with neonics, the chemicals work their way into the pollen of the plants—which is bad news for bees and other pollinators.

Even worse, neonics are about 6,000 times more toxic to bees than DDT, which was banned in the United States in the 1970s.

Bees pollinate more than $15 billion a year in U.S. crops, including some of our favorite foods. Imagine no almonds, fewer apples and strawberries, less alfalfa to feed dairy cows—the list goes on. The bottom line: No bees, no food.

Join our call to ban neonics

Given the consequences for our farms and our food, you'd think we'd be doing all we can to protect bees and other pollinators from threats like neonics. Instead, big agrichemical companies like Dow Chemical, Bayer and Syngenta are fighting to prevent bans and increase the amount of pesticides they use.

We've joined a coalition of beekeepers, environmental groups and more than 100 businesses calling on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ban neonics. And we're building widespread public support across the country this summer to demand action to save the bees. We know that if we build enough grassroots support, we can help convince the EPA to ban bee-killing pesticides.

Credit: Business Helper via Pixabay

▲ *We rely on bees to pollinate 71 of the 100 crops that provide 90 percent of the world's food.*

Credit: Suzannah Hoover Photography

take action

We need your help to protect the bees. Take action online to urge the EPA to ban neonics:

www.EnvironmentOhio.org

◀ *To save the bees, Environment Ohio and our national canvass team are going door to door to educate and engage thousands of people.*

Credit: Staff

You make the difference

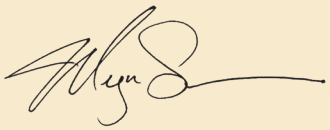
Whether we're protecting vital pollinators from toxic chemicals, building overwhelming public support for clean water, or laying the foundation for 100 percent renewable energy, I know you'll be by our side.

As a member of Environment Ohio, you really do make the difference—for our environment, for our special places and for kids growing up today. We all want to make an impact on the world, and together, we're creating change that will last.

In this newsletter, you'll find updates on some of our most important campaigns, and know that you played a part in each. And while this work often leads to challenges, rest assured that you're part of a community of like-minded advocates and activists all standing up for what we believe in—a cleaner, greener, healthier future.

That's where our power comes from. That's how you make the difference.

Thanks for being a part of this,



Megan Severson
Campaign Organizing Director

Recent action

Who is America's next top polluter?

Each year, factory farms produce millions of tons of manure—more than the sewage produced by the entire U.S. population. New research shows that companies like Tyson Foods regularly dump a higher volume of pollution into waterways than companies like ExxonMobil and Dow Chemical.

According to Environment Ohio Research & Policy Center, Tyson and its subsidiaries released 104 million pounds of pollution into surface waters across the country from 2010 to 2014, nearly seven times the volume of surface water discharges by Exxon during those years.

If we want clean water in our rivers, our bays and our drinking water sources, companies like Tyson will have to dramatically cut pollution from their operations. That's why we're educating the public about factory farms: America's Next Top Polluter. Because once people like you know the truth, everyone will demand change.

Let's protect our parks for another 100 years

This year marks the 100th anniversary of one of America's best ideas, the National Park Service, which manages everything from the iconic Grand Canyon to the beautiful Cuyahoga Valley National Park right here in Ohio.

Unfortunately, our parks are under attack. There are proposals to mine right outside the Grand Canyon and to drill near the Everglades, and there are even efforts underway to force the federal government to sell off some of our most special places.

