



Summer Report

Historic clean energy victory in Salem!

Bill to eliminate coal and double renewables passes

This spring, the Oregon State Legislature met for five short weeks, in that time considering several policies that would have big implications for Oregon's environment and the health of our communities.

Environment Oregon prioritized several bills focused on repowering Oregon with clean, renewable energy and with your support, after years of hard work, we won! In February, lawmakers passed the Clean Electricity and Coal Transition Bill, Senate Bill 1547, which phases coal out of our electricity mix by 2030, and commits our largest utility companies to source 50 percent renewable energy by 2040.

By eliminating our reliance on fossil fuels and requiring our utility companies to transition to renewable energy, Oregon is proving once again that we can lead the way in passing strong policies that protect our environment.

Community solar program started

Included in this bill was a section dedicated to community solar, a program Environment Oregon has been working to create for years.

With community solar, people can own or lease solar panels located offsite from their home or business and receive the same energy savings on their utility bill as if the panels were installed on their roof.

We worked hard to make sure community solar was included in the Clean Electricity and Coal Transition Bill to provide access



Credit: Staff

▲ Environment Oregon hosted a lobby day for student activists around the state to meet with their local legislators in support of the Clean Electricity and Coal Transition Bill.

to the 3 out of 4 Oregonians who cannot install solar panels on their own roof.

You made it possible

It was hard work to pass this historic legislation, and we couldn't have done it without the support of members like

you. Environment Oregon members sent hundreds of emails and made dozens of phone calls to their legislators, and our staff hosted a lobby day for a group of 35 student activists from around the state to meet with their local legislators in support of the bill.



Credit: Office of Gov. Kate Brown

more online

To learn more and take action in support of clean energy, visit: www.EnvironmentOregon.org

◀ Environment Oregon State Director Rikki Seguin (center back) stands with Gov. Kate Brown (center front) in Pendleton as the Governor signed one of our recently-passed solar bills this March.



Staff

To our members

I've said time and again that Oregon could be a true clean energy leader—we just need the policies to get us there. And this year, thanks to the tremendous work of our staff and allies and support from our members, we won historic legislation that rids us of our reliance on coal and doubles our commitment to renewable energy. This is the single biggest step Oregon has taken to tackle global warming, and I'm thrilled to be able to share big victories like this with you in this newsletter.

You'll also see that we're winning local, municipal clean energy victories. Those local initiatives are putting pressure on lawmakers to step up in Salem, and shining positive attention on the issue in the media.

So as you enjoy the summer sun, I hope you feel the same pride I do knowing that we've helped shape a new course for Oregon, one where we tap into the incredible power of the sun and wind and rid ourselves of fossil fuels once and for all.

Thanks for all you do,

Rikki Seguin
State Director

Recent action

You're defending our progress on clean water

With your support, Environment Oregon and our allies delivered more than 800,000 public comments in support of the Clean Water Rule last year. But as soon as we started celebrating this historic win for our waterways, polluters started working to derail the new Clean Water Rule.

Yet due to overwhelming public support, the rule has withstood every attack mustered by polluters in Congress. In January, President Obama vetoed a measure by Sen. Joni Ernst that would overturn the rule, and Senate leaders fell far short of the votes needed to override the veto.

"It's time for congressional leaders to address other pressing threats to our drinking water," said John Rumpler, senior attorney for Environment Oregon. "In the wake of Toledo, Des Moines, and the crisis in Flint, that means cleaning up factory farms and fixing broken water systems."

Let's protect Crater Lake 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 beautiful Crater Lake right here in Oregon.

Unfortunately, our parks are under attack. There are proposals to log right outside Crater Lake, and there are even efforts underway to force the federal government to auction off some of our most special places.

This summer, Environment Oregon worked 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, and we're working to heighten protections around Crater Lake.



Toward a greener future

Environment Oregon and Environment Oregon 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@EnvironmentOregon.org.



▲ Crater Lake is Oregon's only national park, drawing more than half a million visitors each year.

Credit: Markgorzynski via Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0

Local solar movement fans out across Oregon

For the past several months, Environment Oregon has been working in communities across the state on campaigns to convince local governments to make solar a priority by instating programs that streamline the process of going solar for residents.

This work accomplishes two main goals: First, by taking action at the local level, municipalities can add more solar to the electricity grid right now. Second, it sends a message to officials at the state level that they need to take swift, bold action to prioritize solar energy. By organizing locally, we're able to build toward our long-term climate goals while simultaneously increasing solar adoption and reducing climate pollution along the way.

