

We need to stand up for climate action

Polluters stall plan to tackle global warming

As the voice from the general public, business leaders and elected officials for tackling climate change grows, the biggest global warming polluters and their allies in Harrisburg continue to drag their feet on a plan for reducing carbon pollution. You, our members and supporters, are standing up to them.

Most recently, a bi-partisan coalition of Pennsylvania “coal country” Democrats joined with their Republican counterparts to propose Senate Bill 1195 (SB 1195), which attempts to throw roadblocks in front of efforts by state officials to implement a comprehensive plan for reducing global warming pollution.

PennEnvironment fights back

In an effort to defend against these attacks, and make sure that state legislators were hearing from voices beyond the polluters’ lobbyists, PennEnvironment members sprang into action. Hundreds of concerned citizens jumped on a bus to the capitol in Harrisburg and met face-to-face with their state representatives and senators to talk about the need for action on climate change.

Many concerned citizens couldn’t board the bus to Harrisburg, and instead called and emailed their state legislators to have their voices heard in this debate. And many other activists and PennEnvironment members submitted letters to the editor to local newspapers, attended in-district meetings with their state senators, and attended local meet-ups.

At the end of the day, climate polluters and their allies were able to cobble together



Ian Louda

▲ PennEnvironment and other coalition groups held a lobby day at the capitol in June, calling for our decision-makers to put forth a far-reaching plan to tackle global warming pollution.

enough votes to pass SB 1195—but not before removing the most egregious parts of the proposal, which would have potentially stopped Pennsylvania environmental officials from implementing climate policy.

“It’s time for the biggest global warming polluters and their allies to stop standing

in the way of progress when it comes to tackling one of the most profound challenges of our time: climate change,” stated PennEnvironment Director David Masur.

With supporters like you beside us, we’re raising public support for a smart, far-reaching plan to tackle global warming.

Ian Louda



Take action now:

Join us in showing our leaders in Harrisburg that Pennsylvanians want climate action now at:

www.PennEnvironment.org

◀ PennEnvironment organizers at the lobby day at the capitol in June.

You make the difference

In this election year, with the climate movement growing stronger and more positive environmental progress happening every day, I feel like we're in a time of great change. And I'm glad that you're pushing for a cleaner, greener, healthier America.

In the time since our last update, we swarmed the Environmental Protection Agency with petitions from members like you to stop the use of bee-killing pesticides, added to half a million petitions across the nation calling on President Obama to declare the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument, and so much more.

All of this work happens because of you. You provide the financial backing that allows us to speak with millions of Americans. You are the grassroots power to persuade decision-makers, and your stir up the passion for making positive change on the issues that matter most to all of us.

Thanks for everything you do,



David Masur, Executive Director

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Recent action

Organizing 1,000 PA health experts against fracking

To recognize National Doctor's Day and highlight the urgent need to protect our health from fracking, more than 1,000 Pennsylvania health experts joined with PennEnvironment and signed a public letter to address the health impacts of fracking and call our leaders to action.

"National Doctor's Day is a day to celebrate and applaud our health experts," said PennEnvironment Director David Masur. "This letter shows that the doctors, nurses and other health experts with whom we entrust our health and safety are calling for more action to protect us from fracking."

PennEnvironment's effort to organize health experts is believed to be the largest letter of its kind signed by Pennsylvania health professionals related to fracking in state history, and compliments our other efforts to educate the public about the dangers of fracking and the need to ban the dirty drilling practice.

America's National Parks celebrate 100th Anniversary

There's nothing that defines America's great natural heritage better than the U.S. National Parks System. Here in Pennsylvania, it's iconic places like Gettysburg, Valley Forge, and our state's segment of the Appalachian Trail.

At PennEnvironment, we're proud of the work we've done with the help of our members to protect and preserve our National Park Service—from standing up to defend parks against funding cuts and closures in past years, to our recent successful lawsuit against an illegal polluter dumping in Valley Forge National Historic Park.

These successes are only possible with the support and involvement of our members like you, and activists over the years. As we celebrate the first 100 years of our national parks, we're making sure we preserve them for the next 100 years, so kids growing up today can experience the same joy we have.



On the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, we're celebrating the protection of places like Valley Forge National Historic Park.

