

# Annual Report

A recap of our work for our members in 2012

# To our members

**"We have you to thank for our victories, as well as for our continued ability to take on polluting special interests and protect Ohio's environment."**



*Over the past year, your support helped us win a number of landmark victories, both here in Ohio and nationwide.*



**Dan Kohler**  
Regional Director

*Here at home, after forming a coalition with clean energy businesses and mobilizing thousands of Ohioans to act, we turned back an attempt by the Kasich administration to undermine Ohio's crucial clean energy policies with revisions that favored fossil fuels. We also stepped up our efforts to protect Hocking Hills from the dangers of fracking. Our canvassers pounded the pavement all summer and fall, alerting people all across the state to the gas industry's plans to conduct fracking in the Hocking Hills region's Wayne National Forest.*



**Christian Adams**  
Clean Energy  
Associate

*Nationally, we won a major victory when President Obama passed Environment Ohio-backed clean car standards—the biggest step the U.S. has ever taken to address global warming. And together with our national federation, we helped convince the Obama administration to finalize the first-ever nationwide limits on toxic mercury pollution from power plants.*



**Joe Ready**  
Regional Citizen  
Outreach Director

*We have you to thank for these victories, as well as for our continued ability to take on polluting special interests and protect Ohio's environment. With you by our side, we will continue to fight for clean energy, a healthier planet and a brighter future.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julian Boggs".

**Julian Boggs, State Policy Advocate**



# Victory for Clean Cars

In August, the Obama administration finalized historic clean car standards that will require cars to get 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025. Decades from now, these standards will be highlighted as a monumental turning point in America’s quest to get off oil and tackle global warming.

## Historic step toward an oil-free Ohio

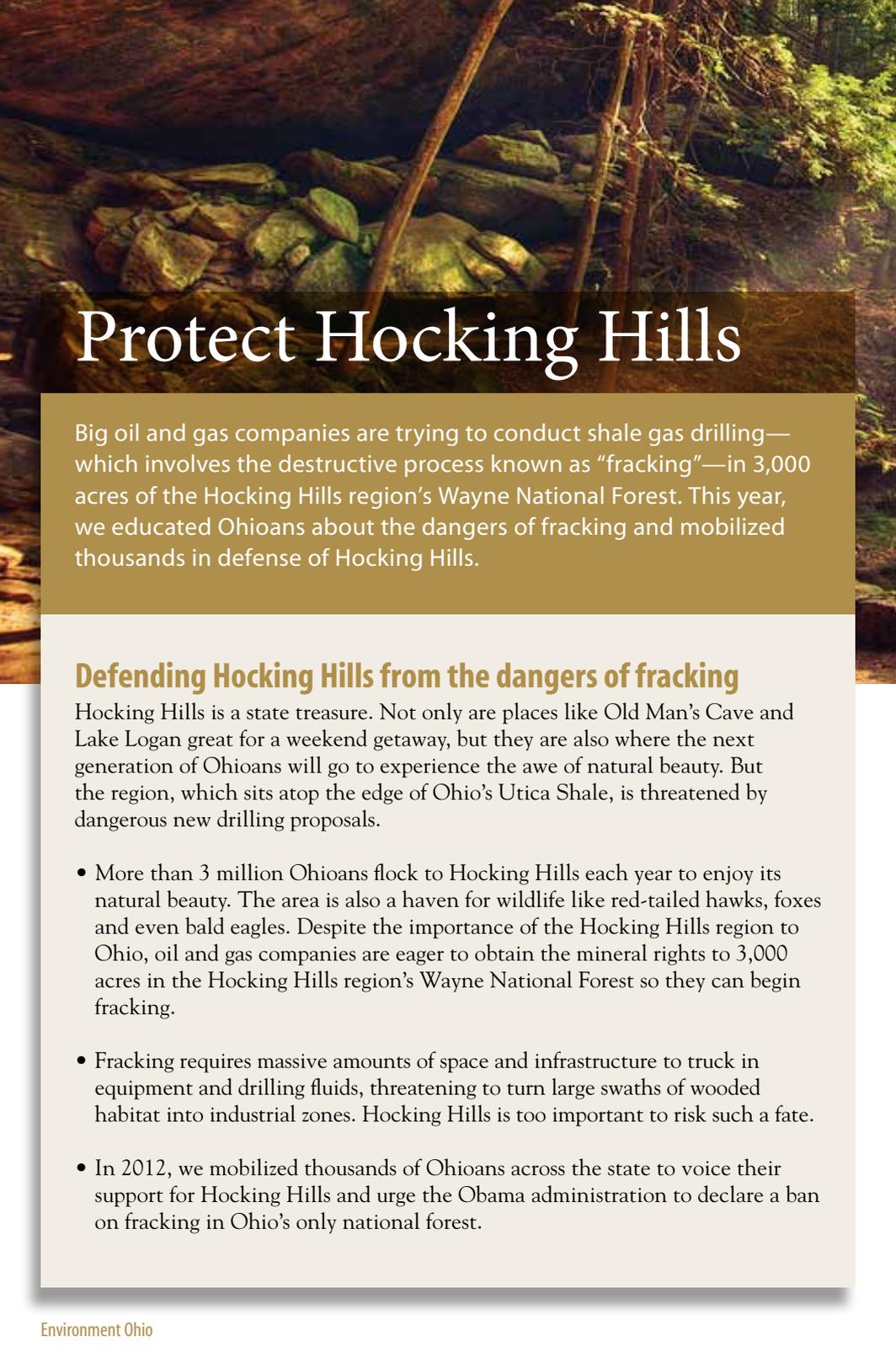
On August 28, after years of research and advocacy by Environment Ohio and our allies, the Obama administration finalized clean car standards that will double the fuel efficiency of today’s cars by 2025. The standards will cut as much global warming pollution in Ohio alone in 2030 as is emitted by 1,132,000 of today’s vehicles.

