



Summer Report

Jon Bilous/Shutterstock

How your support is saving the bees

Bee colonies are collapsing across the United States

Beekeepers report losing an average of 30 percent of all bee colonies each year—twice the loss considered economically tolerable. Yet, big agrichemical companies are pushing the use of dangerous pesticides that are killing off the very bees that pollinate 71 of the 100 crops that provide 90 percent of the world's food.

With your help, PennEnvironment and PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center are fighting back. Last year, our national team, along with a coalition of beekeepers, farmers and others, delivered more than 4 million petitions calling on the Obama administration to protect bees and our food supply.

Some of our favorite foods...gone?

Scientists point to a class of pesticides called neonicotinoids (neonics) as one of the causes of recent bee die-offs. When seeds are treated with neonics, the chemicals work their way into the pollen of the plants—which is bad news for bees and other pollinators.

Even worse, neonics are about 6,000 times more toxic to bees than DDT, which was banned in the United States in the 1970s over similar concerns.

Bees pollinate more than \$15 billion a year in U.S. crops, including some of our favorite foods. Imagine no almonds, fewer apples and strawberries, less alfalfa to feed dairy cows—the list goes on. The bottom line: No bees, no food.



Business Helper via Pixabay

▲ We rely on bees to pollinate 71 of the 100 crops that provide 90 percent of the world's food.

Join our call to ban neonics

Given the consequences for our farms and our food, you'd think we'd be doing all we can to protect bees and other pollinators from threats like neonics. Instead, big agrichemical companies like Dow Chemical, Bayer and Syngenta are fighting to prevent bans and increase the amount of pesticides they use.

We've joined a coalition of beekeepers, environmental groups and more than 100 businesses calling on the EPA to ban neonics. And we're building widespread public support across the country this summer to demand action to save the bees. We know that if we build enough public support, the EPA will have to listen.

Staff



take action

We need your help to protect the bees. Take action online to urge the EPA to ban neonics:

www.PennEnvironment.org

▶ To save the bees, PennEnvironment and our canvass team are going door to door to educate and engage thousands of people.



You make the difference

If you're like me, spring and summer are a great reawakening after the winter months. I'm clamoring to get outside with my wife and kids, where I'm reinvigorated by blooming flowers, budding trees, and the excitement of my kids as sprouts pop up in our garden.

But it's also a stark reminder of why PennEnvironment's campaign to save the bees is so important. There are so many plants, flowers, trees and other garden favorites that wouldn't survive without these important pollinators.

That's one of the many reasons why I'm so thankful for your support. This summer we're working to save our bees, and we need your help! If one of our organizers comes by your home, please remember all the ways bees help put food on our plates and keep our trees and plants growing—and join our efforts to help them. Your involvement and membership will make all the difference.

Sincerely,

David Masur, Executive Director



Toward a greener future

PennEnvironment and PennEnvironment 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 x312 or send an email to: PlannedGiving@PennEnvironment.org.

Recent action

PennEnvironment named to Kenney transition team

After the fall 2015 election, PennEnvironment was honored when Executive Director David Masur was asked to be the chairman for Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney's transition team on the Environment and Sustainability Committee. Besides being an incredible honor, it's a credit to all of PennEnvironment's advocacy, organizing and expertise on the most important environmental issues facing Philadelphia and the Commonwealth.

Working with a group of Philadelphia's premier environmental leaders and experts, PennEnvironment helped Mayor Kenney put forth a groundbreaking transition plan for a healthy environment, clean energy and a strong environmental legacy for our children and future generations of Philadelphians. PennEnvironment is excited to work with Mayor Kenney and the Philadelphia City Council to put these ideas into practice for Philadelphia. The full report can be viewed at: alpha.phila.gov/transitionreport

Fracking protections pass major hurdle

After years of advocating and organizing thousands of concerned citizens for stronger protections from fracking, PennEnvironment applauded an important step by state environmental officials to finalize new safeguards for this dangerous drilling process.

Often referred to as "Chapter 78" regulations in environmental circles, this proposal will ban the use of the dangerous open air pits used for storing toxic fracking wastewater, which has been found to contaminate drinking water supplies. These safeguards also set minimum distances to keep fracking away from schools and playgrounds, and improve clean up and monitoring of abandoned well sites.

