



# Summer Report

## Protection for Ohio parks on chopping block

### Campaign launched to restore critical safeguards

This winter, Environment Ohio went to work, mobilizing thousands to stand up for our state parks and urge lawmakers to restore much needed funding to preserve our special places like Hocking Hills. This summer, we've launched a statewide campaign to restore funding at the federal level and urge Congress to protect our parks.

From Cuyahoga Valley National Park to the woods and waterfalls of Wayne National Forest, these are Ohio's greatest places, where families hike, camp, fish and teach their kids about our state's history.

### Pollution, drilling, mining

Unfortunately, our state's parks face a barrage of threats from encroaching overdevelopment, ongoing pollution, fracking and Utica Shale drilling, and coal mining and acid drainage.

These activities degrade these great places, threaten the wildlife that make the parks their home, and diminish the natural heritage that we'll leave for our children and future generations.

### Key conservation program could expire

Now Congress is on the verge of decimating the nation's most successful program that protects our parks and other open spaces from development and drilling—the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)—as early as 2015. For the past 50 years, the LWCF's mission has been to protect America's greatest—and often most threatened—places. For Ohio, that means places like Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Ottawa National Wildlife



Photo: Ken Colwell/Flickr

### ▲ Great Blue Heron in Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge

Refuge and the parks of Hocking Hills. But if our elected officials don't act soon, this critical program will end up on Congress' chopping block, forever hindering America's great legacy of conservation and protection for our natural heritage.

Saving the LWCF will be a tough challenge, but we're up to the task. This summer, Environment Ohio launched an

enormous door-to-door effort to win support from Sens. Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman for renewed and permanent funding for the LWCF. We are talking to tens of thousands of Ohioans about what's at stake, testifying in Washington, D.C., educating lawmakers, and shining a spotlight in the media on the need to protect our parks.



Photo: 92R/Flickr

### more online

#### ◀ Hocking Hills

To learn more about how cuts to the LWCF affect Ohio's parks and take action, visit us online at: [www.EnvironmentOhio.org](http://www.EnvironmentOhio.org)

Photo: Staff



## To our members

Summer is one of my favorite times of year to get out and enjoy the outdoors—whether it's visiting my favorite park or knocking on doors to build support for our campaigns.

And with every weekend hike, campaign action, or conversation with a new member, I'm reminded why I do this work—that there is something special about Ohio and worth protecting for the future.

Whether we're mobilizing thousands to protect our parks and forests, advocating for global warming solutions in D.C., or pushing back against the spread of fracking across the Buckeye State, Environment Ohio is committed to fighting for a green future this summer and for every season to come.

Thank you for making that fight possible. With your support we'll be knocking on doors and winning real results for our environment for years to come.

Sincerely,

Christian Adams  
State Associate

## Recent action

### Green Future Fund: A new way to honor supporters

Environment Ohio's new Green Future Fund honors donors who ensure a greener future for Ohio by remembering Environment Ohio or our sister group, Environment Ohio Research & Policy Center, in their estate plans.

Including Environment Ohio in your planning costs nothing today, while protecting the places we love and the values we share for the future.

With your permission, we'll recognize your gift in our publications, inspiring other members to make their own legacy gifts. Or you may choose to keep your gift private. Either way, any details you choose to provide about your gift will remain confidential.

To enroll in the Green Future Fund, or to learn more, call 1-800-841-7299 ext. 312, or email [PlannedGiving@EnvironmentOhio.org](mailto:PlannedGiving@EnvironmentOhio.org).

### Governor rejects fracking in state parks

Fracking has contaminated drinking water and turned pristine landscapes into torn-up drilling sites across the country. That's why when Gov. John Kasich announced that he no longer supports fracking in our state parks, we urged him to take the next step and put his words into action and called for a statewide moratorium on dirty drilling in all of our parks and forests.

When the U.S. Department of the Interior moved to permit fracking near national parks and in national forests, we added thousands of Ohio voices to the chorus of more than 1 million Americans urging President Obama to ban fracking in national forests and on public lands. Unfortunately, more than 1,600 acres of Ohio land have already been degraded by drilling operations with more to come as the industry expands across the Buckeye State—threatening treasures like Wayne National Forest, Salt Fork State Park, and more.

"We know that protecting our communities and special places from fracking will be a long fight," said Christian Adams, state associate. "That's why we're committed to taking on the oil and gas industry whenever and wherever we can."

Photo: Robert Lynch, 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 or send an email to: [PlannedGiving@EnvironmentOhio.org](mailto:PlannedGiving@EnvironmentOhio.org).



