



Annual Report

A look back at our work together in fiscal year 2017



Our members make the difference

None of our work would be possible without the passion, energy and support of people like you, who are standing up in California and all across the country to protect the places and people we love.

It's been quite a year. Climate scientists agree it's more critical than ever that we act immediately to reverse the effects of climate change and transition to a carbon-free world—and yet we have an administration in the White House that seems bent on taking us in the opposite direction. Sometimes it feels like we're under attack on all fronts.

But I've never been prouder of the work we've done together, nor more optimistic about what we can continue to accomplish. You stood up for our water, our air, our beloved special places and our future. Thanks to you and the hard work of our staff and partner groups, we're doing big things at all levels and showing the world that the American people are committed to a cleaner, greener future—even if our president and Congress refuse to lead.

You came through for the places we love, flooding the Department of the Interior with comments in support of our national monuments. You helped us convince governors, mayors, and business and community leaders to uphold our commitments under the Paris Climate Agreement. You helped us make the case for a 100 percent renewable future.

In this report, you'll learn more about the things we were able to accomplish last year with your help. Our power to make real progress toward a cleaner, greener future comes from the passion and dedication of millions of concerned citizens like you.

As we begin another year, I'm excited for all we can accomplish together. Thank you for what you make possible. You are, quite literally, saving the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Jacobsen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Dan Jacobsen
Director

Defend Our Environment

For the past 50 years, America has enjoyed cleaner air, cleaner water and better protected public lands thanks to environmental laws and other protections. In 2017, as the Trump administration and new Congress sought to dismantle this legacy, we stood in defense of our environment.

Defend the EPA

When President Trump proposed a budget that would slash EPA funding by nearly one-third, Environment America launched a campaign to defend the agency from crippling budget cuts. We gathered thousands of public comments to show the White House that most Americans want more protections for our health and environment, not fewer. Environment California Research & Policy Center published “Rough Waters Ahead” a series of reports examining the impact of EPA budget cuts on our waters.

Defend the environment in court

When the government has failed to enforce protections for air and water, Environment California, our national network, and our partners at the National Environmental Law Center have stepped in to hold polluters accountable and take them to court when they break the law.

In Texas, our sister group Environment Texas won a \$19.95 million settlement last April against ExxonMobil for thousands of violations of the Clean Air Act, and a case against Pasadena Refining for similar violations is in progress. Environment Florida filed suit against Pilgrim’s Pride, the world’s second largest chicken producer, for polluting the Suwannee River. In Pennsylvania, PennEnvironment is taking on the world’s largest steel company, ArcelorMittal, for showering Pittsburgh-area neighborhoods with emissions of soot, acidic gases and noxious odors. Our national network’s lawsuits have resulted in more than \$250 million in court-ordered penalties and pollution reduction actions.



Top: In March, National Environmental Law Center’s Heather Govern (middle) and Environment Florida’s Jennifer Rubiello (right) announced a lawsuit against Pilgrim’s Pride.

Bottom: Environment New Mexico’s Sanders Moore (middle) spoke at an event recognizing New Mexico Senator Martin Heinrich (right).



Clean, Green & Renewable

Fossil fuels have changed our climate faster than scientists feared, but renewable energy has grown faster than experts predicted. We know we can and must power our lives without polluting our environment, which is why Environment California has been working to put our cities, states, communities and corporations on a path to 100 percent renewable energy. California has long been a clean energy leader, and we're working now to raise the bar to create healthier, more livable communities for kids growing up today, setting a strong example for states all across the country.



▲ Clean Energy Advocate Michelle Kinman speaks at a press conference we organized in San Diego, as part of a 12-city press tour, to demonstrate support for SB 100.



▲ Hundreds of Californians joined us in photo petitions in favor of 100 percent renewable energy.

RENEWABLES

Renewable energy on the rise

Burning oil, gas and coal has polluted our air, water and land for decades, and it's changing our climate even faster than scientists feared. The good news is that a future based on 100 percent renewable energy has never been more within reach. Solar power has skyrocketed in California, as the Golden State now produces 25.8 times more solar electricity than we did just a decade ago, according to a report released in July by Environment California Research & Policy Center.

We can have healthier communities today and leave our children a cleaner, more livable tomorrow, but only if we turn our backs on the dirty technologies of the past and commit to a 100 percent renewable future.

A bold renewable energy goal for California

Making a commitment to 100 percent renewable energy is a big, bold goal, one that would make California a world leader in the race to a cleaner, healthier future.

