



# Winter Report

Photo: Steve Wall, Creative Commons

## Campaign to help Ohio cities go solar

### Report shows solar potential

Our campaign to help Ohio cities go solar has been picking up steam this winter, as more and more citizens, businesses and elected officials join in our call to harness more of the pollution-free power that strikes Ohio rooftops every day.

It's the 21st century. We should be less dependent on oil and coal and rely more on clean, renewable sources like solar power. Going solar is a no-brainer for our environment: Energy from the sun is available everywhere, it's pollution-free, and it never runs out.

### The shift to clean energy

Despite the obvious benefits of solar, Ohio still gets a whopping 82 percent of its electricity by burning coal, which pollutes our air and water and fuels global warming. And progress on transitioning to clean energy at the state and federal level is often slow.

However, homegrown solar power is becoming an increasingly important part of our energy mix, and a gradual shift away from the dirty, dangerous fuels of the past has begun—and it's happening at the local level. Environment Ohio is building on this momentum by calling on mayors and city councils across the state to lead the way to Ohio's clean energy future.

### Cincinnati: solar city

Cities across Ohio have vast solar potential, and Cincinnati is a perfect example. On December 5, Environment Ohio released a report documenting the city's



Photo: Melink Corporation

▲ Rooftop solar panels at the Cincinnati Zoo.

huge solar resource—southwestern Ohio's solar resources are among the richest 70 percent in the United States. The report, "Building a Solar Cincinnati," also provides a roadmap to help put Cincinnati on track to get 10 percent of its energy from the sun by 2030.

Environment Ohio was joined by Siobhan Pritchard, regional sales manager at Dovetail Solar & Wind, and Steve

Johns, the Sustainability Coordinator for Cincinnati's Office of Environmental Quality, in releasing the report.

"As the City continues to lead by example with municipal installations, it can use its partnerships with the solar sector to build access to new financing and technologies, allowing even more residents to embrace solar energy," said Environment Ohio's Christian Adams.



Photo: Brewster Rhoads of Green Umbrella

### more online

Environment Ohio's Clean Energy Advocate Christian Adams speaks at a roundtable on solar energy in December.

Read our report, "Building a Solar Cincinnati," at: [EnvironmentOhio.org/reports](http://EnvironmentOhio.org/reports)



## To our members

I believe 2013 could be a turning point for our environment. The recent rise in extreme weather—including the tragedy of Hurricane Sandy and the record-breaking drought that scorched the country last year—has made global warming impossible to ignore, and hardened my resolve to shift Ohio away from dirty energy and cut our carbon pollution. I know you feel the same way.

Of course, there will be challenges: Anti-environment politicians will continue to cater to the interests of big polluters. But the climate change deniers and the dirty energy lobby are losing their grip on public discourse; they're on the wrong side of science, and the wrong side of history.

Environment Ohio will keep fighting the good fight. And with you by our side, we can make 2013 a year to remember.

Sincerely,

  
Julian Boggs  
State Policy Advocate

## Recent action

### Environment Ohio applauds stricter soot standards

On December 14, the Obama administration strengthened air quality standards for particulate matter or “soot” pollution. Soot pollution is the deadliest of the common air pollutants, causing thousands of premature deaths every year across the country through a variety of cardiovascular and respiratory illnesses. It also contributes to haze that hangs over many of Ohio’s cities, towns and parks. Sources of soot pollution include power plants and diesel trucks and buses.

The strengthened standards, which were supported by Environment Ohio, better reflect the latest scientific research. The new standards will outline how much soot pollution can be in the air and still be safe to breathe; overall, soot standards were strengthened by about 20 percent. Environment Ohio applauds the Obama administration for standing up for clean air.

### Report details steep costs of fracking

As it moves into Ohio, “fracking” is leaving a trail of contaminated water, polluted air, and marred landscapes in its wake. If the incalculable damage done to drinking water and Ohio’s streams and forests wasn’t enough, Environment Ohio has released a report highlighting the monetary costs of the practice.

The report, “The Costs of Fracking,” finds that fracking’s negative impacts on our environment and health come with heavy “dollars and cents” costs as well. These are incurred in cleaning up contaminated water, repairing ruined roads, addressing health issues, and more.

“Fracking’s environmental and health damage is bad enough, but it turns out that this dirty drilling imposes heavy dollar and cents costs as well,” said Environment Ohio’s Julian Boggs. “And in many cases, the public will be left holding the bag for those costs.”



▲ Environment Ohio’s Julian Boggs released the recent report, “The Costs of Fracking,” near a drilling rig in Broadview Heights.

# Ohio wind power cuts carbon pollution

Flickr user Christopher F. Photography

## As if 19,000 cars stopped polluting

After last summer's unprecedented heat and drought prompted Ohioans to call for action in tackling global warming and the rise in extreme weather, Environment Ohio released a new report in December documenting the benefits of wind power in cutting global warming pollution and shifting us away from dirty, dangerous fossil fuels.

