



# 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 Massachusetts 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 have pledged to uphold the Paris agreement—and more are joining every day.

In June, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt proposed the repeal of the Clean Water Rule, which our members helped us win back in 2015. Environment Massachusetts and our allies gathered more than 800,000 comments and united more than 1,000 farmers, business owners and elected officials to help restore federal protections to half our nation's streams, and we're doing the same to protect them now.

And after the president ordered a review of 27 of our national monuments to determine if they could be stripped of their pro-



Credit: Jenny Nordstrom, Side Door Studios

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

tected status, Environment Massachusetts and our members took action. We joined coalition partners to deliver more than 2.7 million comments calling on the Department of the Interior to save our monuments, from Bears Ears to Giant Sequoia.

### Drawing a green line of defense

In May, the U.S. Senate successfully 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. It was a good indicator 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

Take action online to urge our senators to stand up for the people and places we love in Massachusetts at:

[www.EnvironmentMassachusetts.org](http://www.EnvironmentMassachusetts.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 Massachusetts, 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,

Ben Hellerstein  
Director



## Toward a greener future

Environment Massachusetts and Environment Massachusetts 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@EnvironmentMassachusetts.org](mailto:PlannedGiving@EnvironmentMassachusetts.org).

Photo: Shutterstock.com

## 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 Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts 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.



Credit: Josette Harco

▲ 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.

# Massachusetts can lead the way

Scientists agree that we must stop burning virtually all fossil fuels by 2050 to avoid the worst effects of climate change. Environment Massachusetts is backing legislation that would make our state the first to commit to a fully renewable future across all sectors. The 100% Renewable Energy Act, filed by state Sen. Jamie Eldridge and state Reps. Sean Garballey and Marjorie Decker, would put the state on the path to achieve 100 percent renewable electricity generation by 2035, and require other sectors, including heating and transportation, to be powered entirely by renewable energy by 2050.

Since the bill was introduced, more than a quarter of state legislators have already signed on in support of the 100% Renewable Energy Act. We're working to build on this momentum and assemble the grassroots support necessary to win.

## Momentum is building

In June, following President Trump's announcement that he would pull the United States out of the Paris climate agreement, Environment Massachusetts held a rally on the steps of the State House to urge our state leaders to lead where the president wouldn't. Environmentalists, business leaders, local officials and students called on legislators to fast-track the 100% Renewable Energy Act.

"With President Trump stepping back on climate change, Massachusetts' leaders need to step forward," said Ben Hellerstein, state director for Environment Massachusetts. "Our climate and our health can't wait. We're calling on state leaders to commit to achieving 100 percent renewable energy for Massachusetts as rapidly as possible."

## Leading locally

In August, Environment Massachusetts Research & Policy Center released a report titled "100% Renewable Boston," outlining actions that Boston should take to accelerate the transition to 100 percent clean, renewable energy across 12 areas, including rooftop solar installations, net

zero energy buildings, electric vehicles, public transportation and energy storage.

Boston Mayor Marty Walsh, who is among the more than 200 U.S. mayors who have announced their commitment to meeting the goals of the Paris climate agreement, has publicly committed Boston to achieve zero-carbon emissions by 2050. However, the city has yet to create a plan to meet this target. The people of Boston are ready. Environment Massachusetts has generated more than 1,200 petition signatures and 100 phone calls urging city officials to commit to 100 percent renewable energy.

To share the findings of Environment Massachusetts Research & Policy Center's report with decision-makers and the public, we organized a breakfast discussion featuring leaders and experts from Boston Medical Center, Northeastern University and the business community.

"Dirty energy is a global problem, but some of the biggest solutions are local," said Hellerstein. "Boston can be a national leader in the transition to 100 percent renewable energy, but only if local officials step up and seize the opportunity."



▲ Dozens of citizens and legislators rallied outside the State House in support of 100 percent renewable energy in June, following President Trump's announcement of his intent to withdraw the United States from the Paris climate agreement.

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](http://www.100percentrenewable.org)

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# Environment Massachusetts

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## Your Fall Report

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### Environment Massachusetts

#### Our mission

We all want clean air, clean water and open space. 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 Massachusetts, Incorporated, a project of Environment America, Inc. We focus on protecting Massachusetts' air, water and open space. 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 Massachusetts 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.EnvironmentMassachusetts.org](http://www.EnvironmentMassachusetts.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.