



2010 Annual Report



ENVIRONMENT
OHIO
Clean Air. Clean Water. Open Space.



From our staff

Ohio's waters



Julian Boggs
Program Associate

Dear Environment Ohio member,

I've always found the name for Lake Erie and its sister lakes to be a bit of an understatement. Great Lakes? They're more like Astoundingly, Mind-bogglingly Huge.

The Great Lakes provide daily drinking water for 33 million people, and support a \$15 billion-a-year tourism industry and a \$7 billion-a-year sports fishing industry.

But although the Lakes—and their benefits—are truly vast, they're also vulnerable. Invasive Asian carp threaten to devastate the Lakes' ecosystem; manure and fertilizer from corporate agriculture load the Lakes with excess nutrients; stormwater runoff from sprawling development dumps more than 24 billion gallons of raw sewage into the Lakes each year.

These problems lead to beach closings and a 6,400-mile dead zone in Lake Erie. Combined, they have left the entire Great Lakes ecosystem so severely disrupted that scientists believe it is approaching a point beyond which fully restoring the Lakes would be impossible.

In 2010, we led the way on a measure that would provide an infusion of new energy and resources for the fight against pollution and invasive species. That bill passed a key U.S. Senate committee last June. We also worked to shepherd a bill in the U.S. House that would restore recently rolled-back Clean Water Act protections to the small streams that feed Lake Erie.

But with pollution and invasive species bringing us ever closer to the tipping point, we need to act again, and we need your continued help. I deeply appreciate the contributions you have made, and look forward to working with you in the year to come as we fight for sweeping protections that will restore the Lakes for good.

Sincerely,

Julian Boggs
Program Associate



Dan Kohler
Regional Program Director



Rob Sargent
Energy Program Director



Craig Willert
Field Associate

Congress considers restoring the Clean Water Act

Environment Ohio worked in 2010 to restore protection to the waterways that are essential to Ohioans' quality of life. When the Supreme Court threw into question which of our waters are protected under the Clean Water Act, it put more than half of Ohio's streams, thousands of acres of wetlands, and even our great waterways like Lake Erie at risk of unlimited pollution.

Fortunately, a measure in the U.S. House of Representatives would clarify that America's waterways are no dumping ground. We've joined a strong coalition of regional groups working to pass the measure, called the America's Commitment to Clean Water Act. Our research and outreach in Ohio, as well as the advocacy of our federal clean water staff in Washington, D.C., created a flood of regional media attention and helped pass the bill through a key committee in 2010, setting the stage for a big push in 2011.



Kayaking on the Cuyahoga River.



Protect Lake Erie

Support rallied for Great Lakes restoration

Lake Erie is an important part of our heritage, but the Great Lakes are vulnerable to a litany of threats ranging from toxic pollution to invasive species. We worked in 2010 to pass a measure through Congress that will restore and protect them. The Great Lakes Ecosystem Protection Act currently making its way through Congress would inject new energy and resources—to the tune of \$650 million per year—into restoring and protecting the Lakes.

The measure is sponsored by Ohio Sens. Sherrod Brown and George Voinovich, as well as several other senators from our region. The bill is part of a package of measures aimed at restoring iconic waterways across the United States, and if our senators can rally enough support for it, we can push it through.



Asian carp threaten to invade the Great Lakes.

A 6,000-square-mile dead zone

More than 24 billion gallons of sewage are dumped into the Lakes each year, often leading to bacteria levels so elevated in that it's not safe to swim there. In 2009, there were more than 300 beach closings at Ohio's 62 public beaches. Runoff from agriculture and sprawling development leads to a more than 6,000-square-mile dead zone (roughly the size of Connecticut) in Lake Erie each summer.

Voracious invasive Asian carp threaten to infiltrate the Great Lakes, with potentially devastating results for the entire ecosystem.

Making the case for the Lakes

This summer, our federal clean water staff lobbied for the measure in Washington, D.C., our researchers made the case for restoration, and our grassroots organizers engaged thousands of citizens throughout Ohio to contact their representatives. The bill made it through a key committee, and we're working to see it all the way to the president's desk in 2011.

Our vision for the Great Lakes is one in which our beaches are safe and free of pollution—even after a heavy rain—and we can relax at Lake Erie and enjoy some of the best fishing in the country. The Lakes are a national treasure, and it will take a national-scale investment to clean them up.



Better building

2010 left plenty of room for improvement

Last year, the vast majority of Ohio's energy was produced by burning coal and oil, two of the dirtiest fuel sources on the planet—and 40 percent of it went to power our buildings. We released research showing a clear blueprint for doing better. Our "Building Better" report outlined the potential for making all of Ohio's new buildings produce more energy than they consume, and making our existing buildings far more efficient by 2050—saving Ohio families up to \$1,837 per year.