Nationwide, these clean car standards will cut our annual oil use by an amount equivalent to what we currently import from Saudi Arabia.

These standards are the largest step the United States has ever taken toward solving global warming and getting off oil. And Environment Ohio played a key role in getting them across the finish line: We released two reports documenting the benefits of clean cars and advocating for stronger fuel efficiency standards, and along with our allies across the country, we built broad grassroots support for clean car standards.



Top: Environment Ohio Advocate Julian Boggs at a clean car event with State Rep. Tracy Maxwell Heard. Bottom: President Obama announces new clean car standards.



# Protect Hocking Hills

Big oil and gas companies are trying to conduct shale gas drilling—which involves the destructive process known as “fracking”—in 3,000 acres of the Hocking Hills region’s Wayne National Forest. This year, we educated Ohioans about the dangers of fracking and mobilized thousands in defense of Hocking Hills.

## Defending Hocking Hills from the dangers of fracking

Hocking Hills is a state treasure. Not only are places like Old Man’s Cave and Lake Logan great for a weekend getaway, but they are also where the next generation of Ohioans will go to experience the awe of natural beauty. But the region, which sits atop the edge of Ohio’s Utica Shale, is threatened by dangerous new drilling proposals.

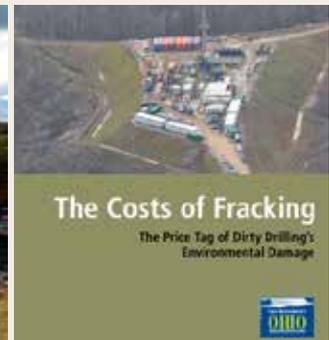
- More than 3 million Ohioans flock to Hocking Hills each year to enjoy its natural beauty. The area is also a haven for wildlife like red-tailed hawks, foxes and even bald eagles. Despite the importance of the Hocking Hills region to Ohio, oil and gas companies are eager to obtain the mineral rights to 3,000 acres in the Hocking Hills region’s Wayne National Forest so they can begin fracking.
- Fracking requires massive amounts of space and infrastructure to truck in equipment and drilling fluids, threatening to turn large swaths of wooded habitat into industrial zones. Hocking Hills is too important to risk such a fate.
- In 2012, we mobilized thousands of Ohioans across the state to voice their support for Hocking Hills and urge the Obama administration to declare a ban on fracking in Ohio’s only national forest.