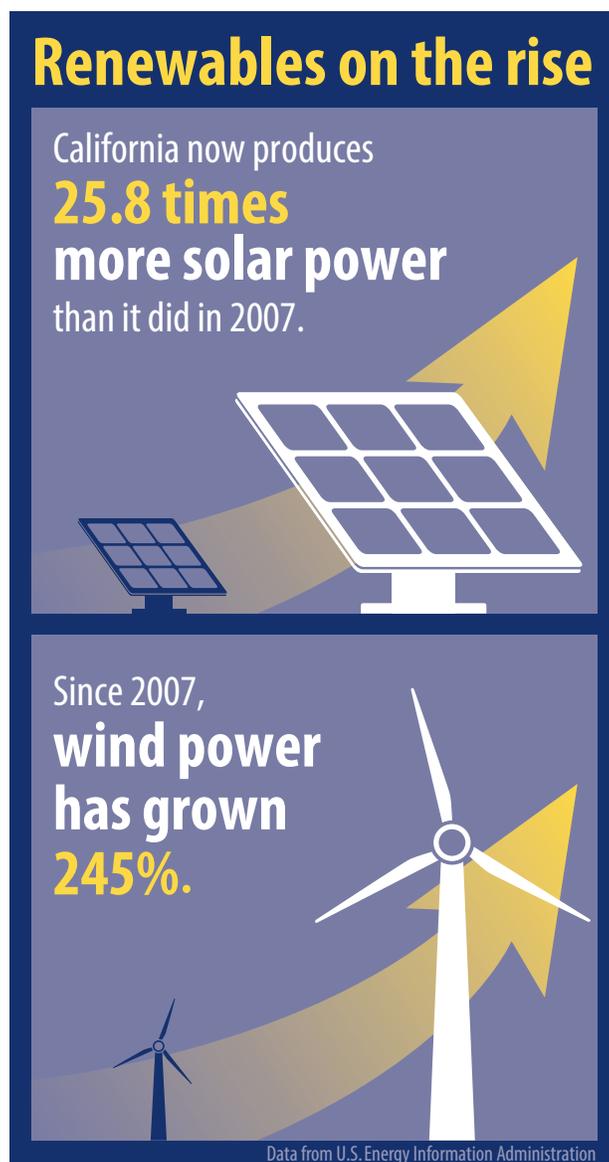
And there's plenty of good news all around the state. Already, at least 30 diverse California cities—including Lancaster, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Barbara and Richmond—have committed to a 100 percent clean energy future. Meanwhile, leading California companies such as Amazon, Facebook and Google have all committed to achieving 100 renewable energy in their operations.

You helped us make the case for 100 percent renewable energy

Last year, Environment California worked in support of SB 100, a bill that would commit California to achieving 100 percent renewable electricity by 2045. Through a 12-city press conference tour, social media outreach and face-to-face conversations with hundreds of thousands of Californians, Environment California raised awareness of the importance of committing to 100 percent renewable electricity. According to the Public Policy Institute of California, 76 percent of California adults support the bill, and it earned the endorsement of a wide array of leaders in the environmental, public health, labor, environmental justice, faith, business, entertainment and youth communities.

Unfortunately, intense special interest lobbying stalled the bill from passing this year, but we are committed to continuing our efforts to ensure that California continues to lead the way on advancing clean energy and staving off the worst impacts of climate change.

Thanks to your support, we can keep mobilizing our members and supporters to make the case for a cleaner, greener world.



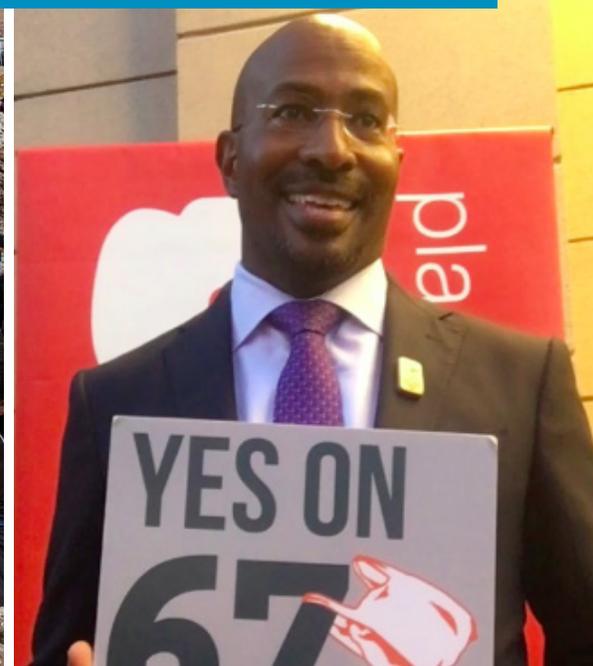


Plastic bags banned!

Back in 2014, you helped us win a statewide bill to ban single-use plastic bags. But a few out-of-state companies spent millions on a referendum to repeal the ban before it could even take effect. Last year, with your support, Environment California helped save the ban and make California the first state in the nation to ban plastic bags statewide.