Environment Ohio has been working in a coalition of energy efficiency businesses, consumer and low-income housing advocates, and other environmental groups to overcome the status quo. Every year, Ohio's public lands and open spaces are threatened by new proposals to drill for gas and oil. But there is a permanent solution to the problem: Use less energy. Protect Ohio's environment and Ohioans' wallets by building better and smarter.



Julian Boggs, program associate for Environment Ohio, speaks at a press conference.



Fighting global warming pollution

We made sure Sen. Brown stayed on our side

When a flood of our members contacted Sen. Sherrod Brown in April and May, urging him to vote against the "Dirty Air Act," we proved once again that engaged Ohioans can make themselves heard at the national level.

The Dirty Air Act would have blocked the EPA from regulating CO₂ emissions under the Clean Air Act, tying its hands on everything from limiting the pollution of coal-fired power plants to implementing the groundbreaking new clean cars standards the Obama administration announced last year.

Along with our national federation, Environment America, we were not about to let polluters and their allies in Congress do away with the car standards, which we had worked to pass in more than a dozen states before President Obama adopted them nationwide.

Defending hard-won standards

A team of organizers gathered more than 4,000 petitions from Ohioans, asking Sen. Brown to stand up for the Clean Air Act and hold polluters accountable. Our members and activists personally delivered hundreds of flyers to his office, and we drew national attention with a "CarnivOil" in Columbus, parodying the circus Big Oil is making of Washington, D.C.

After we reached out to our allies in the clean energy business community, letters from key solar, wind and energy efficiency businesses poured into Sen. Brown's office. We made the case to the media, publishing letters to the editor in key newspapers across the state—including Sen. Brown's hometown paper, the Lorain Morning Journal. Sen. Brown ultimately voted against the measure.

Solar homes and communities

Report highlight

As support for solar energy grew, Legislature stalled

In 2010, we worked to make it easier and more affordable for homeowners across the state to take advantage of solar power. The effort built on “Property-Assessed Clean Energy” legislation that Environment Ohio was instrumental in crafting in 2009, which allowed cities and townships to help residents finance projects such as installing solar panels or making their homes more efficient. But last summer, mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac used their influence to block the bill; we’re pushing it forward again in 2011.

We also have work to do on our Solar Schools project. In 2009, the Ohio House of Representatives unanimously passed our Solar Schools bill, which would put solar panels on 70 of the state’s largest schools, educating students about energy while saving schools money. The Senate failed to approve it in 2010.



New policies enable cities to help their residents afford solar projects.



Building a solar future: Repowering America’s homes, busi- nesses and industry with solar energy

In addition to our advocacy at the Legislature, we used research and media outreach to spread the word about Ohio’s potential to benefit from solar power.

Our “Building a Solar Future” report, released in the spring, highlights the ways we can use energy from the sun to meet 10 percent of America’s energy needs by 2030:

- Solar water heaters: Rooftop-mounted collectors capture solar energy as heat and produce hot water. They capture up to 87 percent of the energy that reaches them.
- Solar space heating and cooling: Similar collectors can be used to heat air in place of furnaces or boilers, contributing 50 percent or more of the energy needed to heat a building.
- Passive solar design: For centuries, skilled builders have designed homes and other buildings that take the best possible advantage of the sun’s energy—reducing the need for lighting, heating and cooling in the first place.

In addition to applications for homeowners, the report highlights a similar broad range of ways solar energy can be used to heat, light and even cool businesses, factories and farms.



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Foundation support

The Environment Ohio Research & Policy Center is a 501(c)(3) organization that 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 Dan Kohler at (614) 460-8732.

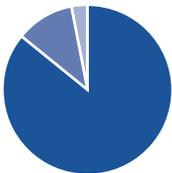
The Environment Ohio Research & Policy Center would like to thank the following foundations for supporting our work in 2010:

RE-AMP Global Warming Strategic Action Fund • Energy Foundation • The Cleveland Foundation • Joyce Foundation • Edwards Mother Earth Foundation • George Gund Foundation

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.

FY10 Expenses



- ◆ Program **86%**
- ◆ Fundraising **11%**
- ◆ Administrative **3%**

FY10 Programs



- ◆ New Energy Future **31%**
- ◆ Clean Water **27%**
- ◆ Curbing Global Warming **19%**
- ◆ Solar Communities **16%**
- ◆ Preservation **7%**

Building a greener future

Environment Ohio and The Environment Ohio Research & Policy Center gratefully accept bequests, beneficiary designations of IRAs and life insurance, and gifts of securities to support our work. Your gift will assure that we can continue to protect Ohio's air, water and open spaces for future generations. For more information, call 1-800-841-7299 or e-mail PlannedGiving@EnvironmentOhio.org.

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