The report, "Wind Power for a Cleaner America: Reducing Global Warming Pollution, Cutting Air Pollution, and Saving Water," shows that Ohio's current power generation from wind energy displaces as much global warming pollution as taking 19,000 cars off the road per year. The Environment Ohio report also shows that wind power saves enough water to meet the needs of 1,500 Ohioans.

## Continued growth essential

Environment Ohio was joined by Beth Amburgy, CFO of SUREnergy—a Midwest leader in wind power design and installation—in releasing the report and touting wind energy's environmental benefits to date, as well as the benefits Ohio will see in the future if wind power continues to grow.

"Wind power is already replacing the dirty and dangerous energy sources of the past and creating a cleaner, healthier future for Ohioans," said Seth Berkman of Environment Ohio. If wind development continues at a pace comparable to that of recent years through 2016, Ohio would reduce global warming pollution by the equivalent of taking an additional 72,000 cars off the road, and save enough water to meet the needs of an additional 5,600 Ohioans.

"We need to increase these important environmental benefits of wind energy by increasing wind power in our state," said SUREnergy's Beth Amburgy. "Ohio cannot afford the devastation of more drought like the one we faced this summer. The water savings secured by

increased wind power are critical to our local environment and our economy."

## Wind has health benefits, too

The report also highlighted the fact that today's wind energy in Ohio is delivering results for public health, by avoiding 70 tons of smog-causing pollution and 240 tons of soot pollution. 850,000 children and adults in Ohio suffer from asthma; increasing the air pollution benefits of wind power can save lives.

Despite the benefits of wind energy and widespread public support for federal policies to promote renewable energy, fossil fuel interests and their allies in Congress have vigorously opposed programs that promote wind production. But in January, President Obama and Congress agreed to extend wind power tax credits as part of the deal reached to avert the fiscal cliff.

"As our state is still healing from severe drought, we must invest wisely in a future with cleaner air, fewer extreme weather events, and smarter use of our water resources," said Berkman.



**Wind Power for a Cleaner America**

**report**

To read our latest report on wind energy, "Wind Power for a Cleaner America," visit us online at: [www.EnvironmentOhio.org](http://www.EnvironmentOhio.org)

Photo: Terrance Emerson



Photo: NREL

## Crucial wind incentives extended

On January 2, President Obama signed into law a bill that extended key tax credits for wind power and averted the "fiscal cliff." The main federal incentives for wind power—the renewable energy Production Tax Credit (PTC) and the off-shore wind Investment Tax Credit (ITC)—expired on December 31, 2012, but with January's new law, the incentives will now be available for wind power projects that start construction over the next year. This will allow for the continued growth of Ohio wind power.

Environment Ohio and our allies across the country mobilized thousands of people to urge President Obama and Congress to extend these wind tax credits.

The wind industry currently employs around 75,000 Americans. But if these incentives were not renewed, the industry expected to lose 37,000 jobs. However, thanks to President Obama and Congress, we can count on more clean, renewable wind power being installed in Ohio and across the country—as well as the jobs that come with it.

"President Obama and clean energy champions in Congress helped make this a happy new year for our health and our environment by extending critical tax credits for wind energy," said Environment Ohio State Policy Advocate Julian Boggs. "We applaud our leaders for recognizing the tremendous benefits of wind to our health and environment, and for acting to ensure the continued development of pollution-free wind energy."

692 N. High St., Ste. 202  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Phone: (614) 460-8732

# Environment Ohio

Address service requested

NON-PROFIT  
ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BROCKTON, MA  
PERMIT NO. 430



## Winter Report

VOLUME 7 | NO. 1 | 2013

Photo: Chris Palmer, Creative Commons

### 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.

## Toxic wastewater threatens drinking water

In November, Gov. John Kasich lifted Ohio's moratorium on the permitting of wells to inject hazardous fracking wastewater into the ground.

Wastewater from fracking contains numerous toxics, including arsenic and uranium, and poses a very real threat to our drinking water. One sample of wastewater from a recent study contained 3,600 times the level of radioactivity that scientists say is safe for drinking water.

But Gov. Kasich is allowing Ohio to become a regional dumping ground for this waste. In 2011, Ohio injected 12.2 million barrels of fracking waste into the ground, and over half of it was imported from Pennsylvania and West Virginia.

In response to the governor's move, Environment Ohio is mobilizing grassroots support across the state to urge President Obama to stop the unrestricted disposal of toxic wastewater in our state.



Photo: Department of Energy

◀ *Fracking can release contaminated water into watersheds, poisoning communities' drinking water and posing serious health risks.*

*To learn more about how you can take action to protect Ohio from fracking, visit us online at [EnvironmentOhio.org](http://EnvironmentOhio.org).*