



# Fall Report

Photo: Doug Lemke/Shutterstock

## Thousands act to preserve Hocking Hills

### Public takes stand to protect parks

This summer, Environment Ohio staff fanned out across the state and talked to tens of thousands of Ohioans about our campaign to preserve Hocking Hills by making sure our state parks get the funding they deserve. Our citizen outreach helped mobilize massive public support for Hocking Hills and generated pressure on our state legislators to act.

### Hocking Hills at risk

Hocking Hills State Park, and all of Ohio's state parks, rely on state funding to hire park rangers, keep park facilities maintained, and make basic resources like clean water available to visitors.

But funding for our state parks has been cut year after year for the last decade. And this year, instead of restoring badly needed funding, Gov. John Kasich and the General Assembly are cutting our state parks budget yet again.

With less money to pay for the basics, there's more pressure on parks to turn to desperate measures like offering up their land for drilling and logging. Hocking Hills is too important to put at risk of destructive practices such as these. That's why Environment Ohio has been mobilizing thousands of people across the state to urge their legislators to give Hocking Hills, and all our state parks, the funding they need and deserve.

### 25,000 conversations

This summer, Environment Ohio staff pounded the pavement and talked face-to-face with nearly 25,000 people, educating



Photo: Thomas Ramsey

▲ *Hocking Hills. This summer, Environment Ohio stepped up our campaign to preserve Hocking Hills for generations to come.*

them about budget cuts for Hocking Hills and the urgent need to take a stand for our parks. And more than 8,700 Ohioans signed petitions to their state legislators, urging them to fully fund Ohio's parks.

Environment Ohio staff also met with the offices of state Reps. Denise Driehaus,

Stephanie Kunz and Michael Stinziano to discuss the threats that underfunding poses to Hocking Hills and advocate for full funding for Ohio's state parks. This fall, Environment Ohio will continue to educate the public, advocate directly with elected officials, and build the strong grassroots opposition it will take to preserve Hocking Hills.



Photo: Sean

### more online

◀ *This summer, Environment Ohio staff talked to nearly 25,000 people about our campaign to provide Hocking Hills with the funding and protection it deserves.*

*To learn more and take action, visit us at [www.EnvironmentOhio.org](http://www.EnvironmentOhio.org).*



## To our members

What better time than Ohio in the summer to be reminded of what we're fighting to protect. Whether it's a canoe trip down the Hocking River, a hike or a run at Highbanks Metro Park, or a day at the beach on Lake Erie, experiencing our state's natural beauty never fails to rejuvenate me for the challenges ahead.

And we've got big challenges ahead of us. We won more resources to preserve open space across the state, but fracking is expanding in forests and communities across eastern Ohio. We kept our state clean energy program on track, but the state's biggest utility continues to undermine the state's efficiency programs. And President Obama backed up his words on climate with a concrete plan of action, but the dirty energy lobby and its allies in Congress are lining up to block his plan.

With you by our side, we'll keep fighting for progress. Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,

Julian Boggs, State Policy Advocate

## Recent action

### Fracking rules fail to protect Wayne National Forest

In May, as one of the first major policy decisions for new Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposed scant protections for Wayne National Forest and other federal lands with its revised rules for hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking." The move comes even as the oil and gas industry is seeking to expand drilling across eastern Ohio.

In fall 2011, the Obama administration's science advisory panel on fracking recommended the "preservation of unique and/or sensitive areas as off limits to drilling." Yet the BLM's proposal does nothing to implement this core principle and protect Wayne National Forest. It also fails to bar the use of toxic chemicals near sensitive areas; establish safe standards for fracking well construction; or even ban the use of open fracking waste pits. "We urge President Obama to step in and protect Wayne National Forest from dirty drilling," said John Rumpler, senior attorney for Environment Ohio.

### Full funding won for Clean Ohio Fund

The Clean Ohio Fund, a crucial program for conserving, protecting and restoring Ohio's parks and open spaces, will receive full funding, thanks to the efforts of Environment Ohio and our allies.

In 2008, Ohioans voted overwhelmingly in favor of renewing the Clean Ohio Fund. But Gov. John Kasich proposed no funding for this critical program for the next two years. Working with our allies, Environment Ohio helped convince the General Assembly to give Ohio's parks and open spaces the resources they need. The House agreed to fund half the full amount of funding for the Clean Ohio Fund, and the Senate agreed to fund the full amount of the program—\$52 million.

By winning full funding for the Clean Ohio Fund, Environment Ohio and our allies helped assure that our parks and open spaces will continue to receive the care and protection they need.



▲ A Clean Ohio Fund site in Painesville Township. Environment Ohio and our allies recently helped win full funding for this critical preservation program.

# Obama announces new plan to address global warming

Photo: Alex Snyder

On June 25, President Obama announced a climate plan that will set limits on carbon pollution from power plants, advance energy efficiency and increase the nation's commitment to renewable energy.

