



2007 ANNUAL REPORT



From our staff



Erin Bowser
State Director



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Environmental
Advocate



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Energy Program
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Global Warming
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2007 was a big year for cleaning up Ohio's waterways (Page 2), preserving America's treasured places (Page 7), and, especially, for Ohio's clean energy future (Page 3).

My staff and I spent a considerable amount of time in 2007 advocating reforms that can help Ohio live up to its clean energy potential. We met with the governor to make sure that clean energy became a priority in any proposed energy bill—and it did. When the governor proposed his bill in September, it included modest standards for renewable energy and efficiency.

But the bill wasn't nearly strong enough. We needed more aggressive measures on the table in order for Ohio to reap all of the environmental and economic benefits of clean energy.

So we met with Ohio's leaders, testified at committee hearings, released research reports, and built a strong and diverse coalition in both rural and urban Ohio. We asked members like you to send e-mails and make phone calls—and you did. At the close of 2007, we had built majority support on both sides of the aisle for improving the bill and were working closely with the Speaker of the House to ensure that renewable energy becomes part of our short-term and long-term energy future.

We carry that momentum into 2008, and we're confident that this will be the year that Ohio starts living its clean energy future. But all this would not have been possible without your support.

Thank you for standing with us.



Erin Bowser
State Director

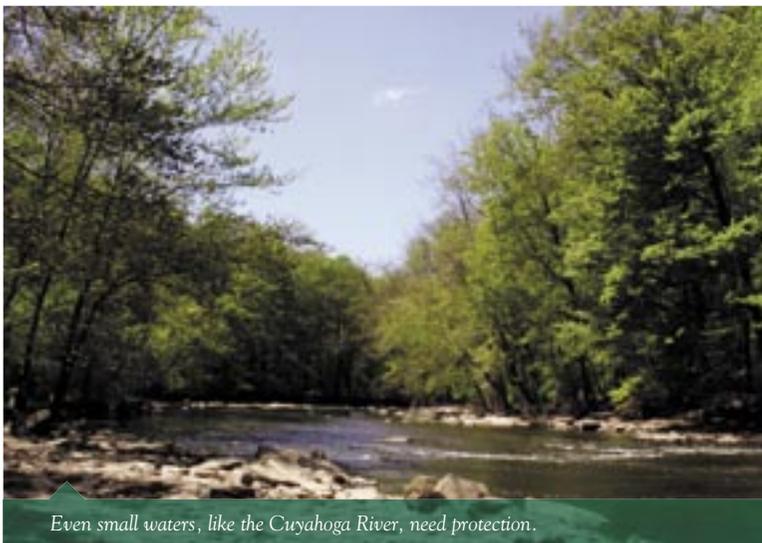


Our Rivers, Lakes & Streams

Small waters gain big support in Congress

In 2003, a Bush administration decision left hundreds of miles of Ohio's streams and thousands of acres of wetlands vulnerable to unchecked development and pollution. Over the last year, Environment Ohio fought to restore protection against these threats. The Bush policy exempted smaller waterways from the Clean Water Act, practically inviting industries to act with little to no regard for the health of these waters.

After the courts failed to overturn the exemption, we urged Ohio's congressional delegation to sponsor the Clean Water Restoration Act. The bill aimed to overturn the Bush administration policy by clearly stating that the Clean Water Act's protections extend to all of our waterways. In 2007, Reps. Marcy Kaptur and Timothy Ryan joined 171 other members of the U.S. House in sponsoring the bill.





A New Energy Future

Clean energy for a green economy

Throughout 2007, Environment Ohio staff worked to make clean, renewable energy part of the governor's energy plan, and to ensure that a strong bill—one that will bring clean energy to our state as soon as possible—is ultimately signed.

To make our case, we released data from the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory showing that Ohio could generate 10 to 20 percent of its electricity needs from the Buckeye State's own homegrown wind resources.

We also released "Energizing Ohio's Economy," our report showing that developing the clean energy industry could result in a cumulative \$3.7 billion in increased wages paid to Ohio workers, and that diversifying Ohio's electricity supply with wind energy would increase gross state product by an estimated \$8.2 billion through 2020.



Environment Ohio's Amy Gomberg (middle) at Green Energy Ohio's "Solar Tour."



Putting renewables in the plan

Environment Ohio staff first met with the governor in April before the release of his energy plan. We made the case for including a renewable energy standard that would require utilities to get more of their energy from clean, renewable sources like wind and solar.

When in August, Gov. Strickland announced his Energy, Jobs and Progress Plan for Ohio, it did include a requirement that 12.5 percent of electricity sold by Ohio utilities come from clean, renewable sources by 2025. Environment Ohio's Erin Bowser testified in support of the renewable energy requirement, but also called for important improvements to the bill. Unfortunately, in October the Senate passed a weakened version of the bill.

Building a stronger bill

To help demonstrate the broad public support for renewable energy, we commissioned a poll in October that revealed 80 percent of Ohio voters support setting a standard for renewable energy in Ohio that would require utilities to obtain 20 percent of our electricity from renewable sources by 2025.

In November, we began working closely with Speaker of the House Jon Husted to make improvements to the bill that would provide greater clean energy incentives, strengthen the renewable energy standard, and make sure that we increase the use of renewable energy in Ohio in the immediate future and for the long-term.

By year's end, we had built majority, bipartisan support in the Legislature for a strong renewable energy bill that we are confident the governor will sign into law in 2008.



