



Fall Report

The battle for clean air heats up

EPA announces historic new standards

Recently, the Obama administration has taken great strides to reduce air pollution from power plants. And Environment Ohio has been building support for clean air every step of the way.

Last year, the Environmental Protection Agency proposed the first-ever nationwide standards for mercury emissions and other toxic pollution from power plants. Along with our allies across the country, Environment Ohio helped submit more than 800,000 comments in support of the proposed standards. In December 2011, the EPA finalized the standards, which will require power plants to reduce their mercury pollution by 90 percent.

And in March of this year, the EPA proposed historic carbon pollution standards for new power plants. Coal-fired power plants are the largest single source of carbon pollution in the U.S. Carbon pollution fuels global warming, which triggers poor air quality that contributes to thousands of asthma attacks, heart attacks and other health problems. The EPA's standards would require new power plants to meet a strict limit on carbon emissions.

Polluters try to roll back standards

Unsurprisingly, the Obama administration's efforts to clean up our air have been met with resistance from polluters and their allies in Congress. The Senate introduced a bill that would have killed the EPA's mercury standards and allowed power plants to continue spewing toxic pollutants into our air, endangering 11,000 lives nationwide. But in June, the bill was rejected by a vote of 56-43—



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▲ *Gavin Power Plant in Chesire, Ohio. Coal-fired power plants are the largest single source of carbon pollution in the U.S.*

thanks in part to Sen. Sherrod Brown.

The carbon pollution standards have also come under fire from polluting special interests. American Electric Power of Columbus has spent \$22 million on lobbying in the last two years, including efforts to block carbon pollution limits on its coal plants.

With your support, we're working to convince the Obama administration to stand up to polluters and finalize the carbon pollution standards. Together with our allies across the country, we've helped submit a record-breaking 3 million comments concerning the standards.



Eileen Macias

take action

◀ *Environment Ohio has gathered tens of thousands of comments supporting clean air.*

Visit our website to urge the Obama administration to finalize carbon standards: www.EnvironmentOhio.org



Lance Anderson Photography

To our members

After a long day at work, nothing relieves stress for me like a short run through Scioto Audubon Metro Park near our office. Exercising in nature, near the birds and water, is such an important part of my life that I don't know what I'd do without it.

We need constant vigilance to stand up for the things we value. Case in point: Scioto Audubon was recently expanded with the Clean Ohio Fund, which Gov. John Kasich proposed to fund this year at a paltry six percent of the amount approved by voters.

Citizen voices, tough advocacy, and a unified alliance of land trusts, conservation groups, and champions in the Legislature ended up winning back most of the funding, and the campaign made me treasure my evening runs in the park all the more.

Sincerely,

Julian Boggs
State Policy Advocate

Recent action

EPA takes first step to protect U.S. from fracking

In April, the EPA finalized new national standards to curb dangerous air pollution from gas drilling operations. Environment Ohio praised the measure as an important first step in addressing the risks associated with hydraulic fracturing.

The EPA's new standards will require the industry to reduce dangerous air pollution from its gas extraction operations. Gas extraction operations are a significant source of air pollution—including cancer-causing benzene, toxic chemicals linked to acute health problems, and smog-forming pollution.

“For communities living in the face of fracking, these new standards are a breath of fresh air,” said John Rumpler, senior attorney with Environment Ohio. “These standards are a needed first step to protect Americans’ health and environment from the dangers of fracking. But we believe there is much more work to be done for our land, our water, and our health, and we are counting on the administration to do its part to address fracking’s many health and environmental risks,” concluded Rumpler.

Victory for Ohio’s open spaces

In June, Environment Ohio helped win a major victory for the state’s open spaces when funding for the Clean Ohio Fund was threatened by Gov. John Kasich’s shortsighted budget proposal. The Clean Ohio Fund has preserved tens of thousands of acres of open space in places like Hocking Hills. And it enjoys widespread public support—69 percent of Ohio voters approved funding of \$100 million for the program. But this spring, Gov. Kasich proposed a budget that would’ve provided only six percent of the funds approved by voters.

Working alongside our allies in the conservation community and demonstrating public support for Ohio’s open spaces, Environment Ohio mobilized thousands of citizen voices to fight back against Gov. Kasich’s proposal to shortchange the Clean Ohio Fund. Eventually, we succeeded, and on June 11, the state passed a bill increasing funding to \$42 million—seven times the amount initially proposed by Gov. Kasich.

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▲ Rose Lake at Hocking Hills. This summer, Environment Ohio won our campaign to increase funding for the Clean Ohio Fund, which protects open spaces across the state.

