



Your Fall Report

Protecting our shared air, water and climate

Together, we're defending the places we love

Most Americans want more, not fewer, protections for the people and places we love. After all, we all breathe the same air, drink the same water, and love the same mountains, rivers and forests.

This summer, people across the country joined Environment Colorado and our national network to save our environmental protections from rollbacks.

We spoke with more than 1 million people at their doorsteps, and together, we flooded our senators with more than 350,000 petitions, phone calls and emails, urging them to stand up for our environment.

You stood up against rollbacks

After the president announced he would withdraw the United States from the Paris climate agreement, governors, mayors, business leaders and citizens across the country replied, "We're still in." Twelve states and nearly 300 cities—and counting—have pledged to uphold the Paris agreement.

In June, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt proposed the repeal of the Clean Water Rule, which protects half our nation's streams. In 2015, Environment Colorado and our allies united more than 1,000 farmers, business owners and elected officials to help get that rule enacted, and we're doing the same to protect it now.

And after the president ordered a review of 27 of our national monuments to determine if they could be stripped of their protected status, Environment Colorado and our members took action. We joined coalition partners to deliver more than 2.7



Credit: Jenny Nordstrom, Side Door Studios

▲ This summer, our members helped Environment Colorado and our allies deliver more than 2.7 million public comments to the Department of the Interior to protect our national monuments.

million comments to the Department of the Interior to save our monuments. Our first victory came in July, when Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke announced that Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients National Monument was safe from review.

Drawing a green line of defense

In May, the U.S. Senate blocked an attempt

to roll back an Obama-era rule that limited methane emissions from oil and gas wells in a close 51-49 vote, showing that strong public support for our environment can, in fact, win the day. With your support and action, we're working to build a green line of defense in the Senate, where 51 votes will be enough to keep our environmental protections in place.



Credit: Suzannah Hoover Photography

take action

We need your help to defend our environmental protections. Take action online to urge our senators to stand up for the people and places we love in Colorado: www.EnvironmentColorado.org

◀ Our national citizen outreach team spoke with more than 1 million people this summer, asking them to take action to defend our environment and our health.



Credit: Staff

You make the difference

I spoke with a lot of people this past summer who shared my concerns about the threats facing our environment. We're all worried. But together, I'm confident we can hold the line against the worst setbacks in Washington, D.C., and even make progress on tackling climate change, transitioning to clean, renewable energy, protecting our drinking water, and more.

Since our last update, we joined our national network to speak with more than 1 million folks across the country to unite them in defense of our environment. And they took action, helping us deliver more than 350,000 petitions calling on our senators to stand up for our air, water, climate and health.

We couldn't have done it without you. As a member of Environment Colorado, you're helping us win real results for our environment, and build a cleaner, greener future for kids growing up today.

Thanks for standing with us,

Garrett Garner-Wells
Director

Your Impact

Working to reduce air pollution and protect health

Despite decades of progress under the Clean Air Act, Americans across the country continue to breathe unhealthy air, according to the latest report from Environment Colorado Research & Policy Center. "Our Health At Risk" finds that urgent action is needed to address air pollution problems affecting our communities.

Fortunately, the solutions are within our grasp. Environment Colorado is working to commit more and more cities, businesses, universities and our state to 100 percent renewable energy; and to defend the tailpipe emissions standards that were implemented nationwide in 2009.

And in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, our national network is urging elected officials to double the strength of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, the nation's best regional clean air and climate protection program. In June, 18 mayors joined 546 health professionals, businesses, academics and community leaders calling for a stronger Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

You're standing up to save the bees

Millions of bees are dying off, with alarming consequences for our environment and our food supply. That's why, with your support, Environment Colorado is going all out to ban the pesticides that are harming bees and other pollinators. After all, it's bees, not pesticides, that make our farms and food possible.

This year, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it would conduct a risk assessment of four types of neonicotinoids, a widely used class of bee-killing pesticides, and opened a 60-day public comment period. Our members leapt at the opportunity to save our pollinators, and by the end of July, Environment Colorado and our coalition partners delivered more than 164,000 comments urging the EPA to declare a moratorium on bee-killing pesticides.

We also held bee-friendly BBQ and picnic events over the summer to highlight the many foods we enjoy that depend on bees for pollination—everything from strawberries and watermelons to the alfalfa grown to feed dairy cows.

A photograph of a scenic landscape with mountains in the background and green fields in the foreground. The sky is blue with some clouds.

Toward a greener future

Environment Colorado and Environment Colorado 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 x310 or send an email to: PlannedGiving@EnvironmentColorado.org.

Credit: Alex Norton/Silverstock

A group of six people standing in front of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) building. They are holding a large white banner that reads "164,000+ AMERICANS TELL THE EPA TO BAN BEE-KILLING PESTICIDES!". There are also smaller signs, one of which says "NO BEES NO FOOD". The banner features an illustration of a tractor spraying pesticides over a field with bees.