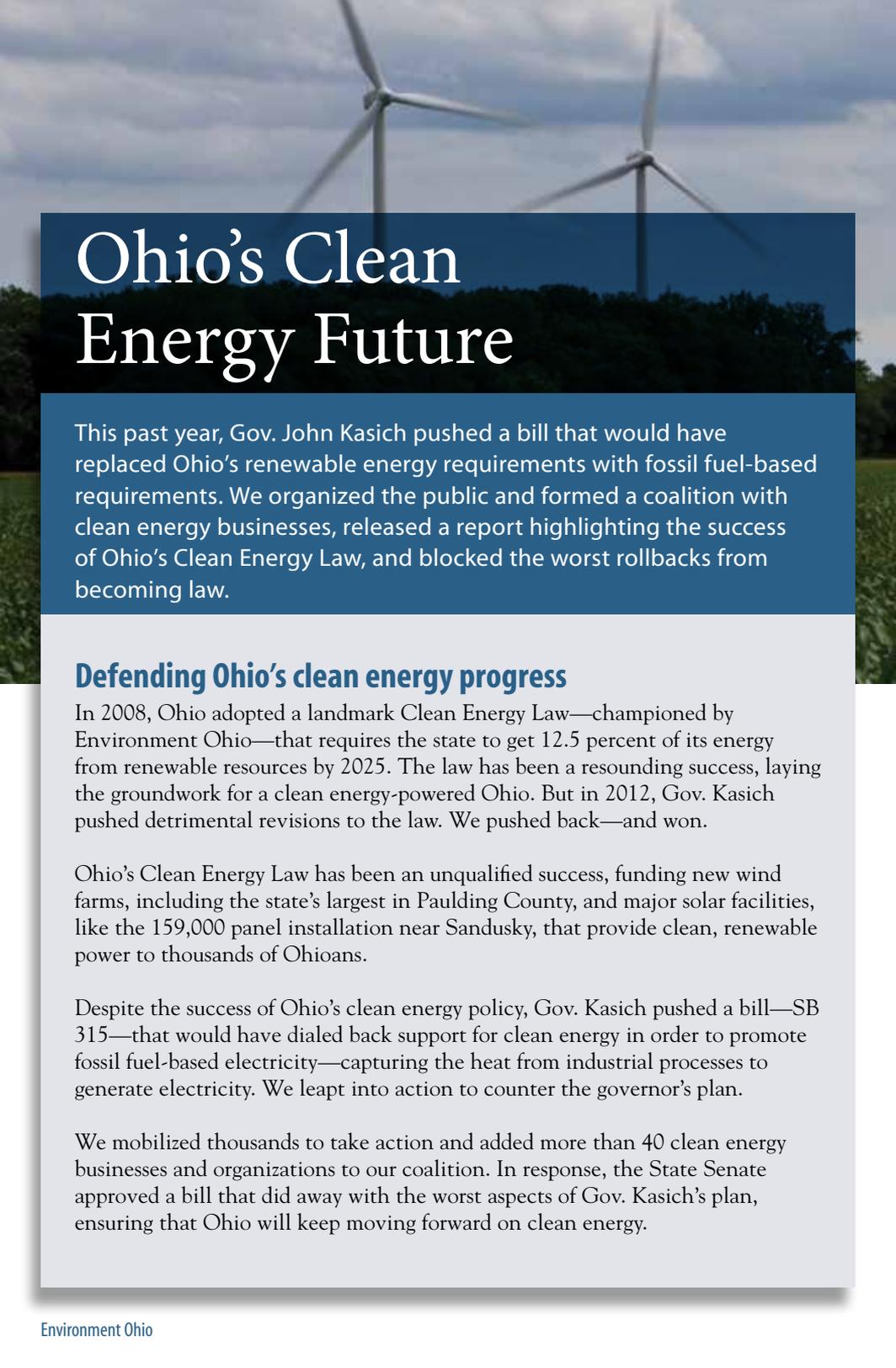
## Spreading the word about the costs of fracking

In concert with our work to protect Hocking Hills from the gas industry's outrageous fracking plans, Environment Ohio released a report documenting a wide range of dollars and cents costs imposed by dirty drilling. As our research shows, fracking creates millions of dollars of costs related to everything from air pollution to ruined roads to contaminated property.

- In September, Environment Ohio released the report "The Cost of Fracking" alongside residents of Broadview Heights, where drilling rigs have sprung up throughout the suburban landscape since the Ohio state legislature passed an urban drilling law in 2004.
- On top of the dangers it poses to the health of our families and the degradation it inflicts on our landscapes, fracking imposes a variety of steep monetary costs. Between cleanup of contaminated water sources, road repairs, treatment of health problems caused by air pollution, emergency services and disposal of toxic wastewater, fracking could easily cost Ohio hundreds of millions of dollars.



Left: A fracking pad in Pennsylvania. Right: In September, Environment Ohio released a report, "The Cost of Fracking," detailing the monetary costs of fracking in addition to its negative impact on our health and environment.



