



Fall Report

Solar education campaign shines on

Legislative results show more work to do

This legislative session, Environment Oregon partnered with solar installers, small business owners and local officials in an effort to make solar power more accessible and affordable for everyday Oregonians. We helped pass House Bill 2941, which commissions a study on how best to implement community solar programs in Oregon. In 2016, we will be working to turn the findings of this study into law.

Unfortunately, other solar legislation, aimed at bringing commonsense solar policies to Oregon, was faced with aggressive lobbying, much of which came from Oregon's major utility companies who testified in support of the status quo. Here in Oregon, the reality is that almost a third of our energy still comes from out-of-state coal-fired power plants.

Legislators tour solar facilities

In order to set ourselves up for solar success in 2016 and to educate lawmakers on the potential of solar power, Environment Oregon hosted "solar site visits" at manufacturing facilities and solar installations around the state.

In August, legislators and local officials toured Met One Industries in Grants Pass, which manufactures monitoring devices for solar arrays and employs more than 100 people.

Utilities selling us short on solar

One of the most crucial programs that promotes rooftop solar is net-metering, which credits solar panel owners at a fixed rate for providing an excess of power to the grid. Programs like this have helped solar



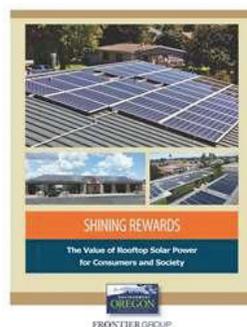
Credit: Staff

▲ Ocean Yuan, Grape Solar founder, explained the U.S. solar market to Rep. Nancy Nathanson, Sen. Lee Beyer, Mayor Kitty Piercy, Rep. John Lively, Rep. Val Hoyle, and Sen. Floyd Prozanski at the Environment Oregon "solar site visit" in Eugene, Ore.

energy skyrocket across the country, but utilities have increasingly begun to attack them as unjustified "subsidies."

"Shining Rewards," a new report by Environment Oregon Research & Policy Center, found that often utilities were actually underpaying solar panel owners—not

subsidizing them. Of the 11 net-metering studies reviewed, eight found that the value of solar energy was higher than the local retail electricity rate. The report concludes with a call for more pro-solar policies to encourage solar power across the country.



more online

To read the full report, go to:

www.EnvironmentOregonCenter.org

◀ "Shining Rewards," a report from Environment Oregon Research & Policy Center.



Staff

To our members

Environment Oregon has big goals to protect our environment, and because of this, it's sometimes hard to slow down and reflect on what we've accomplished. As soon as one campaign goal is achieved, another one waits just around the corner.

Yet, as I sit down to write this letter to you, it's clear that the last few months have been huge for us.

Being part of the campaign to finalize the Clean Power Plan, the largest federal action ever taken to tackle global warming, has been incredible. And our legislative victories in Salem—like defending the Clean Fuels Program from polluter opposition—have reinforced my belief that grassroots organizing is the most critical piece of work we do.

So I just want to say thank you, and as you read this newsletter, I hope you feel as much of a sense of accomplishment as I do.

Sincerely,

Rikki Seguin
State Director

Recent action

Oregon stands up to Big Oil, defends crucial program

In June, your support allowed Environment Oregon to defend Oregon's Clean Fuels Program, a landmark piece of legislation that reduces carbon emissions from cars and trucks, the largest source of global warming pollution in the state. Out-of-state oil companies, which spent over \$2 million in lobbying and campaign contributions in 2014, attempted to strong-arm legislators into repealing the measure only months after a bill securing its future was passed.

Members just like you made hundreds of phone calls and send thousands of emails to their lawmakers demanding they stand up to the oil industry. While we beat polluters back this time, rest assured they will continue their attempts to undermine pro-environmental legislation in the months and years to come.

Momentum builds to protect pollinators

Honeybees and other pollinators help maintain a healthy planet and a healthy food supply—bees alone pollinate 70 percent of the world's most common crops. But record numbers of colony die-offs are sounding the alarm for urgent action. The misapplication of neonicotinoids, a class of pesticides that are highly toxic to bees, was partially responsible for the death of over 55,000 bees in Oregon just two years ago.

This legislative session, we worked with several Oregon legislators to come up with a comprehensive plan to ensure protections for bees. Environment Oregon helped support legislators in passing two bills, HCR 9 and HB 3362, which acknowledge the importance of pollinators, urge support for programs ensuring safety and vitality of pollinator populations, and create a pollinator health outreach and education plan.

We have more work to do to ultimately ban harmful neonicotinoids, but we are building momentum toward the commonsense goal.

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.



Credit: sheilapic76 via Flickr. CC-BY 2.0

Opportunity to protect Crater Lake

With its deep blue water and 2,000-foot rim walls, Crater Lake is Oregon's crown jewel, inspiring more than half a million visitors each year. Oregon's only national park and its surrounding habitat are home to abundant wildlife, including bald eagles, Roosevelt elk, black bears and wolves. It also supports the headwaters of the Rogue and Umpqua Rivers, critical for maintaining healthy runs of Coho and Chinook salmon.