Living up to our solar potential

The United States Department of Energy recommends that any city interested in promoting solar energy must first set a goal for installed solar capacity. Looking at current trends and the growth potential for solar in cities across Oregon, we've recommended goals of tripling solar over a five-year period.

If all five cities where we launched campaigns set the goals we've proposed, we'd see a 245 percent increase in installed solar over just five years. And if the state as a whole followed suit, it would add the equivalent of 28,000 new solar rooftops.

Building grassroots support

None of our progress would be possible without support from our members. Over the course of our campaign, more than 100 small businesses have demonstrated support and hundreds of community members from Ashland, to Newport, to Lake Oswego have attended events and written emails to their city councilors in support of pro-solar policies.

It's clear from the conversations we've had with business owners, local elected

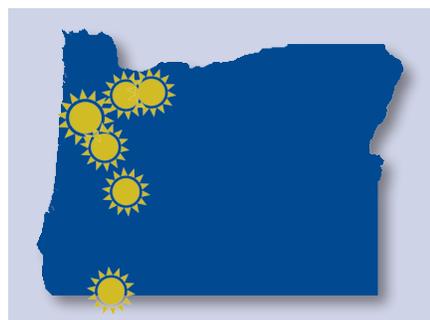
officials and our members over the past few months that solar needs to be a big part of Oregon's energy mix.

Sun shines on the coast

By working locally, we've been able to tailor campaign goals to the needs of each community. A prime example is our "Go Solar, Lincoln County" campaign, where we collectively organized seven small cities on the central Oregon coast in an effort to pass strong county-wide solar ordinances.

With the support of county commissioners, city officials, the local utility, business owners and citizens, we made progress toward passing a resolution to triple installed solar capacity across Lincoln County in five years, and authorizing a county-wide solarize program.

This resolution intersects with the community's growing concern that a major earthquake could compromise the existing grid for three to six months. Supporters agree that bringing more solar to Lincoln County will cut energy savings and carbon emissions in the short-term, while creating resiliency in the long-term.



▲ Environment Oregon is working to pass solar goals in Ashland, Lake Oswego, Corvallis, Milwaukie, Eugene and Lincoln County.

To read more about our work on solar and the obstacles it faces, visit:

www.EnvironmentOregon.org



Milwaukie Mayor Mark Gamba is a clean energy champion

Since we launched our campaign in Milwaukie, it's been an absolute pleasure to work with Mayor Mark Gamba. Whether he's pushing for local initiatives on clean energy or going to Salem to make community solar options available to his constituents, Mayor Gamba is a true champion for clean energy.

Thanks in large part to his leadership, the City of Milwaukie is considering setting an ambitious goal of tripling solar to the equivalent of 450 residential solar roofs by 2021. If they're successful, this would make Milwaukie one of the leaders in installed solar per capita in the state.

Mayor Gamba isn't just pushing to set a bold solar goal, though. Environment Oregon is also working with him to implement a solarize program in the city that will streamline the process of going solar for residents and help bring down the upfront cost through group purchasing. On top of this, the City of Milwaukie is looking into how they can best take advantage of a new community solar program that was created in February by the state legislature.

"Climate change is the single most critical issue facing my city along with the rest of the world," Mayor Gamba said. "Although our efforts are miniscule in relation to the problem, if every city in the world took these simple and inexpensive steps, we would be very much closer to a solution for slowing the devastating effects of runaway climate change."

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Environment Oregon

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 Oregon. We focus exclusively on protecting Oregon'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.

You're helping us protect the bees

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 bees that pollinate 71 of the 100 crops that provide 90 percent of the world's food.

With your help, Environment Oregon is fighting back. We've joined a coalition of beekeepers, environmental groups and more than 100 businesses calling on the EPA to ban the worst bee-killing pesticides: neonicotinoids. Imagine no almonds, fewer apples and strawberries, less alfalfa to feed dairy cows—the list goes on. The bottom line: no bees, no food. In February, we held a “No Bees, No Valentine's Day” event to draw attention to the issue. We worked with Rep. Earl Blumenauer on the event, who is sponsoring legislation in Washington, D.C., to protect pollinators.



Credit: Staff

more inside

Read more about how you have helped us protect Crater Lake, grow solar energy and more, inside.

◀ In February, our “No Bees, No Valentine's Day” event put the spotlight on the role of bees in pollinating holiday favorites like flowers and chocolate.