



Your Summer Report

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Defending against federal rollbacks

Protecting our environmental values

The passage of our cornerstone environmental laws nearly 45 years ago helped protect and restore Pennsylvania's natural heritage, from Valley Forge and Pittsburgh's Three Rivers to the Poconos and Lake Erie.

Now, President Trump and the 115th Congress are trying to undo this progress by embarking on a reckless plan to dismantle dozens of our environmental protections.

With your support, PennEnvironment is informing the public about what's at stake, holding the administration and Congress accountable, and building the support necessary to defend our health and great natural heritage.

Clean air, clean water, open spaces

The president and Congress have moved to eliminate federal protections for nearly 50,000 miles of streams in Pennsylvania by undoing the Clean Water Rule. At the same time, they're moving backward on climate action and endangering public health by moving to shut down the Clean Power Plan, a key part of our commitment to reduce global warming pollution.

And efforts are underway to gut the nation's best land conservation program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which has helped create iconic places like Valley Forge Park and the Flight 93 Memorial.

Perhaps most frighteningly, the White House's 2018 budget proposal aims to slice the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) overall budget by 31 percent and staffing by 21 percent, and known climate skeptic Scott Pruitt is already in charge of the agency. So, thanks to the support of our members, we're uniting people from all sides of the political spectrum in urg-



Credit: Stephanie Price

▲ Hundreds of citizens joined PennEnvironment's Adam Garber (table, right) and Sen. Bob Casey (podium) at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University to talk about tackling climate change and how to get civically engaged in these important times.

ing Pennsylvania's senators to stand up and defend our environmental protections.

The people and places we love

The leaders and activists of the past organized the first Earth Day, supported and passed the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act, and created the EPA. Now the torch passes to us. PennEnvironment is living up

to the challenge by mobilizing hundreds of thousands of members like you through door-to-door canvassing, emails, social media, public events and more to hold decision-makers accountable. We can deliver the promise of a cleaner and greener world, and healthier lives for our children and future generations, but only if we can keep our protections in place and make them stronger.



Credit: Stephanie Price

take action

"If you want to do something, help PennEnvironment." -Sen. Bob Casey

Get involved today: www.PennEnvironment.org

◀ At our climate discussion at Drexel University, citizens voiced their concerns around the effects of climate change on Pennsylvania communities.



You make the difference

As a member of PennEnvironment, you're helping us win tangible results for our environment. We all want our children to be able to enjoy clean air and water, the great parks we treasure, and a safer world free from threats of climate change. That's why in the face of disheartening setbacks in Washington, D.C., or obstruction from special interests here at home, I'm counting on members like you, who share these values, to stand with us as we work for a better future.

People like you, who translate their optimism for a greener future into action, define the advances we make for our environment and health. So, even though at times the road feels riddled with obstacles, I feel encouraged. Together, we're making headway to tackle climate change, defend our clean air and water, and protect the places we love by uniting Americans around shared values.

Through this, we're amplifying the call on our elected officials to rise to the task and advocate for our environment.

Thanks for standing with us.

David Masur, Executive Director

Recent action

Study: Frackers break laws, get slap on wrist

A new analysis by PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center finds that while fracking companies continue to violate our environmental laws and public health protections, they rarely pay appropriate penalties for their violations. The study showed a median fine for fracking violations in Pennsylvania of just \$5,263, with only 17 percent of violations resulting in a fine.

"Gas companies are making billions of dollars selling Pennsylvania natural gas but paying pennies on the dollar for breaking the law—it's a recipe for environmental disaster," said Adam Garber, PennEnvironment deputy director. "Sadly, the message is clear: it pays to pollute if you're fracking in Pennsylvania."

PennEnvironment's report calls for increasing minimum penalty levels, increasing environmental inspections, halting permits for chronic polluters, and increasing transparency and information for the public.

Kicking off the Bee Friendly Food Alliance

As part of PennEnvironment's ongoing campaign to Save the Bees, we've been working to recruit dozens of restaurateurs in Pennsylvania—who rely on our pollinators for the food they serve in their restaurants—to join the Bee Friendly Food Alliance.

The Alliance is a network of chefs, restaurateurs, and others in the food industry who are coming together to save the bees. With so much at stake, chefs and restaurant owners are doing their part through this network and making their voices heard by the public and decision-makers.

