



# Winter Report

Andrew Borgen, Creative Commons

## Stop shortchanging Hocking Hills

### Time for Ohio to release voter-approved funds

In 2008, Environment Ohio and Ohio voters overwhelmingly supported a ballot issue that would leverage millions in state dollars and over \$1 billion in private funds to support conservation and restoration projects. Treasured parks like Clear Creek in Hocking Hills were set to receive some well-deserved support. But now the state Legislature and governor have delayed releasing these funds.

We at Environment Ohio believe that all Ohioans should be able to enjoy the natural beauty of Hocking Hills and all our open spaces, without worrying about whether they'll remain open, if the trails will be maintained, or the surrounding land preserved.

### A preservation success story

Getting any program funded by the state is tough right now. But these funds have already been earmarked for conservation and recreation and have no impact on the state's budget. And since voters overwhelmingly approved this program, it should be a no-brainer for the Legislature. That's why we're working to convince Gov. Kasich and House and Senate leaders to stay the course and allocate the funds as voters intended.

Since we renewed the conservation program Clean Ohio on the ballot in 2008, the best thing we have going for us is strong public support behind the issue. If we can show Gov. Kasich how much the public cares about Hocking Hills, we can build a case for renewing Clean Ohio,



James Clear, Creative Commons

▲ Old Man's Cave.

and also help shift the long-term balance at the statehouse in favor of preserving open spaces.

### Governor blocks voter-approved funds

This winter we're building public support by speaking with thousands of Ohioans about this campaign on the phone. We're also gathering petition signatures to demonstrate this support to the governor and other decision-makers at the statehouse.

We'll build alliances with sportsmen, land trusts and tourism groups, and continue to work to get stories in the media and publish letters to the editor to raise the profile of the issue.

We know that if we can get enough people from different walks of life to raise their voices in support of protecting Hocking Hills, we can win.



Karen Scholl

### member photos

#### Hocking Hills Photo Book

*In 2011, Environment Ohio compiled a book of photos taken by our members and other supporters of the Hocking Hills. We used the book to make the case to our representatives in Columbus that the Hocking Hills are worth protecting and preserving.*

## To our members

Three and a half years ago, Environment Ohio stood beside then-Gov. Ted Strickland as he signed into law a historic plan to guarantee the development of clean energy in Ohio. Since then, we've been proud to see Ohio move forward with clean energy projects like the Wyandot solar farm with its 159,000 solar panels. But as EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson has said, "Environmentalism isn't a spectator sport."

Now Gov. Kasich has opened the door to major rollbacks of our Clean Energy Law, and coal and big utility lobbyists are working to undermine our progress at the statehouse. It's time to jump back in the fray and defend our progress toward a clean energy future. I'll be reaching out to you in coming months to participate in this work, and I'm grateful to have you on our side.

Sincerely,

Julian Boggs  
State Policy Advocate

## Recent action

### A big step toward 54.5 miles per gallon

In the biggest single step America has ever taken to reduce our oil dependence and tackle global warming, new clean car standards will require cars and light trucks to meet a 54.5 miles per gallon standard by 2025. This will save more oil than we imported from Saudi Arabia last year, and slash global warming pollution by an amount equivalent to shutting down 70 coal-fired power plants. In November, the Obama administration opened a public comment period on the proposed standards, the first step toward making them a reality.

Responding quickly, big polluters and their friends in Congress, led by Ohio's own Rep. Steve Austria, are lobbying to block the new standard. Environment Ohio is showing the president and the Environmental Protection Agency that Ohioans want them to stand strong on this one.

### Senate rejects attack on Cross-State Air Pollution Rule

To the disappointment of some polluters, the U.S. Senate defeated Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul's bid to allow more soot and smog-forming pollution from power plants. Paul's legislation would have put an estimated 3,200 lives at risk every year in Ohio alone. Ohio Sen. Sherrod Brown stood up for public health and voted against this dangerous proposal.

"Today, the Senate voted to protect Ohioans by rejecting more pollution in our air," said Matt Caffrey, field associate for Environment Ohio. "Ohioans can feel proud that Sen. Brown sided with the people of Ohio over polluters by rejecting this sweeping assault on our health."

The legislation sought to block the Environmental Protection Agency's recently finalized Cross-State Air Pollution Rule, which requires upwind power plants to reduce soot and smog-forming pollution so people in downwind states can breathe cleaner air. Exposure to soot and smog can lead to asthma, heart attacks and premature death. The legislation was particularly dangerous because it would have barred the EPA from ever implementing a similar standard to reduce harmful power plant emissions that cross state borders.

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▲ Environment Ohio-backed EPA action will reduce power plant pollution—and along with it, unhealthy air days and asthma attacks.

# Keeping Ohio on track toward a cleaner energy future

Ohio has enormous potential for wind and solar power. In fact, we have enough solar and wind potential to power the state six times over. We've made dramatic progress in recent years to realize that potential, boost our economy, and reduce our dependence on dirty sources of energy. But we have more work to do, both in building on our progress and defending our previous work.

