



Your Fall Report

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Protecting our air, water and climate

Statewide summer campaign to stop rollbacks

Most Pennsylvanians want more, not fewer, protections for our environment and public health. After all, we all breathe the same air, drink the same water, and love the same incredible outdoors that make Pennsylvania great.

This summer, PennEnvironment and our national network launched a campaign to unite people across the state and nation to defend our environment from attacks by the Trump administration and Congress. Our campaign included media coverage and educational activities, new lawsuits against the Trump administration, and a door-to-door citizen outreach campaign that engaged more than 200,000 Pennsylvanians about attacks on our environment.

“Pittsburgh not Paris”

The Trump administration’s withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement in June struck close to home when the president declared he made this wrongheaded decision because he represents “Pittsburgh, not Paris.”

Within a week, PennEnvironment ran a full page advertisement in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette to debunk this dangerous decision. The ad was an open letter from nearly every elected official who represents the city, including Mayor Bill Peduto, Congressman Mike Doyle, members of city council, and state representatives and senators. The letter showed that the president’s decision doesn’t represent the opinion of Pittsburghers or their local officials.

Bake sale for the EPA

PennEnvironment and our members organized a set of tongue-in-cheek “Save the Environmental Protection Agency”



Credit: Stephanie Price

▲ PennEnvironment held bake sales in Pittsburgh, Delaware County and in front of the EPA office in Philadelphia to educate and engage local residents on the threats the president’s budget poses to our air and water.

(EPA) bake sales across the state to educate and engage local residents about President Trump’s proposed \$2.5 billion in budget cuts to the agency, which would have huge effects on air and water quality and environmental enforcement in Pennsylvania and across the nation.

PennEnvironment members and volunteers baked environmental-themed

cookies, brownies and other goodies, and manned tables outside offices of elected officials and the local EPA office. More than 200 volunteers distributed educational materials and collected signatures in support of the EPA, noting that it would take more than 5 million bake sales to replace the critical funding cuts being proposed by the Trump administration.



take action

Get involved today: www.PennEnvironment.org

◀ PennEnvironment’s ad appeared in the June 6 edition of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Signed by city officials including Mayor Bill Peduto and Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, the ad called for climate action after President Trump announced he would withdraw the U.S. from the Paris climate agreement.

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, our door-to-door staff visited hundreds of thousands of homes across Pennsylvania to inform them about current threats and unite them in defense of our environment. And Pennsylvanians took action, joining us to deliver tens of thousands of petitions calling on our senators to stand up for our air, water and climate.

We couldn't have done it without you. As a member of PennEnvironment, you're winning real results for our environment, and building a cleaner, greener future for kids growing up today.

Thanks for standing with us,



David Masur, Executive Director

Your Impact

Smell something? Say something

PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center joined researchers from Carnegie Mellon University this summer to roll out new features in Smell PGH, a smart-phone app that helps Pittsburgh-area residents collectively report foul odors and alert each other of suspicious smells that waft through the city's neighborhoods and suburbs.

Since Smell PGH was launched 10 months ago, the crowdsourcing app has been downloaded more than 1,800 times and users have reported foul odors more than 4,500 times. Smell PGH users can note the nature and intensity of smells, symptoms that they may be experiencing, and can choose to receive alerts about smell reports and changes in Pittsburgh's air quality index.

"Smell PGH is at the frontier of how citizen scientists can inform policymakers and ensure that we are protecting our health from the dangers of air pollution," said PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center's Stephen Riccardi.

Citizen Lobby Day a huge success

More than 100 PennEnvironment members traveled from all corners of Pennsylvania to the state Capitol in Harrisburg to participate in our annual Citizen Lobby Day in June.

This year's lobby day focused on urging state legislators in the Pennsylvania General Assembly to play a leadership role in implementing policies to tackle climate change and promote clean energy solutions like wind and solar power, along with energy conservation and efficiency.

"When it comes to keeping the laws that protect our health and environment intact, we know that we can't compete dollar for dollar with polluters and their lobbyists in this building," noted PennEnvironment Deputy Director Adam Garber. "But we know we have the public support, so that's why we do our Citizen Lobby Days—to bring that voice directly to decision-makers and make sure that they're hearing from more than just lobbyists and special interests."



Photo: USGS

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 x310 or send an email to: PlannedGiving@PennEnvironment.org.



State Sen. Wayne Fontana and State Rep. Kate Harper address the more than 100 Pennsylvanians who participated in PennEnvironment's Citizen Lobby Day.



