



Summer Report

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Report shows success of Clean Energy Law

Wind, solar skyrocketed

On March 20, Environment Ohio Research & Policy Center released a report documenting the success of Ohio's 2008 Clean Energy Law, which put the state on track to meet a significant portion of its energy needs with energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy.

The report, "Ohio's Clean Energy Success Story: The Clean Energy Law 3 Years Later," found that between January 2009, when the law took effect, and December 2011, Ohio's four largest utilities implemented energy efficiency programs that have saved enough electricity to power 267,000 Ohio homes for a year. In addition, these utilities added enough wind and solar photovoltaic capacity between 2009 and 2012 to produce enough energy to power 95,000 Ohio homes.

As certain utilities and politicians seek to undermine the law, now and in the future, the report should serve as an invaluable tool to turn back their attempts.

Ohioans reaping the benefits

The report also provided case studies of customers across the state who are saving money and cutting pollution as a result of programs established by major utilities to comply with the Clean Energy Law. For example, funding from American Electric Power's New Construction program helped Reynoldsburg build its new high school to strong building energy efficiency standards.

Report draws positive response

The report was covered extensively in the media, including a feature in The Colum-



Photo: Flickr user: Lucas County Choppers, Creative Commons

▲ A wind farm in northwestern Ohio.

bus Dispatch, which discussed the report's findings in the context of the Ohio Senate hearings to potentially undermine the law. The attempts to weaken the Clean Energy Law are being led by FirstEnergy.

In addition, the Associated Press covered the report in a story that was picked up in dozens of media outlets, including

CNBC, Business Week and Yahoo. We've also distributed the report to dozens of key policymakers, including all members of the Public Utilities Commission. Environment Ohio also recently worked with mayors, city councils and other leaders across the state to most effectively reap the benefits of Ohio's energy efficiency programs.



Photo: Wayne National Forest

take action

◀ Solar panel installation on the Wayne National Forest Welcome Center.

Tell your mayor to support going solar! Send a message from our website, www.EnvironmentOhio.org.



To our members

I love the summer! Going to the lake, hiking in my favorite parks, or having a barbecue with neighbors on the back porch—but my favorite part of summer? Working with our citizen outreach team. This summer, all across Ohio, passionate folks will be educating people about protecting Hocking Hills from repeated budget cuts that leave our parks in disrepair and at risk of logging and mining. They will educate tens of thousands of people and make sure the voices of Ohioans are heard loud and clear by our elected officials in the Legislature.

The only way to stand up to powerful special interests—and their political allies in Columbus—and protect the places we love in Ohio is by bringing committed and educated people together. Our staff in blue T-shirts will likely be in your neighborhood doing just that. When you see them—say hello for me!

Sincerely,

Julian Boggs
State Policy Advocate

Recent action

Frack waste spill is evidence of state negligence

From September 2012 to January 2013, Hardrock Excavating dumped at least 252,000 gallons of toxic and potentially radioactive fracking waste into a tributary of the Mahoning River. Environment Ohio urged the state to act quickly to take more aggressive steps to protect the state’s public health and environment from future threats.

In 2011, more than 6 million barrels of fracking waste from Pennsylvania and West Virginia were dumped in Ohio. Industry and policymakers seem to have no credible plan for what to do with all the fracking waste, allowing Ohio to become a regional dumping ground for this toxic waste. Environment Ohio is working to tell the truth about fracking waste, build alliances across the state, and raise the public voice we’ll need to take on the oil and gas industry and protect Ohio from another toxic fracking waste spill like the one in the Mahoning.

Cincinnati turns out for solar

On March 26, Environment Ohio, local experts and solar businesses joined Cincinnati Vice Mayor Roxanne Qualls and more than 100 Cincinnatians for a town hall meeting to discuss Cincinnati’s exemplary work to embrace solar energy. Qualls called for the formal adoption of a citywide goal to get solar power installed on one-in-five Cincinnati rooftops by 2028 and highlighted two possible programs to get there—a residential solar rooftop leasing program, and property assessed clean energy (PACE) financing for commercial projects.

“Cincinnati has all the right ingredients to go solar,” said Christian Adams, the clean energy associate for Environment Ohio. “From Findlay Market to the Cincinnati Zoo, the Queen City is leading the charge statewide for homegrown solar power. And clearly from the public enthusiasm for today’s meeting we can see that Cincinnatians are taking note of their city’s leadership on this issue.”



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.