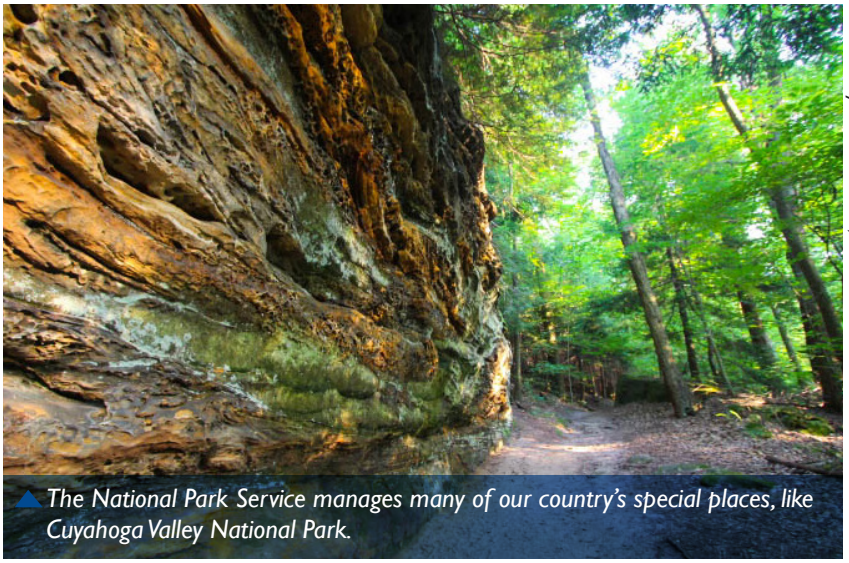
This summer, Environment Ohio is working to stop these threats so that on the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service we can make a commitment to preserve these special places. With your support, we're rallying thousands of people across the country to call on Congress to take action.

Robert Byrd, Shutterstock.com

Toward a greener future

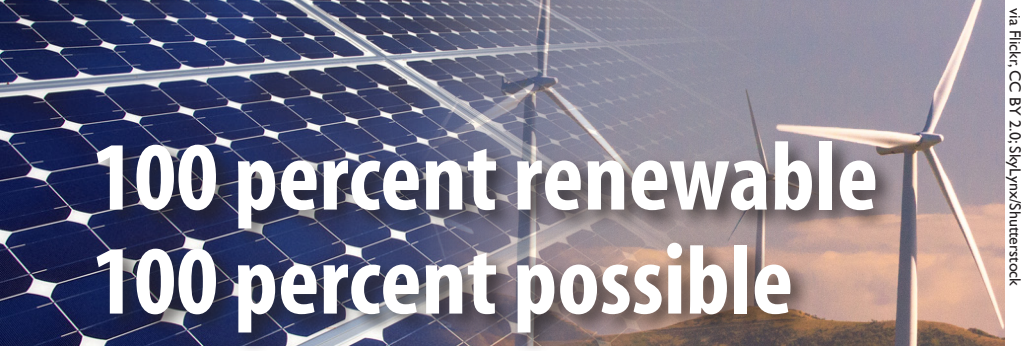
Environment Ohio and Environment Ohio Research & Policy Center gratefully accept bequests, beneficiary designations of IRAs and life insurance, and gifts of securities to support our work to build a cleaner, greener, healthier future.

For more information, call 1-800-841-7299 x312 or send an email to: PlannedGiving@EnvironmentOhio.org.



Credit: Betsy Weber via Flickr, CC BY 2.0

The National Park Service manages many of our country's special places, like Cuyahoga Valley National Park.



100 percent renewable 100 percent possible

Credit (left to right): Oregon Dept. of Transportation via Flickr, CC BY 2.0; SkyLynx/Shutterstock

Burning oil, gas and coal has not only polluted our air, water and land for decades, but is also changing our climate even faster than scientists feared it would. We can have healthier communities right now and a livable future for kids growing up today. But to get there, we need to transform the way we produce and consume energy.

That's why we're calling for a nationwide commitment to 100 percent renewable power. It's a big, bold goal, one that would make America a world leader in the race toward a cleaner, healthier future—and it's a goal that's 100 percent possible.

Apple, Facebook, Google and more

Companies like Apple, Facebook and Google and cities like San Diego, Burlington, Vt., and Aspen, Colo., have already committed to 100 percent renewable energy. With some of America's biggest companies and cities across the nation making the switch, it's only a matter of time before we see national action.

And clean energy keeps growing faster, with prices dropping lower than even the most optimistic industry predictions of just a few years ago. Solar power has tripled in America in the last two years—with a new home or business going solar every one and a half minutes.