In the aftermath of severe droughts in the Midwest, Hurricane Sandy, and other extreme weather events, the president's plan to address global warming was loudly applauded by Environment Ohio and many others.

"Today, President Obama responded to the millions of Americans who have spoken out on behalf of their communities and their families, urging him to lead on climate," said Julian Boggs, state policy advocate with Environment Ohio.

## Responding to an urgent threat

Left unchecked, global warming is projected to bring to Ohio more intense storms and more unhealthy air days. Scientists have warned that the window is rapidly closing for making the necessary cuts in carbon pollution to protect future generations from the worst consequences of global warming.

To respond to this threat, the president's plan contains several key components. It will:

- **Limit carbon pollution from new and existing power plants.** The president directed the Environmental Protection Agency to set limits on carbon pollution from new and existing power plants, which currently lack any such federal limits despite being the largest single source of the carbon pollution fueling global warming.

- **Invest in energy efficiency.** New efficiency measures for buildings and new appliances will cut carbon pollution by reducing our overall energy demand.

- **Build more renewable energy.** The plan focuses on expanding production of clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar, especially on public lands.

- **Support affected communities.** The president's plan will help ensure that communities are better equipped to prepare for and recover from the impacts of global warming.

- **Rebuild U.S. leadership internationally.** The president's plan calls for the U.S. to actively engage in international efforts to address global warming.

## Massive grassroots support

Environment Ohio offered special praise for the president's pledge to cut carbon pollution from existing power plants. More than 3.2 million Americans, including thousands of Environment Ohio members, supporters and allies, submitted public comments last year in support of the president setting limits on carbon pollution from power plants.

"Carbon pollution from power plants is a huge part of the global warming problem. Today, President Obama acknowledged this and mapped out a plan for cleaning up this pollution," said Boggs. "We also know that this plan is just one important step in a multi-year effort, and that the proof of the plan's success will be in the pudding. Environment Ohio stands ready to assist the president in following through on this critical commitment."



Photo: Staff

## research

*In June, the president announced a plan to address global warming.*

*To read our report on global warming and extreme weather, In the Path of the Storm, visit [www.EnvironmentOhio.org/reports](http://www.EnvironmentOhio.org/reports).*



Photo: Analogue Kid at Wikipedia

## Report documents extreme weather

A recent Environment Ohio Research & Policy Center report found that weather-related disasters are already affecting millions of Ohioans, and documents how global warming could lead to certain extreme weather events becoming even more common or more severe in the future.

The report, *In the Path of the Storm*, found that since 2007, federally declared weather-related disasters affected 64 counties in Ohio housing 8,400,900 people—or nearly 73% of all Ohioans. In 2012 alone, federally declared weather-related disasters affected Ohio counties housing 4,506,096 people.

The report also details the latest science on the projected influence of global warming on heavy rain and snow; heat, drought and wildfires; and hurricanes and coastal storms. Environment Ohio State Policy Advocate Julian Boggs noted that every weather event is now a product of a climate system where global warming "loads the dice" for extreme weather, though in different ways for different types of extreme weather.

"Extreme weather is happening, it is causing very serious problems, and global warming increases the likelihood that we'll see even more extreme weather in the future," said Boggs. "Carbon pollution from our power plants, cars and trucks is fueling global warming, and so tackling global warming demands that we cut emissions of carbon pollution from those sources."



News, research, ways to get involved: [www.EnvironmentOhio.org](http://www.EnvironmentOhio.org)

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# Environment Ohio

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Photo: Cynthia Kidwell/Bigstock

## 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.

## Attacks on energy efficiency defeated, for now

Ohio's Clean Energy Law, passed in 2008, requires the state to get 12.5% of our electricity from renewable energy and cut our electricity use by 22.5% by 2025. It has helped spur the development of enough clean electricity to power 95,000 homes, and has saved enough electricity to power 267,000 more. But FirstEnergy, Ohio's biggest utility, has launched an all-out attack on the law. Earlier this year, as the General Assembly was considering a bill to revise the Clean Energy Law, FirstEnergy pushed a proposal to repeal the law's energy efficiency requirement.

In response, Environment Ohio mobilized citizens and Ohio mayors to urge decision-makers to reject FirstEnergy's attempt to weaken the Clean Energy Law. In addition, we also released a report showing the runaway success of the law in growing energy efficiency and clean energy in our state. Ultimately, we were able to turn back FirstEnergy's attempt. We're expecting a renewed attack on our Clean Energy Law this fall, but with your support, we'll be ready.



Photo: Matt Green

### more inside

*Thousands take stand for Hocking Hills; full funding won for Clean Ohio Fund; Obama announces climate plan, and more.*

◀ *A wind farm in Bowling Green*