



## 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 Maine and Environment Maine 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



▲ 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: Suzanne Hoover Photography

### take action

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

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

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



Credit: Alex Cornell du Houx

## 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 Maine, 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,

Laura Dorle  
Campaign Director



Timothy Manning/Shutterstock

## Toward a greener future

Environment Maine and Environment Maine 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@EnvironmentMaine.org](mailto:PlannedGiving@EnvironmentMaine.org).

# 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 Maine 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 Acadia National Park right here in Maine.

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 Maine 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.



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

Credit: PH1234us via Wikimedia, CC BY-SA 2.0

# Mainers push for global warming solutions

World leaders agreed last December to reduce carbon emissions under the Paris Agreement, and President Obama's Clean Power Plan helped give our country the leverage needed to win this historic deal.

Thanks to your support, Environment Maine gathered more than 500 signatures of support for the Clean Power Plan last winter, leading Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King to vote against a bill that sought to undermine the plan.

"Rather than take us backwards, we need politicians to propel us forward on the course charted by the Clean Power Plan, one which ends with deep cuts in pollution and 100 percent clean, renewable energy," said Laura Dorle, Environment Maine campaign director. "That's why we couldn't be more thankful to our Senators for voting against this attack."

In February, however, the Supreme Court delivered a major blow, announcing it will put the Clean Power Plan on hold while it hears lawsuits from polluters and their allies. With the support of our members, we can make sure this is only a temporary setback for climate action.

## First Portland Climate Conference

While many of us are watching and waiting for what happens at the national and international level, municipalities across the country, including Portland, have taken it upon themselves to help their communities prepare for the impacts of global warming, and move toward 100 percent renewable energy.

Incoming Portland Mayor Ethan Strimling and more than 20 Portland residents and leaders joined Environment Maine at the 1st annual Portland City Climate Conference last fall.

Held at Allagash Brewing Company, the purpose of the event was to discuss the efforts cities like Portland are taking to combat climate change, and the importance of both local and international action.

### Turning to the wind

To highlight the benefits of wind power as a clean, renewable energy source, Environment Maine Research & Policy Center released "Turning to the Wind" at the Bangor City Hall last winter.

Wind power has grown exponentially in Maine over the last dozen years, our report found, and now supplies enough energy to power 100,000 homes.

Last year alone, wind turbines from Mars Hill to the Fox Islands produced enough energy to reduce carbon pollution from 114,000 cars.

The report also showed that renewing critical tax credits for clean energy sources could nearly double current wind power capacity by 2020, and reduce carbon pollution equal to that produced by 30,000 additional cars. Nationwide, 104.2 million tons of carbon pollution could be avoided.

"From Bangor to Caribou to Portland, to avoid the worst impacts of global warming, we need to transition to 100 percent clean, renewable energy," said Dorle. "That must include doing everything we can to develop abundant, pollution-free wind power."

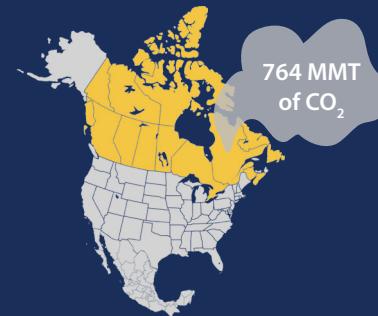


▲ Portland Mayor Ethan Strimling sends a call for climate action to Paris.

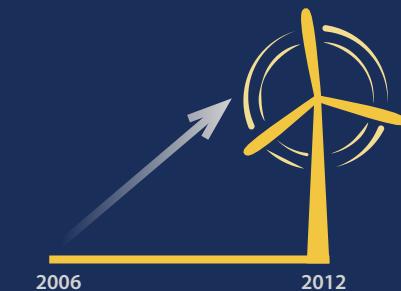
To read our research on solar's growth and the obstacles it faces, visit:  
[www.EnvironmentMaineCenter.org](http://www.EnvironmentMaineCenter.org)

Credit (left to right): Oregon Dept. of Transportation  
via Flickr; CC BY 2.0; SkyLynx/Shutterstock

With tax credits in place,  
**wind power can lead the way**  
to 100% renewable energy.



Since 2001, wind power in the U.S. has displaced 764 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, more than Canada emits in an entire year.



When tax credits for wind were renewed in 2005, wind power increased dramatically: In 2012, 6x more wind capacity was installed than in 2006.



Renewing reliable incentives now would create enough wind energy capacity by 2020 to power more than 2.8 million homes for a year.

Credit: (North America map) Alan Rockefeller via Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0

142 High St., Ste. 624  
Portland, ME 04101  
(207) 253-1965

# Environment Maine

*Address Service Requested*

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

## Summer Report

VOLUME 13 | NO. 1 | 2016

Clean air. Clean water. Open spaces.

## Environment Maine

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



### Support our efforts

Support our efforts to save the Clear Skies Ordinance. Donate online at: [www.EnvironmentMaine.org](http://www.EnvironmentMaine.org)

The Protect South Portland citizen group, along with leaders from Environment Maine, 350.org, the Natural Resources Council of Maine, and Toxics Action Center.