We're ready; why wait?

All signs indicate that we're ready for 100 percent renewable energy, and two recent reports from Environment Ohio Research & Policy Center emphasize this fact.

Last December, we released "Turning to the Wind," which details how wind power continues to grow as a source of clean energy across America. In fact, the United States generated 26 times more electricity from wind power in 2014 than it did in 2001.

Then, in February, we released "Solar on Superstores," which shows that installing 62.3 gigawatts of solar power on big box stores and shopping centers would reduce global warming pollution by nearly 57 million metric tons annually—equivalent to taking nearly 12 million passenger vehicles off the road. With this kind of potential, it isn't a question of if we'll transition to 100 percent clean energy, but when.

And why should we wait? Why wait until it's impossible to leave the kids we know and love a safer, healthier tomorrow? Why wait, when America has the responsibility, the ingenuity and the will to start leading the world to a 100 percent renewable future right now?

Join the movement

Our national network has done more to promote solar, wind and energy efficiency on the state and local levels than any other group in the country. We've won clean energy policies, from pro-solar initiatives to clean cars programs to renewable energy standards in 22 states, all of which are driving down the costs of wind and solar and driving down carbon pollution.

Together, we can do this. A 100 percent renewable future based on 100 percent American-made energy. Visit our website to add your name in support of a 100 percent clean, renewable future.

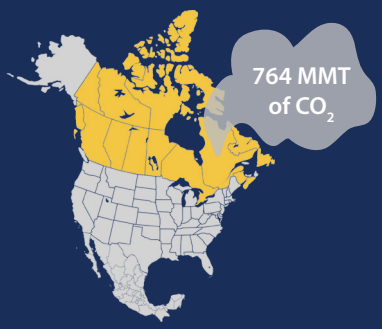
Credit: Staff

Explore more online

▲ *Releasing "Solar on Superstores"*

To read our research on solar's growth and the obstacles it faces, visit: www.EnvironmentOhioCenter.org

With tax credits in place, wind power can lead the way to 100% renewable energy.



Since 2001, wind power in the U.S. has displaced 764 million metric tons of CO_2 emissions, more than Canada emits in an entire year.

When tax credits for wind were renewed in 2005, wind power increased dramatically: In 2012, 6x more wind capacity was installed than in 2006.

Renewing reliable incentives now would create enough wind energy capacity by 2020 to power more than 2.8 million homes for a year.

Credit: (North America map) Alan Rockefeller via Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0

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ENVIRONMENT OHIO
Clean Air. Clean Water. Open Space.

Summer Report

VOLUME 9 | NO. 3 | 2016

Environment Ohio

Our mission

We all want clean air, clean water and open spaces. But it takes independent research and tough-minded advocacy to win concrete results for our environment, especially when powerful interests stand in the way of environmental progress.

That's the idea behind Environment Ohio, Inc., a project of Environment America, Inc. We focus on protecting Ohio's air, water and open spaces. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

Leading the way on global warming after Paris

World leaders agreed last December to reduce carbon emissions under the Paris Agreement, and President Obama's Clean Power Plan, which was won due to widespread public support from people like you, gave our country the leverage needed to win this historic deal.

In February, however, the Supreme Court delivered a major blow to climate action, announcing it will put the Clean Power Plan on hold while it hears lawsuits from polluters and their allies who want to kill the plan. This decision is a huge loss for our kids' future and for all Americans who care about the health of our planet.

With your help, Environment Ohio is now working to build public support to show our leaders that the Clean Power Plan is essential to reducing our global warming emissions, protecting kids growing up today, and showing the rest of the world that we are serious about tackling this growing threat.

Credit: Staff

Support our efforts

Support our efforts to fight global warming. Donate online at: www.EnvironmentOhio.org

Margie Alt, executive director of Environment America, and Anna Aurilio, Environment America's D.C. office director, conduct a Google Hangout interview in Paris.

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