"From family run pizza shops to fine dining destinations, chefs and restaurant owners around the country are coming together to Save the Bees," said David Masur, PennEnvironment executive director. "Chefs know up close and personal: no bees means no food."



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.

Bee
Friendly
Food
ALLIANCE

If you are a chef or restaurateur who is interested in joining the Bee Friendly Food Alliance, visit bit.ly/BeeFriendlyFood to learn more and sign up.

PA schools get an “F” for lead in drinking water



goodmoments/Shutterstock

Since the catastrophic drinking water disaster in Flint, Mich., addressing the threat of lead in drinking water has been a top priority for PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center.

We continued our hard-hitting advocacy work on this issue with the release this spring of our newest report on the threat posed by lead in drinking water in Pennsylvania’s schools.

Time to Get the Lead Out

Our new report, entitled “Get the Lead Out: Ensuring Safe Drinking Water for Our Children at School” gave Pennsylvania a grade of “F” when it comes to preventing lead in drinking water in the state’s schools.

“Schools should be safe places for our kids to learn and play, but Pennsylvania is failing to protect our kids from lead in drinking water,” said PennEnvironment’s Clean Water Advocate Stephanie Wein. “Kids’ developing brains are especially susceptible to highly toxic lead, so it’s time to get the lead out.”

Yet as more Pennsylvania schools from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia take steps to test their water, they are finding lead in the test results.

To make matters worse, current Pennsylvania law does nothing to prevent children’s drinking water from becoming laced with lead at school. The state has no testing regimen for school drinking water, no limits on the allowable levels of lead, and no plan to remove lead infrastructure from our schools.

PennEnvironment held four news conferences across Pennsylvania to announce these findings, where we were joined by state senators, city councilmembers and health experts to release the new report and call for immediate action to tackle the threat of lead in drinking water. Dozens of news outlets from across Pennsylvania attended these events and covered the report’s findings.

Our Research

Specifically, PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center’s report calls for the following action at the local, county and state levels:

- Remove lead service lines, lead-bearing plumbing, and fixtures containing lead;
- Install and maintain filters certified to remove lead on all taps and fountains in our schools;
- Adopt a 1 ppb standard for lead in schools’ drinking water, consistent with recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics;
- Require testing at all water outlets used for drinking or cooking at all schools annually, using protocols designed to capture worst-case lead exposure for children;
- Immediately remove from service any faucet or fountain used for drinking or cooking where testing indicates lead in the water;
- Disclose all available information about lead in water infrastructure, test results, and remediation plans/progress both onsite and online; and
- Provide funding to remove lead in schools’ water infrastructure.



Staff

Explore more online

- ▲ PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center Organizer Stephanie Wein released our new report, “Get the Lead Out,” in Philadelphia to educate people on the threats lead can pose to our children.

Read the full report at:
www.PennEnvironmentCenter.org.

PennEnvironment
Research & Policy Center
is calling for:



Tough standards
to keep lead out of
our drinking water



Regular testing for
lead in our homes, schools
and places we work



Our right to
know the results of
all lead testing—no
matter the results



Our leaders to get
the lead out of
Pennsylvania

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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.

We're standing up to an illegal polluter

PennEnvironment has joined forces with the Environmental Integrity Project (EIP) and other groups to initiate a federal Clean Air Act lawsuit against the Allegheny Ludlum steel facility, located just outside of Pittsburgh. The letter announcing our intent to sue pointed to air pollution violations at the facility for sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides and particulate matter. On some days, particulate matter emissions from the facility are nearly 10 times above the levels set out in the company's Clean Air Act permit.

Allegheny Ludlum's facility was also exposed as one of the Pittsburgh area's "Toxic Ten" by the PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center in our 2015 air pollution report for the region. "Whenever polluters put the health of our families, children and communities at risk, PennEnvironment will take the necessary steps to stand up and give local residents an advocate and voice," said Stephen Riccardi, PennEnvironment's Pittsburgh organizer.



Credit: Staff



Support our efforts

Learn more and donate at:
www.PennEnvironment.org

◀ On some days, particulate matter emissions from the Allegheny Ludlum steel facility are nearly 10 times above the levels set out in the company's Clean Air Act permit.