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According to new report, electric vehicles are ready to roll

With the right policies in place, plug-in vehicles can reduce Ohio's dependence on oil by more than 2.6 million gallons per year, according to a new report released today by Environment Ohio. Nationwide, the annual oil savings would total nearly 111 million gallons.

"It's time to plug in, power up, and protect our planet because plug-in vehicles have arrived," said John Cross, federal transportation advocate with Environment Ohio.

Cutting carbon pollution, saving money

Recent research by the Center for Automotive Research shows that more than 460,000 U.S. drivers could purchase their first plug-in vehicle within the next three years. Environment Ohio's new report, "Charging Forward," found that these vehicles would reduce Ohio's global warming pollution by approximately 4,928 metric tons per year. If the plug-in vehicles were powered by clean sources of electricity, these savings would rise to over 48,000 metric tons annually. Nationwide, the reduction in global warming pollution would total nearly 2 million metric tons a year.

"For decades, driving a car has meant consuming oil. Today, drivers finally have a choice," said Cross. "Thanks in part to smart policies adopted by states and the Obama administration, every major automobile manufacturer is offering a new plug-in vehicle powered primarily by electricity. For the first time, we can power our cars with clean energy."

President Barack Obama has proposed fuel efficiency and carbon pollution standards for new vehicles in model years 2017-2025 that Environment Ohio credits as being the most important step ever taken to build clean, advanced technology cars that will get us off oil. His administration has also made investments in critical technologies, such as advanced batteries and high

powered charging stations.

Charging forward

To make plug-in vehicles a choice for more consumers, Environment Ohio's report calls for more work to be done to build the infrastructure of the charging stations that can service these vehicles, as well as more investment in the technologies that will drive down prices. Environment Ohio also called on decision makers across the country to help plug-in vehicles achieve the greatest possible pollution reductions by adopting policies that will ensure we get more of our electricity from clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power.

"Electric vehicles offer all Americans hope for a cleaner, healthier future. But to make this promise a reality, continued public investment will be necessary to ensure that these vehicles are as convenient and as affordable as cars powered by oil," concluded Cross.



research

Charging Forward

Read the full report online at: www.EnvironmentOhioCenter.org



Green Future Fund

A new way to honor supporters

Environment Ohio is proud to announce the establishment of our Green Future Fund.

The Green Future Fund will honor a special group of our donors: those who are ensuring a greener future by remembering Environment Ohio or our sister group, Environment Ohio Research & Policy Center, in their wills, life insurance policies or retirement accounts.

These legacy donors are helping to ensure that Environment Ohio will continue to flourish—protecting the places we love and the values we share—for years to come. "We appreciate all of our supporters," said Environment Ohio's Julian Boggs. "I feel a special gratitude toward those members who have the vision and generosity to plan a gift that will protect our state's environment beyond their own lifetimes."

Establishing a legacy gift also offers donors a few advantages. Some supporters wish they could give more, but can't right now. Including Environment Ohio in your estate plan costs nothing today, while ensuring support for our mission in the future. Legacy gifts may also offer tax benefits. (Your professional advisor can help you determine any tax advantage.)

As a Green Future Fund donor, with your permission, we'll recognize your gift in our annual report and other publications, helping to inspire other members to make their own legacy gifts. Of course, you may also choose to give anonymously. Either way, any specific details you choose to provide about your gift will remain confidential.

If you'd like to become a member of the Green Future Fund, or if you just have questions, contact our planned giving coordinator, Marilyn Tesauro, at 1-800-841-7299 or PlannedGiving@EnvironmentOhio.org.

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Environment Ohio

Our mission

We all want clean air, clean water and open space. 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 space. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

Fracking threatens Hocking Hills

Hocking Hills is a state treasure. But the region, which sits atop the edge of Ohio's Utica Shale, is threatened by dangerous new drilling proposals. Even as public health and elected officials are sounding alarm bells about the potential disaster that hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," poses to our health and environment, big oil and gas companies are pushing to open more than 3,000 acres in the Hocking Hills region's Wayne National Forest to oil and gas leases.

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. That's why Environment Ohio is calling on the Obama administration to help preserve Hocking Hills by declaring its national forests off-limits to fracking. This fall, our canvassers will be pounding the pavement across the state, talking to thousands of Ohioans and building massive public support for a ban on fracking in Ohio's only National Forest.



Donald Gilliland, Patriot News Service

◀ A fracking pad in Pennsylvania.

To learn more about our campaign to protect Hocking Hills from hydraulic fracturing, visit us online at www.EnvironmentOhio.org.