Unfortunately, thousands of acres of land surrounding Crater Lake are threatened by deforestation and other developmental threats.

Protecting Crater Lake together

This summer, Environment Oregon talked with more than 50,000 Oregonians across the state about the importance of protecting Crater Lake. To demonstrate this overwhelming public support, you and nearly 25,000 Oregonians urged Sen. Ron Wyden to take action through public comments, emails and phone calls.

We also know the importance of showing our congressional delegation the economic benefits of this increased protection, so we built a coalition of over 150 small businesses—from cabin rental shops, to outdoor outfitters, to restaurants—who can speak directly to the value of Oregon's ever-growing ecotourism sector.

Oregon's crown jewel at risk

The forests surrounding Crater Lake's delicate ecosystem lack the level of protection they deserve, threatening these critical habitats and watersheds.

This lack of appropriate protection invites threats from timber companies seeking to clearcut the old-growth forest surrounding the park, and from high-impact tourist activities, including a proposed helicopter tour of the Crater Lake region.

The results could be devastating: destroying and fragmenting important wildlife

habitat and natural forest components, building roads that change natural water flow and contribute to stream pollution, impacting water quality of drinking water sources, and depleting forest carbon stores and adding to global warming pollution. And, of course, it ruins the scenery, recreation and quality of life that we Oregonians love and take pride in sharing with others.

Permanent protections within reach

We're fighting to make sure companies and individuals don't trample pristine forest and cause irreparable harm to Crater Lake's delicate ecosystem. The best solution is to establish a 75-mile, 500,000 acre protected wilderness corridor that will permanently protect the most treasured gem in Oregon.

Sen. Wyden has indicated that he hopes to introduce a new wilderness proposal to Congress by the end of 2015—we're working to show him that Oregonians want to permanently protect Crater Lake and the surrounding area so that this vital habitat is never threatened again.

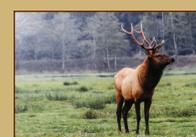
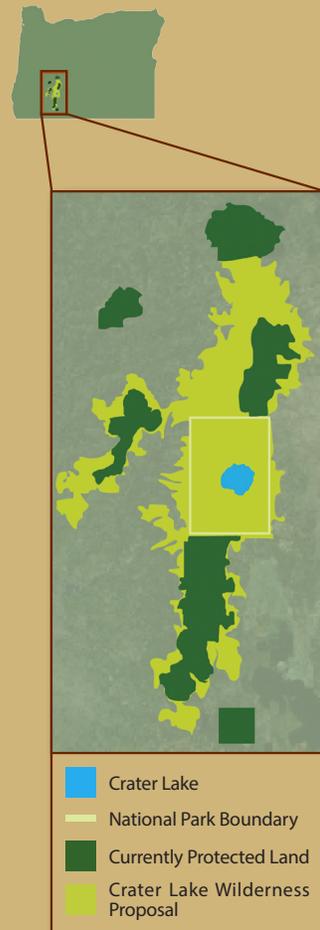
By continuing to organize diverse voices across the state, we can leverage the support needed to permanently protect Crater Lake.



More online

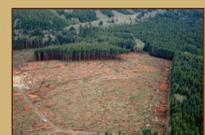
To see more photo petitions to Protect Crater Lake, visit:
www.facebook.com/Enviroregon

The proposed wilderness corridor to protect Crater Lake



Crater Lake provides a critical habitat to diverse vegetation and wildlife.

Forest clear cuts endanger vital habitat and pristine waterways.



Establishing a 75-mile, 500,000-acre protected wilderness corridor would ensure that logging companies do not cause irreparable harm to the wildlife, watershed and forests surrounding Crater Lake.

To take action and help us protect Crater Lake, visit:
www.EnvironmentOregon.org

Credit: (elk) Bureau of Land Management via Flickr, CC-BY 2.0, (clearcut) Sam Beebe via Flickr, CC-BY 2.0

1536 SE 11th Avenue, Suite B
Portland, OR 97214
(503) 231-1986

Environment Oregon

Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BROCKTON, MA
PERMIT NO. 430



Fall Report

VOLUME 9 | NO. 2 | 2015

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.

Clean Power Plan moves into next phase

In August, the Environmental Protection Agency finalized its historic plan to limit carbon pollution from dirty power plants, America's #1 source of global warming pollution. The Clean Power Plan will cut carbon pollution by 542 million tons nationally and play an essential role in speeding America's shift to renewable energy.

The plan will also set the stage for an international agreement to tackle global warming in Paris this December, when world leaders will convene to address this global threat.

While fossil fuel interests and their allies in Congress are doing all they can to block the measure before it is implemented, the public has spoken strongly in support of climate action. In the years since the rule was first proposed, more than 120,000 Oregonians have spoken out in favor of limiting carbon emissions from power plants.



Credit: Alison Wasson

more inside

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

◀ *Rooftop solar will be a key component in Oregon's transition to clean energy.*