# Ohio's Clean Energy Future

This past year, Gov. John Kasich pushed a bill that would have replaced Ohio's renewable energy requirements with fossil fuel-based requirements. We organized the public and formed a coalition with clean energy businesses, released a report highlighting the success of Ohio's Clean Energy Law, and blocked the worst rollbacks from becoming law.

## Defending Ohio's clean energy progress

In 2008, Ohio adopted a landmark Clean Energy Law—championed by Environment Ohio—that requires the state to get 12.5 percent of its energy from renewable resources by 2025. The law has been a resounding success, laying the groundwork for a clean energy-powered Ohio. But in 2012, Gov. Kasich pushed detrimental revisions to the law. We pushed back—and won.

Ohio's Clean Energy Law has been an unqualified success, funding new wind farms, including the state's largest in Paulding County, and major solar facilities, like the 159,000 panel installation near Sandusky, that provide clean, renewable power to thousands of Ohioans.

Despite the success of Ohio's clean energy policy, Gov. Kasich pushed a bill—SB 315—that would have dialed back support for clean energy in order to promote fossil fuel-based electricity—capturing the heat from industrial processes to generate electricity. We leapt into action to counter the governor's plan.

We mobilized thousands to take action and added more than 40 clean energy businesses and organizations to our coalition. In response, the State Senate approved a bill that did away with the worst aspects of Gov. Kasich's plan, ensuring that Ohio will keep moving forward on clean energy.

## Building support for local clean energy

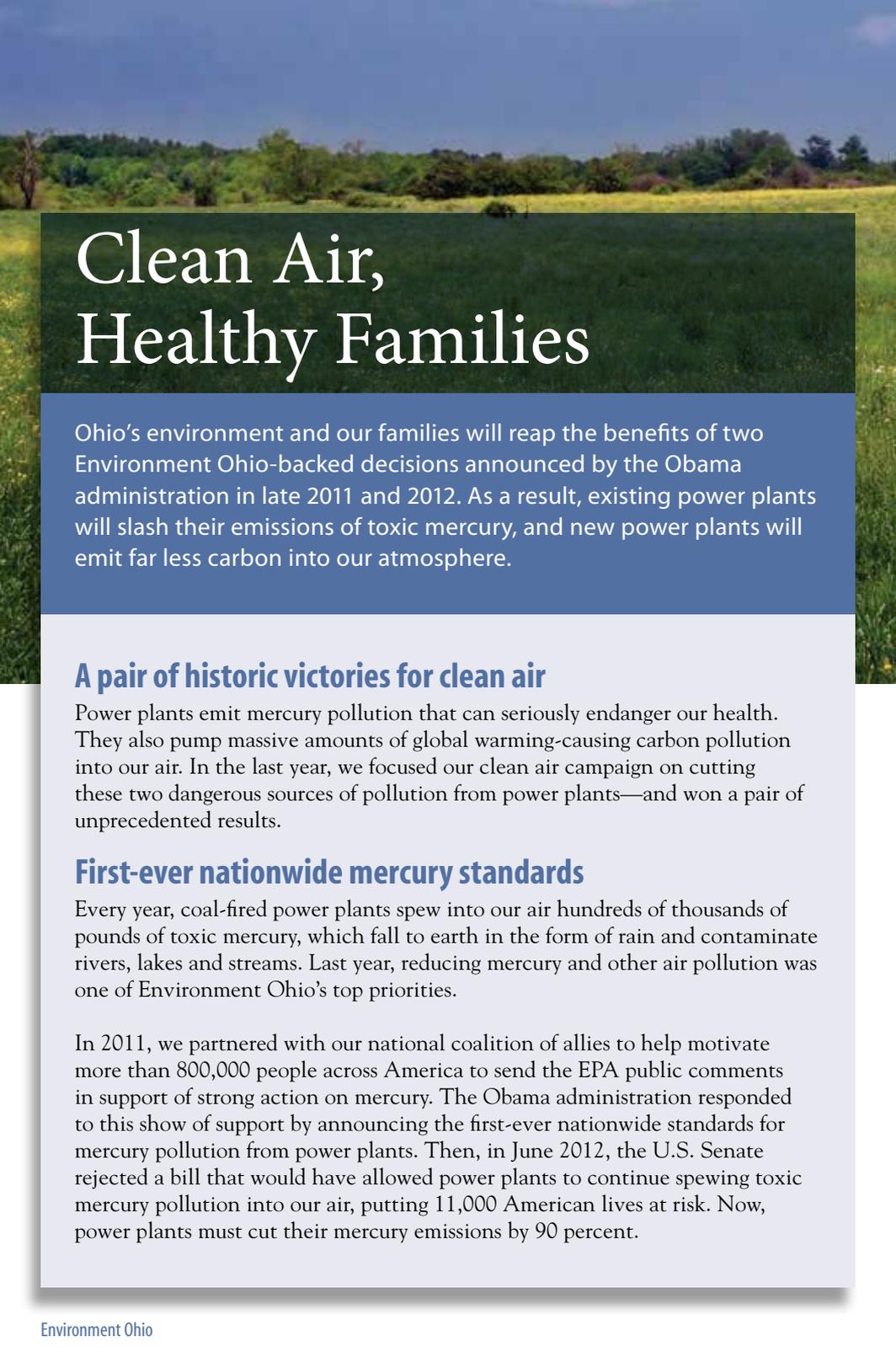
In addition to our work defending clean energy on the state level, Environment Ohio launched a campaign this fall to encourage local investment in clean, renewable energy projects and programs. We talked to thousands of Ohioans and urged local officials all across the state to strengthen their commitment to clean energy.