Global Warming

Landmark global warming bills

In 2007, Environment Ohio backed the Safe Climate Act and the Global Warming Pollution Reduction Act in Congress. The bills would limit global warming pollution to levels that scientists say are needed to prevent the worst effects of global warming. So far, Ohio Reps. Dennis Kucinich and Stephanie Jones have signed on as co-sponsors. “Meeting the kind of reductions that scientists say we need to meet can be done. But we’re running dangerously short on time. We have to take bold action now,” said Emily Figdor, our chief advocate on the issue.

To call attention to the urgent need for federal action, Environment Ohio released two reports. “Cleaner, Cheaper, Smarter,” released in September, took a close look at cap-and-trade programs designed to cut global warming pollution. The second report, released in December, called attention to a 24 percent nationwide increase in storms with heavy rainfall—one indication that global warming is already having some of the effects predicted by scientists.



Ohio has seen record flooding in past years; global warming promises more of the same.

Report: “When It Rains It Pours”



Global Warming and the Rising Frequency of Extreme Precipitation in the United States

December 2007

Scientists expect that global warming will cause a variety of changes to precipitation patterns in the United States. Many areas will receive increased amounts of rain and snow over the course of a year; some areas will receive less.

But scientists expect that, all across the country, the rainstorms and snowstorms that do occur will be more intense, increasing the risk of flooding and other problems.

In this report, we evaluated trends in the frequency of storms with extreme levels of rainfall or snowfall across the contiguous United States over the last 60 years.

We analyzed daily precipitation records spanning from 1948 through 2006 at more than 3,000 weather stations in 48 states. We then examined patterns in the timing of heavy precipitation relative to the local climate at each weather station.

We found that storms with extreme amounts of rain or snowfall are happening more often across most of America, consistent with the predicted impact of global warming.



America The Beautiful

Save the Grand Canyon: Stop toxic mining

In the last five years, responding to an increase in the price of gold and the impending close of the Bush administration, mining companies have filed 800 claims within five miles of the Grand Canyon—close enough that the cyanide and other toxic wastes they use to separate ore from rock would find its way into the streams that feed the Colorado River and the trails and wild lands that surround it.

We worked to reform outdated mining laws to protect national parks from mining waste that could reach parklands. In November, the House passed an Environment Ohio-backed bill that would, among other reforms, prevent mining anywhere it could damage a national park. The bill moves to the Senate in 2008, where it faces tough opposition from the mining industry. Rep Dennis Kucinich co-sponsored the legislation in the House.



Grand Canyon National Park.



Increasing funding for national parks

Over the past 30 years, Congress has neglected our national parks, leaving them underfunded and falling into disrepair. The parks currently face a funding shortfall of \$800 million annually, forcing a backlog of maintenance problems, staffing cuts, and a paring down of educational programs in the parks. Beloved places in Ohio, like the North Country National Scenic Trail and Cuyahoga Valley National Park, are plagued by air pollution and threatened by encroaching oil, gas and timber interests.

In 2007, along with Environment America, our national federation, we asked Ohio's congressional delegation to increase national park funding. In December, Congress approved a much-needed \$122 million operating increase; we joined other environment groups in praising the move.



Brandywine Falls at Cuyahoga Valley National Park.



Environment Ohio Supporters

Citizen support is the cornerstone of Environment Ohio and the Environment Ohio Research & Policy Center. Thousands of Ohio citizens supported Environment Ohio by making membership contributions in fiscal year 2007. The members listed below were particularly generous in backing the organization's research and advocacy. Names that appear in italics denote Monthly Supporters. These members provide stability to the organization's resources through our monthly giving program.

Development Committee—contributed \$1,000 or more.

Ernst Bever • Mary Lou Hoover • Douglas H. Phelps • James Roehm • Melinda Sadar

Patrons—contributed between \$500 and \$999.

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Sponsors—continued

- Isaac Williams • William Wood • Bruce Wyngaard • Alan Yanowitz • Jason Ziebro

Foundation support

The Environment Ohio Research & Policy Center is a 501(c)(3) organization, and conducts research and public education on emerging environmental issues. Contributions to the Environment Ohio Research & Policy Center are tax-deductible. To find out more, contact Erin Bowser at (614) 460-8732.

The Environment Ohio Research & Policy Center would like to thank the following individual and foundations for supporting our work in 2007:

- Cleveland Foundation • Columbus Foundation • David and Inez Myers Foundation of the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland • George Gund Foundation • Energy Foundation • Melinda Sadar

Planned Giving

Plant a seed that will grow a greener Ohio. Please consider including Environment Ohio in your will. Your bequest will assure that we continue to protect Ohio's air, water and open spaces for future generations. Environment Ohio also welcomes current contributions of personal property and assets. For more information call: 1-800-841-7299, or e-mail: PlannedGiving@EnvironmentOhio.org.

Financial Information

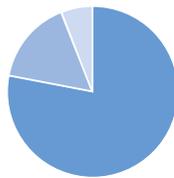
Charts reflect combined financial information for the environmental work conducted by Environment Ohio, the Environment Ohio Research & Policy Center and Environment Ohio's citizen outreach programs.

FY07 Income



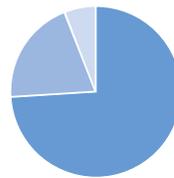
- ◆ Citizen Contributions **68%**
- ◆ Foundation Grants **32%**

FY07 Expenses



- ◆ Program **78%**
- ◆ Fundraising **16%**
- ◆ Administrative **6%**

FY07 Programs



- ◆ Clean Energy **74%**
- ◆ Clean Water **20%**
- ◆ Global Warming **6%**

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