A few years ago, Environment Ohio led the charge to pass a groundbreaking law requiring Ohio to get at least 12.5 percent of our energy from renewable sources like wind and solar, while reducing our energy use by 22 percent overall.

## Wind power comes to Ohio

This law has led to real progress. For instance, just last summer a wind farm opened in northwestern Ohio, producing enough electricity to power 27,000 homes. But there is more to be done.

And unfortunately, special interests like coal companies and the biggest utilities are working to undermine the clean energy mandate. In fact, just last month a state senator introduced a bill that would actually repeal our renewable energy requirements completely.

So to keep moving ahead with our clean energy future, we knew that we would need to do two things. We had to show policymakers how the Clean Energy Law is working, and mobilize public support for clean energy, to counter the influence of special interest lobbyists.

We released a report showing where our clean energy policy is boosting clean energy projects, and also where utilities like FirstEnergy were falling short.

## Prodding FirstEnergy on solar

After FirstEnergy's hometown paper, the Akron Beacon Journal, covered our report with the headline "FirstEnergy failing on solar," that company made a new commitment to add solar to its

energy portfolio. Now, all of our utilities, including FirstEnergy, are making progress towards hitting our renewable energy goals.

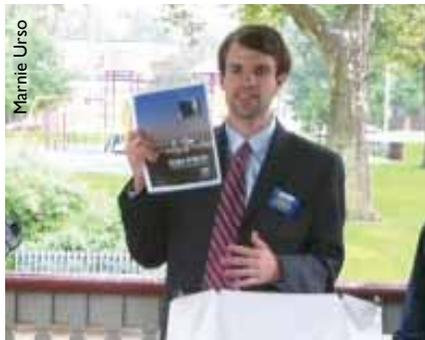
## Message delivered to 100,000

To build public support, we went door to door distributing over 100,000 pieces of literature on the benefits of clean energy this summer.

We also organized a town hall meeting in Cleveland to show residents how policies were working to help them go solar in their own homes. And we kept up a steady drumbeat of phone calls, petitions and emails to key legislative offices.

Our work has begun to pay off, with Ohio's utilities making serious investments in solar, wind, and energy efficiency.

But the hard work continues, and we look forward to working with you to take on our opponents and ensure Ohio has a clean energy future.



Marnie Urso

## more online

### Learn, act, engage

For more on Ohio's Clean Energy Law, our interview with Lisa Jackson, and more about our work, visit our new website at [www.EnvironmentOhio.org](http://www.EnvironmentOhio.org).

Above: Environment Ohio's Julian Boggs releases "Danger in the Air," a report documenting unhealthy air levels in the state's communities.

# Questions for EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson



whitehouse.gov

**The EPA has recently worked on several clean air standards, including the Mercury and Air Toxics Standard and the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule. Can you explain what these standards mean for the average American family?**

*These new Clean Air Act standards mean cleaner, healthier air for American families.*

*The Mercury and Air Toxics Standard and the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule are part of a series of commonsense steps under the Clean Air Act to reduce emissions of mercury, acid gas, particulate matter, arsenic and other harmful chemicals from some of the biggest polluters in the nation. These reasonable steps will provide dramatic protections to our children and loved ones—they will save tens of thousands of lives and prevent hundreds of thousands of asthma and heart attacks.*

**What's the best way for our members and supporters to express their opinions on these issues?**

*Unfortunately, we are at a point where we have to remind some leaders in Washington to put the health of their constituents above the wish lists of special interests. Speaking directly to those who want to undermine commonsense environmental protections is one of the best ways to stand up for your right to clean air and clean water.*

For the full interview visit [www.EnvironmentOhio.org/page/OHE/lisa-jackson-interview](http://www.EnvironmentOhio.org/page/OHE/lisa-jackson-interview)

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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.

## Historic action against mercury pollution

Backed by an outpouring of public support, the Environmental Protection Agency this winter finalized new rules to reduce mercury and toxic pollution from coal-fired power plants. This is a major victory, particularly for Ohio, where we rank second in the country for total mercury pollution released by power plants. The Mercury and Air Toxics Standard continues to face strong resistance from polluting energy interests and their allies in Congress, with several states filing a joint lawsuit against the federal government over the new mercury rule.

The attacks continue despite demonstrated support from the public. Environment Ohio played a significant role in helping to generate the most public comments the EPA has ever received on a single rule. More than 800,000 Americans spoke out against mercury pollution.

With your help, we'll continue working to uphold new air pollution regulations against special interest attacks, and protect Ohio's families from the dangers of mercury pollution.



Environment Ohio's Matt Caffrey releases our report "Ohio's Biggest Mercury Polluters." The report found that American Electric Power's Gavin Plant in Cheshire was the state's biggest mercury polluter. Mercury is a neurotoxin that can cause developmental problems in children, leading to deficits in verbal skills, damage to attention and motor control, and reduced IQ.