▲ Our members are making their voices heard at the Environmental Protection Agency by submitting tens of thousands of public comments calling for a moratorium on bee-killing pesticides.

Credit: Josette Harco

Renewables on the rise in Colorado

Renewable energy is on the rise across the country, and Colorado is no exception. Since 2007, Colorado has seen a 730 percent increase in wind power production and a 10,000 percent increase in the amount of electricity we get from the sun. Renewables now account for 19 percent of Colorado's electricity generation and consumption.

Nationwide, our country produces nearly eight times as much solar and wind energy as in 2007. At the same time, the average American uses 10 percent less energy than a decade ago, due in great part to improvements in energy efficiency.

Wind and solar are surging

In July, Environment Colorado Research & Policy Center and Frontier Group released a new report, "Renewables on the Rise: A Decade of Progress Toward a Clean Energy Future." The report provided a state-by-state assessment of the growth since 2007 of key technologies needed to power the nation with clean, renewable energy, including wind and solar power, energy efficiency, electric vehicles and renewable energy storage. Colorado ranked 6th for growth in wind energy production, 11th for solar production and 13th for electric vehicles sold.

Speaking at the report's release, Westminster City Councillor Anita Seitz encouraged Coloradans to keep moving forward on clean energy. "Colorado has built a solid foundation," Councillor Seitz said. "As the first state in the nation to pass a voter-approved renewable portfolio standard, we know what it means to lead. But we need to build on that foundation, which is exactly what cities like Westminster are doing through community solar gardens and pro-electric vehicle policies."

A 100 percent renewable future

A growing number of U.S. cities, states, corporations and institutions are making commitments to 100 percent renewable energy. Currently, 37 cities have made the 100 percent renewable pledge, including

Aspen, Boulder and Pueblo. Nearly 100 major companies have committed as well, including Apple, Walmart and LEGO. The state of Hawaii has committed to reaching the 100 percent renewable goal by 2045, and California and Massachusetts are currently considering similar legislation. And the 100 by '50 Act, which has been introduced in both houses of Congress, would make the commitment nationwide.

Market forces are promising, as well. Looking to the future, energy experts expect the global price of wind power to fall 24 to 30 percent by 2030 and 35 to 41 percent by 2050. Bloomberg New Energy Finance predicts that "[b]y 2025, solar may be cheaper than using coal on average globally," even when the costs imposed by coal use on public health and the environment are excluded.

Thanks to rapidly evolving clean energy technologies, a future powered by renewable energy is well within our reach.



▲ Environment Colorado State Director Garrett Garner-Wells is joined by Emily Hiltz, Sierra Club Ready for 100 campaign organizer, and Councillor Anita Seitz, City of Westminster (speaking).

Voices for
100%
RENEWABLE ENERGY



Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez

House of Representatives | New York

"A shift to 100% renewable energy can revitalize our communities, make us healthier, leave a livable future for our children and grandchildren, all while creating good jobs in the process."



Jane Kleeb

Founder & President | Bold Alliance

"Rural America is ready for clean energy jobs that protect our land and water while fueling our economy. The power lies in our communities and urging our elected officials to stand with us as we transition to 100% clean energy."



Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva

House of Representatives | Arizona

"To continue to depend on fossil fuels is to continue to endanger all life on this planet. This is not about politics—it's about survival."

To read more stories, visit:
www.100percentrenewable.org

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Environment Colorado

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 Colorado, Inc., a project of Environment America. We focus on protecting Colorado'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

Your support is bringing polluters to justice

Over the past 25 years, Environment Colorado and our partners have found dozens of cases where companies have dumped illegal amounts of pollution into our air, rivers, bays and harbors.

In April, our sister group, Environment Texas, secured a \$19.95 million penalty against ExxonMobil after filing an environmental "citizen suit" against the oil giant for violating the Clean Air Act on more than 16,000 days at its Baytown, Texas, petrochemical complex. A federal judge found that Exxon had profited to the tune of \$14 million by delaying pollution control measures, and released more than 10 million pounds of illegal emissions into the air, including carcinogens and other toxic air pollutants.

Our lawsuits have resulted in more than \$250 million in court-ordered penalties and pollution reduction actions. And with the Trump administration giving a free pass to polluting industries, we're launching an Environmental Enforcement Initiative to hold polluters accountable. With support from our members, we'll continue taking illegal polluters to task when they break the law.



Support our efforts

Support efforts to make polluters pay.
Donate online at:

www.EnvironmentColorado.org

◀ We're working on active lawsuits in five states, including against Casella Waste Systems for contaminating Massachusetts drinking water with arsenic, heavy metals and a suspected carcinogen.