M. Hacquard/Wayne National Forest

▲ Painted Turtle in Wayne National Forest

# Columbus spotlighted for solar growth

Erica Luccini/CC

This spring, Environment Ohio released a new report naming the city of Columbus as a “Solar Beginner,” a city just beginning to experience a significant amount of solar energy.

Our report, “Shining Cities,” was released at the Department of Fleet Management Facility in Columbus, home to the largest municipal roof mounted energy system in all of Ohio.

“We are proud to host Environment Ohio’s release of the ‘Shining Cities’ report at our Fleet Management Facility,” said Mayor Michael B. Coleman. “Not only are the panels producing green power, they are also saving the city money. Our electric bills are 18 percent lower than in previous years.”

## 200 times more solar

The report found that there is more than 200 times as much solar photovoltaic (PV) capacity installed in the U.S. today compared to 2002, much of that in America’s cities. The top 20 cities account for 7 percent of the installed photovoltaic solar, while occupying only 0.1 percent of the land area.

“Solar power is booming across the country and cities are at the forefront,” said Ragan Davis with Environment Ohio. “The progress we are seeing here and around the country should give us the confidence to do more.”

## An array of benefits

With the cost of solar coming down, there is growing awareness of solar power as a mainstream energy solution with widespread benefits for our health, our economy and the environment. The report highlighted the benefits of solar energy, including the following:

- **Reducing global warming pollution:** Pollution-free energy from the sun reduces air pollution that contributes to urban smog and global warming.

- **Protecting against the rising cost of fuels:** Since solar has no fuel costs, it can protect us from the rising cost of fossil fuels.

- **Helping the economy:** Ohio has 3,800 solar jobs, growing by 31% since last year.

“Investments in solar energy will only help us meet our energy needs now and in the future,” said Rep. Joyce Beatty. “I look forward to continuing to monitor the progress of solar advancements as it assists Ohio in meeting its energy, environmental and economic goals.”

The top 20 solar cities in this report have more solar power within their city limits than was installed in the entire U.S. just six years ago. The report pointed to policies that encourage investment in solar PV installations, which have been adopted by local leaders in solar cities.

“We’ve made progress here in Columbus. But we’ve only just begun,” said Davis. “By committing to bold goals and putting strong policies in place, we can make Columbus shine as a national leader and reap the environmental and economic benefits of the solar revolution.”



Read the report on solar energy in “Shining Cities” online: [www.EnvironmentOhio.org/reports](http://www.EnvironmentOhio.org/reports)



## A one-two punch in global warming fight

Clean energy policies, such as standards for renewable energy and energy efficiency, are leading to big reductions of carbon pollution—the leading cause of global warming—according to a new report by Environment Ohio Research & Policy Center this past spring.

Our report, “Moving America Forward,” showed how Ohio reduced carbon pollution by 4.7 million metric tons in 2012—the equivalent of taking nearly 1 million cars off the road for a year—thanks to policies such as EPA fuel efficiency standards and Ohio’s Clean Energy Law.

“By using energy more efficiently and by generating more power from clean, renewable sources, states are delivering a one-two punch in the fight against global warming,” said Julian Boggs, federal global warming program director with Environment Ohio. “They’re proving that we do have what it takes to protect our children and future generations from the worst impacts of climate change. But we will need firm limits on carbon pollution from power plants in order to deliver a knockout blow.”

Ohio has reduced carbon pollution by ...



4.7 million metric tons



1 million cars off the road for 1 year

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# Environment Ohio

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### 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. We focus exclusively 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.

### EPA ruling good news for Ohio waters

For more than a decade, Environment Ohio has been working to close loopholes in the Clean Water Act that have left more than 60 percent of the state's streams and wetlands at risk of unchecked pollution. In March, Environment Ohio celebrated a victory when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a rule to restore Clean Water Act protections to more than 85,000 miles of waterways across Ohio and the drinking water for 5.2 million Ohioans.

Over the past three years, along with our sister organizations across the country, we've had more than 1 million conversations with everyday people about protecting our waterways, and we've built a coalition of more than 400 local elected officials, 300 small farmers, and 300 small business owners to stand with us and call on the EPA to act. But, as big as these accomplishments are, we haven't won yet. The EPA is asking for public input on their plan this summer, and the nation's biggest polluters have lined up to stop it in its tracks. With your support and the support of thousands of Ohioans from across the state, we will be ready to defend the EPA and get the strongest rule over the finish line.

Joana Roja/Flickr



### more inside

*Ohio parks face budget cuts; Columbus highlighted in solar report; Governor rejects drilling in state parks, and more.*

◀ [The Ohio River](#)