The solar potential of Philly public schools

Oregon Department of Transportation via Flickr, CC BY 2.0 (left); Apollo1758/Wikimedia (right)

This spring, PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center and Frontier Group released their newest report on the potential for clean energy production in Pennsylvania. The study, “Solar Schools for Philadelphia: Clean Air, Green Jobs, and Financial Savings,” analyzes the economic, public health, job creation and environmental benefits of installing solar on the rooftops of Philadelphia public schools.

Solar is a triple win for schools

“This report shows that going solar is a triple win for Philadelphia’s public schools,” said PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center’s David Masur. “It will create jobs, reduce air pollution, and save the school district millions of dollars.”

Our research shows that by installing solar panels on the more than 100 acres of usable rooftop space, the Philadelphia School District could cover nearly 40 percent of its annual electricity needs with solar energy. Going solar would also offset 62,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year (equivalent to the annual emissions from 13,700 cars), save taxpayers more than \$13 million over the assumed thirty-year lifetime of installations, and create 750 local jobs.

Solar panels and Philadelphia schools go great together:

- Solar energy can help Philadelphia reduce global warming pollution from power plants. Pennsylvania power plants emit the second-most global warming pollution of any state in the country.
- Solar energy is increasingly cost competitive with fossil fuel energy. From 2009 to 2013, large non-utility solar energy systems dropped in price by more than half.
- Solar energy provides budget certainty for school administrators and protects taxpayers against the highly volatile costs of fossil fuel energy.
- Solar panels on schools present a great learning opportunity for students, par-

ticularly in the STEM fields—science, technology, engineering and math.

The report concludes that policymakers need to take the following steps to promote solar schools:

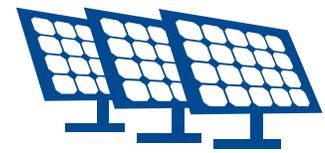
- Commit to putting solar panels on all Philadelphia schools to make the city a leader in clean energy production.
- Require that any extensive school renovations include plans to study the cost effectiveness of solar panels, and require that any new school buildings use solar panels.
- Strengthen Pennsylvania’s statewide commitment to solar energy, including increasing the solar energy requirement of Pennsylvania’s Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard (AEPS), and requiring that all solar renewable energy credits be generated in-state.

PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center pulled together a diverse coalition of partners to help release the findings of the report, including Philadelphia Councilmembers Darrell Clarke, Derek Green, Blondell Reynolds Brown, and Bobby Henon, as well as representatives from the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.



Philadelphia City Council

▲ PennEnvironment Organizer Zoe Cina-Sklar (left) joined Councilman Derek Green and other councilmembers to release “Solar Schools.” To read our research on the benefits of rooftop solar for Philly schools, visit: www.PennEnvironmentCenter.org.



By installing
SOLAR PANELS
on usable roof space,

the **PHILADELPHIA SCHOOL DISTRICT**



could cover
40%
of its annual
electricity needs.

This would also...

OFFSET 62,000
METRIC TONS

of **CO₂** (or the annual emissions from **13,700 cars**)



SAVE TAXPAYERS

more than
\$13
MILLION

CREATE 750



LOCAL JOBS

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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.

Together, we're going big for the bees

As part of our growing effort to raise awareness about recent declines of bees and other pollinators, PennEnvironment launched a massive public education campaign across the state this summer.

PennEnvironment had face-to-face conversations with more than XX Pennsylvanians to call on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ban bee-killing pesticides. Bees pollinate most of Pennsylvania's—and the world's—most common crops, but 30-40 percent of U.S. honeybee colonies die every year. At the end of June, PennEnvironment joined other groups to deliver more than 4 million signatures to the EPA, calling for action on the massive declines in pollinators.

"Given the support from millions of concerned citizens from across the country, officials should move boldly and swiftly to stop any and all uses of these dangerous chemicals," said Adam Garber, field director for PennEnvironment.



Suzannah Hoover

take action

Support our efforts to save the bees and our food supply. Donate online at:
www.PennEnvironment.org

▶ PennEnvironment joined partner groups and beekeepers in June to deliver more than 4 million signatures to the Environmental Protection Agency, urging them to stop the use of bee-killing pesticides.