PA cities rank poor for air pollution

dan Chmilla via Flickr, CC BY 2.0

Despite decades of progress under the federal Clean Air Act, a new study by PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center shows that millions of Pennsylvanians continue to breathe unhealthy air, leading to increased risk of premature death, asthma attacks and other adverse health effects. Moreover, this new report shows that Pennsylvania's largest metropolitan areas face some of the worst air pollution levels in the northeastern United States.

The report, "Our Health at Risk," reviewed Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) air pollution data from across the country, focused on smog and soot—dangerous pollutants that come from burning dirty fuels like coal, oil and natural gas. Philadelphia ranked second worst in the northeastern U.S., experiencing one in four days with elevated smog pollution, and 212 total days of elevated particulate matter. Pittsburgh ranked third worst in the region with 93 smog days, and had more days with elevated soot pollution in 2015 than any other city east of the Mississippi River.

"Even one day with unhealthy air is one too many," stated PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center's Adam Garber.

All told, 12 Pennsylvania cities had at least 100 days with unhealthy levels of air pollution during 2015.

Taking the axe to air protections

Despite that fact, President Trump is taking an axe to important programs that could help clean up our air. In recent months, the Trump administration has:

- Instructed the EPA to rewrite the Clean Power Plan, the largest step the United States has ever taken to cut dangerous global warming pollution;
- Instructed EPA to roll back federal clean cars standards that were supposed to prevent 6 billion metric tons of global warming pollution; and
- Told the Department of the Interior to rewrite air pollution regulations for oil and gas drilling.

"[Our Health at Risk] should serve as a clarion call to take action on climate change, a crisis that is impacting the health of Pennsylvanians and tens of millions of people across the nation," said Sen. Bob Casey. "The Trump administration should heed the warnings in this report."

Solutions at our fingertips

To address the air pollution problems affecting people in Pennsylvania and across the nation, PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center's report called for:

- Defending and building upon improvements in air quality through the Clean Air Act;
- Strengthening programs to reduce global warming pollution and improve air quality;
- Reducing the use of coal and natural gas for electricity generation by increasing energy efficiency and boosting clean energy sources including wind and solar; and
- Expanding the Clean Cars program to reduce air pollution from vehicles.



Our Health At Risk

Why Are Millions of Americans Still Breathing Unhealthy Air?

Harriet Eckstein Graphic Design, KristyFairfield CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Explore more online

▲ PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center released a new report, "Our Health at Risk," in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Harrisburg to educate people about the risk posed by air pollution levels in our cities.

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

Pennsylvanians' HEALTH AT RISK

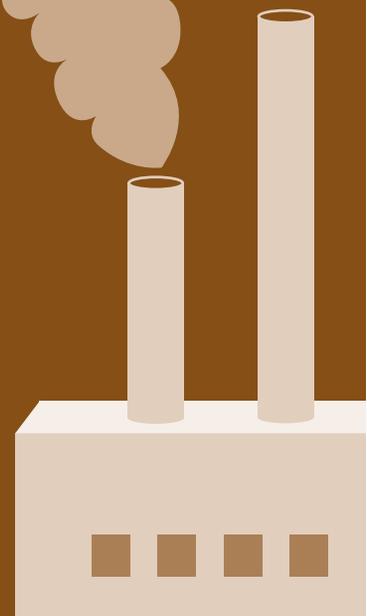
Particulate matter can trigger **premature birth**, raise the risk of **autism**, and stunt lung development and increase the risk of **asthma in children**.

PITTSBURGH:
220 DAYS

with elevated particulate matter pollution in 2015.

PHILADELPHIA:
212 DAYS

with elevated particulate matter pollution in 2015.



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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.

Lawsuit filed to defend environmental safeguards

PennEnvironment and a national coalition of environmental and public health groups filed a lawsuit this summer challenging a Trump administration effort to wipe out critical protections for cleaning up pollution from coal-fired power plants.

This spring, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) put an indefinite hold on a set of protections that limit the amount of contaminants—like arsenic, mercury, lead and other pollutants—that power plants are allowed to discharge into our rivers and streams.

Working with Earthjustice and attorneys at the Environmental Integrity Project, the suit asks the federal court to uphold these much-needed protections. “We all know the threat posed by arsenic, lead and mercury pollution,” stated PennEnvironment’s David Masur. “We won’t stand by while the Trump EPA attempts to let power plants discharge these toxic pollutants without limit.”



Credit: Staff



Support our efforts

Learn more and donate at:
www.PennEnvironment.org

◀ In 2011, PennEnvironment and our partners won a lawsuit against GenOn Northeast Management Company, which had violated the Clean Water Act 8,684 times, dumping toxic pollutants and heavy metals into the Conemaugh River.