PennEnvironment applauded Gov. Wolf and the Department of Environmental Protection for taking these steps, and we look forward to future proposals that will continue to protect Pennsylvania from fracking.



PennEnvironment Campaign Organizer Zoë Cina-Sklar (second from right) speaks about the danger fracking poses to Pennsylvania communities.



Philadelphia announces historic energy plan

Oregon Department of Transportation via Flickr, CC BY 2.0 (left); Skylynx/Shutterstock (right)

Courtesy of the Philadelphia Energy Authority

Philadelphia is known for its history. Now it's going to make history once more with a groundbreaking clean energy initiative.

Blueprint for a greener future

This spring, Philadelphia City Council President Darrell Clarke was joined by Mayor Jim Kenney and the Philadelphia Energy Authority to unveil the Philadelphia Energy Campaign. This plan is a great opportunity for the city to be a national leader in developing and implementing a clean energy blueprint for other cities to follow.

The initiative demonstrates that creating a green economy is a triple win—it's expected to create thousands of local jobs in Philadelphia, save taxpayers money by making city building more energy efficient and reducing their electricity costs, and help homeowners and small business owners cut down on their own energy bills.

All told, this 10-year clean energy initiative will deliver \$1 billion in energy conservation projects for city buildings and public schools, home weatherization efforts in low-income communities, and energy efficiency upgrades for small businesses. The program will also provide a shot in the arm for clean energy, supporting solar energy production efforts in Philadelphia.

In the process, experts are predicting that this plan can tap into the immense job creation opportunity that comes with the new clean energy economy, potentially generating thousands of local clean energy jobs and returning \$200 million in savings to Philadelphia's economy.

These savings will allow city government, the school district, small businesses and homeowners to put money into what matters to our community, instead of paying unnecessarily high heating and electricity bills.

Philadelphians call for clean energy

We know that promoting a new energy future that relies on clean energy sources and energy conservation is wildly popular with the general public and the residents of Philadelphia. That's because PennEnvironment staff talk with tens of thousands of Philadelphians every year about our environment, energy and the strong action needed to tackle climate change. Hundreds of thousands of residents like you have emailed, called and written letters to your elected officials calling for more action to promote clean energy and to move away from dirty fossil fuels.

We've pushed forward the policy solutions through our ongoing advocacy, PennEnvironment's role in Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney's transition team on the environment, and media attention we've been able to garner on this critical issue.

Now, that work is really paying off with Philadelphia's leadership for clean energy.

PennEnvironment applauds this historic clean energy initiative, and we're looking forward to working with city leaders to get this plan over the finish line in the coming months.



▲ PennEnvironment Director David Masur (left) joined community leaders to announce the Philadelphia Energy Campaign in February.

THE PHILADELPHIA ENERGY CAMPAIGN



10K+ NEW JOBS CREATED

HELPING RESIDENTS



REDUCING ENERGY BILLS FOR OVER 25K HOMES

SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES



2500 SMALL BUSINESSES REDUCE RISK & SAVE MONEY



A BROAD COALITION OF STAKEHOLDERS

INVESTMENT



LEVERAGING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FINANCING

TIME



FOCUS ON DEVELOPING ENERGY PROJECTS

TARGET SECTORS



\$200M



SAVINGS RETURNED TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY

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PennEnvironment

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 PennEnvironment. We focus exclusively on protecting Pennsylvania'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.

U.S. Supreme Court delays climate action

President Obama's Clean Power Plan, which was won due to widespread public support from millions of Americans like you, helped bring about the historic Paris Agreement last December. But in February, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a ruling that slows down national and state initiatives to follow through on these plans.

The future of major action on climate change may hang in the balance, and having a Supreme Court ready and able to hear these important cases in a timely fashion is critical. Given what's at stake, it's disappointing that Sen. Pat Toomey has said he'll refuse to consider any nomination to fill the empty court seat.

With your help, PennEnvironment is now working to build public support to show our leaders that the Clean Power Plan is essential to reduce our global warming emissions, protect kids growing up today, and show the rest of the world that we are serious about tackling this growing threat.



Staff

Take action now:

Join us in showing Sen. Toomey that Pennsylvanians want climate action from our Supreme Court now at:

www.PennEnvironment.org

◀ PennEnvironment Climate Defender Galen Hiltbrand (center) organizes volunteers to engage supporters on climate action.