Photo: Robert Boyd, Shutterstock.com



▲ An open fracking waste pit. Wastewater from fracking contains toxic and radioactive substances.

J. Henry Fair

Campaign to win permanent funding for Hocking Hills

Rocky Radio

Hocking Hills is an Ohio treasure

This summer, Environment Ohio is waging a massive, statewide campaign to secure permanent funding for Hocking Hills.

Hocking Hills is Ohio's hidden treasure—and it's up to us to safeguard it for future generations. Our kids, and their grandkids, ought to be able to hike around Conkle's Hollow; boat, swim, and fish in Lake Logan; and appreciate the beauty of the waterfalls at Old Man's Cave. These iconic places, and all of Hocking Hills, should get the best level of protection we can afford.

Funding cut year after year

But Hocking Hills is being shortchanged. Over the last decade, state parks funding has been cut nearly in half. Now, our parks have a maintenance backlog of more than \$500 million. And this year, instead of restoring badly needed funding, Gov. John Kasich and the Legislature cut our state parks budget yet again.

Essential services at risk

Hocking Hills State Park relies on state funding to hire park rangers, keep park facilities maintained, and make basic resources like clean water available to visitors. 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 risk such a fate.

It's up to us

A hundred years ago, Ohioans came together to protect areas in Hocking Hills. Now it's up to us to make sure that the region stays protected for future generations. That's why Environment Ohio is pushing for permanent funding to protect Hocking Hills and maintain the trails, cabins, lodges and historic bridges that make the area such a special part of Ohio's natural heritage.

We're urging our legislators to fund the parks permanently and make sure Hock-

ing Hills doesn't fall victim to destructive drilling and logging.

Building the support to win

Environment Ohio staff are pounding the pavement across the state, talking to tens of thousands of Ohioans about the importance of protecting Hocking Hills and mobilizing them to take action.

By showing our leaders that the public supports full funding for Hocking Hills and all of our state parks, we can overcome politicians who have mercilessly cut Ohio's parks budgets for years.

Together, our staff, members and supporters across the state are standing up for this Ohio treasure. In order to preserve the best that Ohio has to offer for generations to come—so that our kids and grandkids can enjoy the area just as we have—we're making a major push to permanently fund Hocking Hills.



take action

This summer, we're waging a huge campaign to win Hocking Hills the funding it deserves.

Visit www.EnvironmentOhio.org to learn more and take action.



EPA changes hands

On February 14, Lisa Jackson served her last day as administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Former Administrator Jackson took on some of the nation's paramount environmental challenges during her time as head of the EPA. She was instrumental in implementing the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a landmark program in capping global warming pollution and creating investments for clean energy development.

She also oversaw the implementation of lifesaving limits on mercury pollution from power plants, worked with the Department of Transportation to double the fuel efficiency and global warming pollution standards for vehicles, and more, making her four-year tenure one of the most successful in the history of the EPA.

Senate urged to confirm new administrator

In February, President Obama nominated Gina McCarthy to replace Lisa Jackson as head of the EPA. McCarthy, who was previously the assistant administrator of the EPA's Office of Air and Radiation, has a strong record of winning real results for our environment and public health.

Given her past accomplishments and dedication to doing what's best for our environment, Environment Ohio joined with our national federation of state groups in calling on the Senate to confirm McCarthy as the new administrator of the EPA.

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Summer Report

VOLUME 7 | NO. 2 | 2013

Rob Saker

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.

Turning a corner on global warming

In February, roughly 40,000 Americans joined Environment Ohio federal staff in Washington, D.C., for the "Forward on Climate" rally. Tens of thousands of others across the country gathered at dozens of simultaneous rallies to reject the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline; put a cap on carbon pollution from new and existing power plants; and expand renewable energy programs.

Earlier this year, President Obama renewed his promise to tackle global warming, saying, "the failure to do so would betray our children and future generations." And then, in his State of the Union address, he added, "If Congress won't act soon to protect future generations, I will."

Environment Ohio State Policy Advocate Julian Boggs responded approvingly to the president's new tone, saying: "We look forward to working with the Obama administration to implement and expand upon the president's plan to address global warming, as outlined in his State of the Union address." Environment Ohio is working to garner the public support the president needs to tackle global warming and cut carbon pollution from the source.



◀ Environment Ohio's federal advocates at the Forward on Climate rally in Washington, D.C.

What the president can do on global warming:

- Reject the Keystone XL pipeline
- Approve carbon limits for new power plants
- Propose carbon limits for old power plants