Our dependence on coal makes Ohio the nation's fourth-largest emitter of both ozone and global warming pollution, and hurts our health by filling our air with soot and smog while poisoning our waterways with mercury. And big utilities like FirstEnergy and AEP are spending millions to keep us addicted to their dirty energy.

It's the 21st century. We should be getting more of our energy from clean, renewable sources that don't pollute our air and water. But progress at the state level is often slow. Luckily, solar, wind and energy efficiency are homegrown solutions to big national problems. That's why Environment Ohio is calling on mayors and city councils across the state to lead the way to Ohio's clean energy future.



In 2012, Environment Ohio helped defeat harmful revisions to Ohio's Clean Energy Law proposed by Gov. John Kasich. Now, Environment Ohio is focusing its clean energy campaign on building a clean energy infrastructure at the local level.



# Clean Air, Healthy Families

Ohio's environment and our families will reap the benefits of two Environment Ohio-backed decisions announced by the Obama administration in late 2011 and 2012. As a result, existing power plants will slash their emissions of toxic mercury, and new power plants will emit far less carbon into our atmosphere.

## **A pair of historic victories for clean air**

Power plants emit mercury pollution that can seriously endanger our health. They also pump massive amounts of global warming-causing carbon pollution into our air. In the last year, we focused our clean air campaign on cutting these two dangerous sources of pollution from power plants—and won a pair of unprecedented results.

## **First-ever nationwide mercury standards**

Every year, coal-fired power plants spew into our air hundreds of thousands of pounds of toxic mercury, which fall to earth in the form of rain and contaminate rivers, lakes and streams. Last year, reducing mercury and other air pollution was one of Environment Ohio's top priorities.

In 2011, we partnered with our national coalition of allies to help motivate more than 800,000 people across America to send the EPA public comments in support of strong action on mercury. The Obama administration responded to this show of support by announcing the first-ever nationwide standards for mercury pollution from power plants. Then, in June 2012, the U.S. Senate rejected a bill that would have allowed power plants to continue spewing toxic mercury pollution into our air, putting 11,000 American lives at risk. Now, power plants must cut their mercury emissions by 90 percent.



## EPA proposes carbon pollution standards

In addition to President Obama's mercury pollution standards, the past year saw another historic victory for clean air: On March 27, 2012, the EPA proposed limits on carbon pollution from new power plants. If passed, they will be the first nationwide limits on the largest single source of the carbon pollution that fuels global warming.

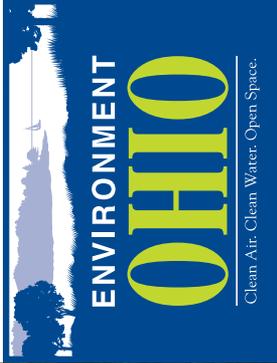
The EPA is expected to finalize these carbon pollution standards for new power plants by the end of 2012, and begin developing standards for existing coal-fired power plants in the near future as well.

However, through paid ads and armies of lobbyists within Congress, the coal industry and other corporate polluters are trying to prevent the implementation of these commonsense standards. To counter these special interests, Environment Ohio and our allies collected a record-smashing 3 million comments in support of the carbon standard.



Left: Environment Ohio's Matt Caffrey releases a report, "Ohio's Biggest Mercury Polluters." Right: Environment Ohio helped submit a record-breaking 3 million comments in support of carbon standards for power plants.

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