



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 Washington and Environment Washington 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



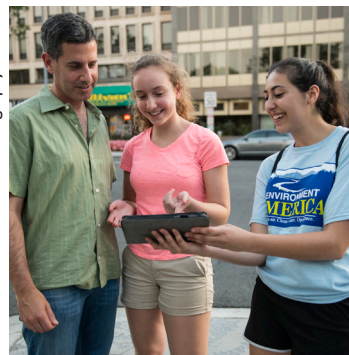
Credit: Business Helper via Pixabay

▲ 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.EnvironmentWashington.org

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



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 Washington, 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,

Anna Aurilio
Federal Legislative Director

Recent action

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 Olympic National Park right here in Washington.

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.

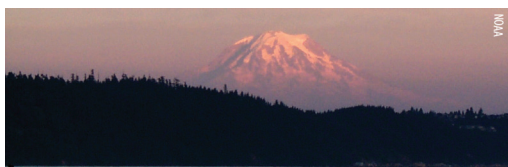
This summer, Environment Washington is working to stop these threats so that on the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service we can make a commitment to preserve these special places. With your support, we're rallying thousands of people across the country to call on Congress to take action.

Don't let factory farms pollute our water

We know that building public support for clean water leads to real results. Last year, Environment Washington's members and allies delivered more than 800,000 comments in support of the Clean Water Rule and won, restoring protections to more than 38,000 miles of streams across Washington.

So when the state Legislature considered a bill last winter that would have undermined the Department of Ecology's ability to regulate industrial farms in Washington, we organized community groups and members to call on their legislators and successfully stopped the bill in its tracks.

Research shows that one of the biggest threats to our water is how big corporations are running—and ruining—many of America's farms. That's why we've been educating and engaging the public around agricultural pollution and its impact on water quality.



Toward a greener future

Environment Washington and Environment Washington 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@EnvironmentWashington.org.



▲ Andrew Gage, organizer with Environment Washington, calls members to urge them to contact their senators about protecting clean water.



Go Solar, Washington

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

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.

Environment Washington has been organizing the public around a statewide goal of 10 percent solar by 2025, and thanks to your support, we've signed on more than 100 businesses and more than 30 local elected officials in support.

Achieving this state goal would help move our country closer to the national goal of 10 percent solar by 2030. This would produce immediate and long-lasting benefits for our environment, including removing 280 million metric tons of carbon from the atmosphere by 2030—the equivalent of taking 59 million cars off the road.

Advocating for renewable energy

During the 2016 state legislative session in Olympia, Environment Washington prioritized and built support for legislation that would extend the Renewable Energy Cost Recovery Incentive Program. This measure has successfully encouraged thousands of residents and businesses to invest in and install solar in their neighborhoods.

In part because of the program, more than 130 solar businesses from Vancouver, B.C., to the Tri-Cities to Spokane, Wash., are employing Washingtonians. It has also helped deploy more than 60 megawatts (MW) in solar energy production, with 23 MW installed since 2014.

In February, Environment Washington Solar Organizer Cecile Gernez testified in Olympia in support of the legislation. In addition, we mobilized hundreds of our members to urge their legislators to support this bill.

Our staff and volunteers personally talked with nearly 400 of our members, asking them to contact their legislators in more than 15 different state legislative districts.

Potential of solar on superstores

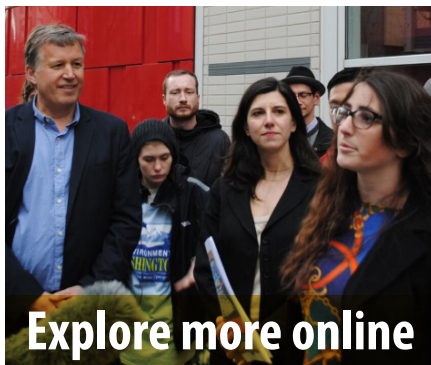
In February, Environment Washington Research & Policy Center released "Solar on Superstores" with State Rep. Jessyn Farrell and Seattle City Councilmember Mike O'Brien.

By analyzing the nation's 102,000 big box stores and malls, 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 reduce global warming pollution by nearly 57 million metric tons annually—equivalent to taking nearly 12 million passenger vehicles off the road.

We've identified Target as one of the companies that could make the biggest difference by installing solar on its stores.

"It's not just good for the environment. Rooftop solar is good for business," said Cecile Gernez, Environment Washington Research & Policy Center solar 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."



Credit: Staff

Explore more online

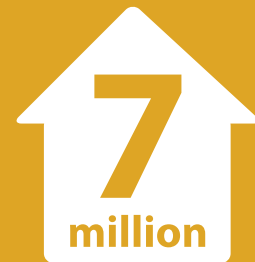
▲ Releasing "Solar on Superstores"

To read our research on solar's growth and the obstacles it faces, visit: www.EnvironmentWashingtonCenter.org

Solar on Superstores

Credit: Walmart Corporate via Flickr, CC BY 2.0

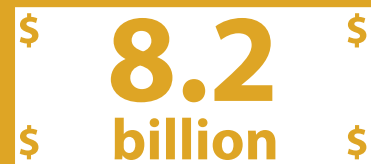
The rooftops of superstores and malls across the country could host 62.3 GW of solar capacity, which...



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



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



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

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Summer Report

VOLUME 9 | NO. 2 | 2016

Environment Washington

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 Washington, Inc., a project of Environment America, Inc. We focus on protecting Washington'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 is a huge loss for our kids' future and for all Americans who care about the health of our planet.

With your help, Environment Washington 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.EnvironmentWashington.org

▶ Margie Alt, executive director of Environment America, and Anna Aurilio, Environment America's D.C. office director, conduct a Google Hangout interview in Paris.