



# Your Summer Report

## How your support is saving the bees

### Unsustainable colony collapse across the U.S.

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, Environment Colorado and Environment Colorado 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.

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.

### 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



Credit: Business Helper via Pixabay

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

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 Environmental

Protection Agency (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 grassroots support, we can help convince the EPA to ban bee-killing pesticides.



Credit: Suzannah Hoover Photography

### take action

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

[www.EnvironmentColorado.org](http://www.EnvironmentColorado.org)

◀ To save the bees, Environment Colorado and our national canvass team are going door to door to educate and engage thousands of people.



Credit: Staff

## You make the difference

Whether we're protecting vital pollinators from toxic chemicals, building overwhelming public support for clean water, or laying the foundation for 100 percent renewable energy, I know you'll be by our side.

As a member of Environment Colorado, you really do make the difference—for our environment, for our special places and for kids growing up today. We all want to make an impact on the world, and together, we're creating change that will last.

In this newsletter, you'll find updates on some of our most important campaigns, and know that you played a part in each. And while this work often leads to challenges, rest assured that you're part of a community of like-minded advocates and activists all standing up for what we believe in—a cleaner, greener, healthier future.

That's where our power comes from. That's how you make the difference.

Thanks for being a part of this,

Kim Stevens  
Campaign Director

## Recent action

### Who is America's next top polluter?

Each year, factory farms produce millions of tons of manure—more than the sewage produced by the entire U.S. population. New research shows that companies like Tyson Foods regularly dump a higher volume of pollution into waterways than companies like ExxonMobil and Dow Chemical.

According to Environment Colorado Research & Policy Center, Tyson and its subsidiaries released 104 million pounds of pollution into surface waters across the country from 2010 to 2014, nearly seven times the volume of surface water discharges by Exxon during those years.

If we want clean water in our rivers, our bays and our drinking water sources, companies like Tyson will have to dramatically cut pollution from their operations. That's why we're educating the public about factory farms: America's Next Top Polluter. Because once people like you know the truth, everyone will demand change.

### Let's protect our parks for another 100 years

This year marks the 100th anniversary of one of America's best ideas, the National Park Service, which manages everything from the iconic Grand Canyon to the beautiful Rocky Mountain National Park right here in Colorado.

Unfortunately, our parks are under attack. There are proposals to mine right outside the Grand Canyon and to drill near the Everglades, and there are even efforts underway to force the federal government to sell off some of our most special places.

This summer, Environment Colorado is working to stop these threats so that on the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service we can make a commitment to preserve these special places. With your support, we're rallying thousands of people across the country to call on Congress to take action.



Mike Norton/Sharestock

## Toward a greener future

Environment Colorado and Environment Colorado 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@EnvironmentColorado.org](mailto:PlannedGiving@EnvironmentColorado.org).



Credit: Craig Palmer via Flickr CC BY-NC 2.0

▲ The National Park Service manages many of our country's special places, like Rocky Mountain National Park.

# One million solar roofs, one city at a time

More of us are going solar, meeting our energy needs in a way that's clean, local and independent. In fact, in the last five years, solar power has grown 12-fold across the country, with another family or business going solar every one and a half minutes.

Colorado has huge potential for solar, with nearly 300 days of sunshine every year. Unfortunately, dirty energy companies keep putting up new roadblocks to solar—we still get less than 2 percent of our energy from the sun.

## Cities are taking strong solar action

Environment Colorado Research & Policy Center is working to help cities make bold commitments to go solar. Thanks to our members, we've organized local businesses and community leaders in cities across the state to take action to advance solar.

Aspen has committed to being 100 percent renewable, and Fort Collins has passed one of the most aggressive climate action plans in the country. With your support, we can talk with more citizens in more cities, moving us to one million solar roofs in Colorado one city at a time.

As cities across the state commit to bold solar and renewable goals, utilities and the state as a whole will eventually need to make the transition as well. With your help, we can make Colorado a solar leader.

## Potential of solar on superstores

Given our abundant solar resources, Colorado must take advantage of untapped opportunities to install solar technologies—like using rooftops of large superstores and “big box” retail stores as hosts for clean electricity generation.

In February, Environment Colorado Research & Policy Center released “Solar on Superstores,” in which we analyzed the nation's 102,000 big box retail stores, supercenters, large grocery stores and malls, looking specifically at their capacity for rooftop solar.

We discovered that there is more than 4.5 billion cumulative square feet of available rooftop space on which solar panels could be installed—enough space for about 62.3 gigawatts of solar power.

Installing this amount of solar power on these stores would provide enough electricity to power more than 7 million homes or more than 7,500 Walmart stores. It would also reduce global warming pollution by nearly 57 million metric tons annually—equivalent to taking nearly 12 million passenger vehicles off the road.

And in Colorado alone, big box stores using solar could offset enough electricity to reduce their electric bills by \$168 million a year. We've identified Target as one of the companies that could make the biggest difference by installing solar on the rooftops of its stores—others include Walmart, Home Depot and Lowe's.

“It's not just good for the environment. Rooftop solar is good for business,” said Katie Otterbeck, Environment Colorado Research & Policy Center campaign organizer. “We want to see Target put solar on all of its stores because Target has so much potential to reduce energy waste, cut pollution and save money with rooftop solar.”



▲ Releasing “Solar on Superstores”

To read our research on solar's growth and the obstacles it faces, visit: [www.EnvironmentColoradoCenter.org](http://www.EnvironmentColoradoCenter.org)

# Solar on Superstores

The rooftops of superstores and malls across the country could host 62.3 GW of solar capacity, which...

7  
million

... would provide electricity for more than 7 million homes...

12 million

... would be equivalent to eliminating the global warming pollution produced by nearly 12 million cars per year...

\$ 8.2 \$  
\$ billion \$

... and would save the stores \$8.2 billion annually on their electricity bills.

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# Environment Colorado

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## Summer Report

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### Environment Colorado

#### 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 Colorado, Inc., a project of Environment America. We focus on protecting Colorado'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.

Credit: Staff

## Leading the way on global warming after Paris

World leaders agreed last December to reduce carbon emissions under the Paris Agreement, and President Obama's Clean Power Plan, which was won due to widespread public support from people like you, gave our country the leverage needed to win this historic deal.

In February, however, the Supreme Court delivered a major blow to climate action, announcing it will put the Clean Power Plan on hold while it hears lawsuits from polluters and their allies who want to kill the plan. This decision comes at a time when many Coloradans are feeling the devastating impacts of climate change, from drought to flooding to the destruction of forests by pine beetles.

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



### Support our efforts

Support our efforts to fight global warming. Donate online at: [www.EnvironmentColorado.org](http://www.EnvironmentColorado.org)

Environment Colorado's Anna McDevitt speaks at our Aspen panel event in February.