



A clean Ohio for today and for the future

Vote YES to protect Ohio's treasured natural areas

Thanks to Ohio's environmental leaders and the leadership of Gov. Ted Strickland, Senate President Bill Harris and Speaker of the House Jon Husted, Ohio voters will have the opportunity this November to renew the Clean Ohio Fund.

Established in November 2000, the Clean Ohio Fund is a bond program that provides funds for protecting open spaces and sensitive ecological areas, preserving farmland, and improving trails for outdoor recreation. The Clean Ohio Fund also provides resources to continue cleaning up polluted properties across the state.

Environment Ohio staff are working with other environmental, community and business leaders to ensure that the Clean Ohio Fund passes this fall. We'll be making the case in the media, asking key decision-makers to support the Fund, and talking to thousands of Ohioans, urging them to vote YES.

Clean Ohio Fund success stories

The Clean Ohio Fund is a one of a kind program with a proven track record of cleaning up and protecting Ohio's natural environment.

From the Big Darby Creek in Franklin County to the Mill Creek Waterfall in Cuyahoga County, the Clean Ohio Fund is preserving some of our greatest natural treasures. The Clean Ohio Fund has supported projects in 87 out of 88 Ohio counties and protected 26,000 acres of wildlife habitat, 20,000 acres of family farmland



▲ The Clean Ohio Fund has helped to create 210 miles of recreational trails across the state.

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Not only does the Fund protect Ohio's most beautiful places—it has funded more than 700 preservation projects to date—it has also created more than 6,000 jobs.

How it works

Revenue for the Clean Ohio Fund comes from the sale of general revenue bonds,

which means that renewing the fund will not increase taxes.

A YES vote for the Clean Ohio Fund will result in the allotment of \$400 million: \$200 million will be used to preserve wildlife habitat and farmland and create recreational trails, and the remaining \$200 million will be used to clean up polluted industrial sites across the state.



more online

For more information about the Clean Ohio Fund, visit our Web site. And don't forget to vote YES on Nov. 4th!

Links to additional content are posted at: www.EnvironmentOhio.org/newsletters/fall08.



To our members

By the time you read this, the election will be just around the corner. I don't know about you, but I'm excited. Despite the candidates' attacks and counterattacks, there's real hope for change—just in time, as we're facing enormous environmental challenges.

After our own review and careful consideration, we endorsed Sen. Barack Obama for president, due in large part to his commitment to a clean energy plan that can solve global warming. We're working to register, persuade and turn out enough voters to make the difference on Election Day.

As Nov. 4 nears and you make your own final decisions, we hope you consider our endorsement. We believe that an Obama administration offers all of us our best opportunity to build upon the progress we've made together for our environment. Thanks again for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Amy Gomborg
Environmental Advocate

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Recent action

Ohio EPA takes action on sewage pollution

As Ohio's summer heated up, and families flocked to Ohio's beaches, the health threats posed by sewage pollution became a real concern. Environment Ohio has been advocating for stronger laws to reduce sewage pollution and improve our methods of educating the public about this significant health threat.

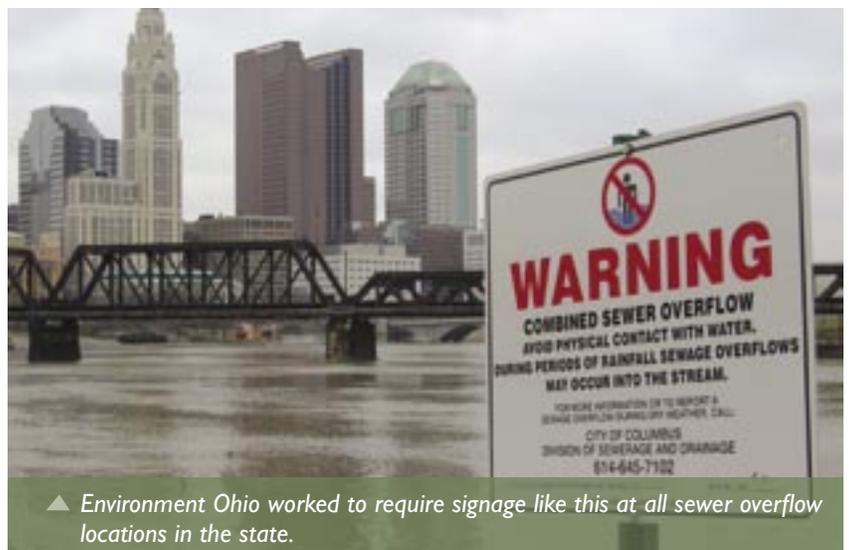
In June, the Ohio EPA responded to Environment Ohio's requests and enhanced their Web site to include additional information on sewage overflows across the state, including a map of each of the overflow locations. They also agreed to require sewage overflow warning signs at all overflow locations.

Additionally, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill to ensure families heading to the beach will no longer be left in the dark about sewage pollution. The Sewage Overflow Community Right-to-Know Act requires public notification when sewage is spilled into our waterways. To safeguard public health and our waterways, the Senate should pass this important sewage right-to-know bill.

Senate Republicans block global warming bill

In June, the United States Senate voted 48-36 to move forward on the Boxer-Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act, falling short of the necessary 60-vote threshold and ending consideration of the global warming bill before it was able to come to a vote. Environment Ohio had been working over the past year to strengthen key provisions in the bill. In the end, what could have been a solid first step toward a comprehensive global warming bill failed to overcome opposition from powerful polluting industries.

After the vote, our federal global warming program director, Emily Figdor, told the media, "Faced with an urgent problem that demands action, the Senate passed the buck. Next time around, the polluters and their allies in Congress won't get off so easy."



▲ Environment Ohio worked to require signage like this at all sewer overflow locations in the state.



Interview: Lieutenant Governor Lee Fisher

This summer, Environment Ohio's Amy Gomberg spoke with Lt. Gov. Lee Fisher, who also serves as Director of the Ohio Department of Development, about clean energy and other environmental issues.

How do you think developing homegrown sources of electricity from wind and solar will help improve Ohio's economy and our environment?

Having just returned from the American Wind Energy Association's Windpower 2008 Conference, I am thrilled about the opportunities Ohio has for wind, in addition to our already thriving solar sector. With Ohio's talented workforce and key location, the ability to produce energy that is clean, green and locally-manufactured is as exciting as it is sensible.

Ohio is the fourth leading emitter of carbon dioxide pollution, which fuels global warming. What do we need to do to reduce our emissions and avoid the worst effects of global warming? How can Ohio reduce emissions while also creating jobs and boosting the economy?

The key for our state to continue to grow economically while reducing emissions will be in achieving greater energy efficiency and promoting growth in existing advanced energy technologies as well as research into new technologies.

With Executive Order 2, which appointed Mark Shanahan as the governor's first energy advisor, and a new energy policy to reduce consumption in state facilities by 15 percent over the next four years, Gov. Strickland emphasized his commitment to an energy policy that would reduce consumption and create jobs.

When coupled with Senate Bill 221 and the Jobs Stimulus Package, the energy emphasis from Gov. Strickland and Advisor Mark Shanahan will ensure affordable and stable energy prices for Ohio businesses and safeguard Ohio families and future generations.

On May 1st, Gov. Strickland signed a broad energy bill that includes a requirement for Ohio to develop 12.5 percent of its electricity from renewable energy resources, such as wind and solar. Do you think this was an important step for Ohio, and why?

When Senate Bill 221 was signed by Gov. Strickland, Ohio became the 26th state in the nation to enact a renewable portfolio standard policy. Most of our neighboring states have already enacted policies of their own. For Ohio to compete on a national and global scale for advanced energy jobs, Senate Bill 221 and the portfolio standard were critical. Gov. Strickland and I also wanted to ensure that existing Ohio businesses and families could have predictable energy rates that protect consumers.

What else is the Strickland administration doing to bolster the development of renewable energy in Ohio?

Gov. Strickland, Senate President Bill Harris and House Speaker John Husted recently announced the \$1.57 billion Jobs Stimulus Package, which allocates \$150 million to advanced energy. This funding is aimed at supporting Ohio companies as they expand and retool to make the component parts of these new technologies.



More online

Above, Environment Ohio's Amy Gomberg with Lt. Gov. Fisher.

Read the rest of our interview online at: www.EnvironmentOhio.org.



Global warming solutions that work

Global warming is the defining challenge of our time. The latest climate science tells us that we need to reduce our emissions of global warming pollutants quickly and dramatically if we hope to avoid the most catastrophic effects of global warming.

But with Congress stalling on a national global warming plan, Ohio can't wait. This summer, Environment Ohio released two reports on global warming that show how we can start solving global warming now—and what could happen if we don't.

The first, "Global Warming Solutions that Work," details what other states and countries are doing to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions. Our second report outlines the potential impact of climate change right here in Ohio. From a receding Lake Erie shoreline to increasing tornado and flooding events, global warming could have disastrous effects for all Ohioans.

"Global warming will cause serious harm to Ohio's environment and economy if we do nothing," said Environment Ohio Advocate Amy Gomberg. "Fortunately, we have the solutions to stop it. We just need Ohio's leaders to step up to the plate and address global warming head on."

Environment Ohio is encouraging Gov. Strickland to lead the state on curbing our global warming pollution by joining the majority of Midwestern governors in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Accord.



To read our latest reports on global warming in Ohio, visit our Web site: www.EnvironmentOhio.org.



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Environment Ohio

Mission Statement

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.

Credits

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Energy efficiency for Ohio

Energy efficiency is the cleanest, cheapest and safest way to meet our growing demand for electricity. By using energy-efficient technology, we can meet Ohio's energy needs without building new and expensive coal, natural gas or nuclear power plants.

On May 1, Ohio's state leaders made it clear that energy efficiency is a priority. Environment Ohio stood next to Gov. Ted Strickland as he signed into law a bill that includes a strong energy efficiency and renewable energy standard.

This fall, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) will be developing the rules to implement the law. Help us tell the PUCO that we want strong energy efficiency and renewable energy programs that will benefit all Ohioans. Visit our web site to take action.



Want to learn more about potential energy efficiency programs for Ohio? Check out our Energy Efficiency Headquarters at: www.environmentohio.org/eehq.

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