▲ In the summer of 2016, we held a plastic bag pickup to shine a spotlight on the amount of damage plastic bags cause to our beaches and oceans.



▲ Prominent voices like CNN's Van Jones joined our cause as we worked to save the plastic bag ban.

Our campaign to ban plastic bags

Nothing we use for a few minutes should be allowed to pollute our ocean for hundreds of years. But before California communities started banning plastic bags, we used nearly 19 billion plastic bags each year, with less than five percent recycled.

For more than eight years, Environment California has been working for a statewide ban on plastic bags even as we built support for local bag bans. Last year, with your support, we finally reached that goal when California became the first state in the nation to go plastic bag-free.

Victory in the legislature

It was all the way back in 2014 that the California Legislature passed—and Governor Jerry Brown signed into law—SB 270, a bill that required retailers to phase out single-use plastic bags.

But that law didn't even have a chance to take effect before its opponents moved to repeal it.

Led by Formosa Plastics and Hilex Poly Co., LLC., the plastic bag industry funded a ballot measure to put the ban to a referendum vote: Proposition 67.

Victory at the polls

The industry spent more than \$6 million to defeat the ballot measure, but they were no match for our hard work.

Thanks to your support, Environment California held 15 press conferences, sent countless emails and Facebook posts, and helped organize hundreds of local groups to reach millions of Californians and raise awareness around Prop 67.

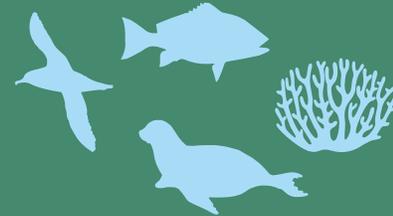
On college campuses across the state, we partnered with CALPIRG students to recruit more than 500 volunteers, educate more than 22,000 students about Prop 67 and turn thousands of students out to the polls.

Thanks to all the people who helped out with emails, phone calls, posts on the web, and many other attention-grabbing avenues—our efforts prevailed. The vote to fully implement the statewide ban won 52-48.

With your help, California became the first state to implement a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags, setting an example for the rest of the country.

Photo credits: (left page, clockwise from top) Staff, Staff, Staff

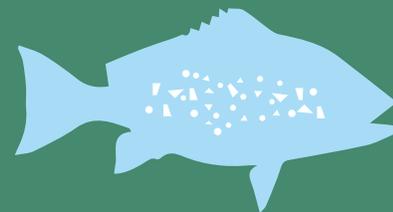
Did you know?



90%
of ocean debris, which harms
more than **660** marine species,
is made up of plastic trash.



In some areas of the Pacific Ocean,
plastic outweighs
plankton six to one.



25%
of fish sold at supermarkets
contain plastic debris.



Charge Ahead California

Exhaust from cars, trucks, buses and other transportation makes up the single largest source of global warming pollution in California. To combat this, Environment California Research & Policy Center worked to keep the state of California committed to the goal of 1.5 million electric vehicles on California roads by 2025. Last year, with your support, we delivered thousands of petitions to keep California's electric vehicle goals strong, and secured a commitment to transition all Los Angeles County buses to electric buses by 2030.



▲ Clean Energy Advocate Michelle Kinman (right) and Public Interest Network Deputy Political Director Will Eley at the launch of the successful campaign to get L.A. Metro to commit to 100 percent electric buses by 2030.



▲ Michelle Kinman delivers petitions to the California Air Resources board. When the Zero Emissions Vehicle mandate, a program that aims to put 1.5 million electric vehicles on California roads by 2025, came under attack last year, we rallied 10,000 Californians to protect it. And we won!

California leads the nation in electric cars

California is well on the way to putting 1.5 million electric vehicles on the road by 2025. By August 2017, our state had more than 323,000 electric vehicles on the road—more than any other state in the country. But we can't slow down.

We stood up for California's Zero Emission Vehicle goal

California's pioneering program to put 1.5 million electric vehicles on our roads by 2025—the Zero Emission Vehicle mandate—came under relentless attack from the auto industry last year in an attempt to slow down the growth of the electric vehicle market.

In response, Environment California members and supporters signed and collected petitions in support of continuing and strengthening California's commitment to electric vehicles. We were able to publicly deliver more than 10,000 petitions to the Air Resources Board when they convened to decide on the future of the program.

The Board listened to Californians and reaffirmed without a doubt that California will accelerate progress toward meeting our electric vehicle goals and continue to set a strong example for other states to follow.

We electrified Los Angeles

Your support helped us win two key victories in transforming the way Angelenos get from point A to point B.

As a result of our Charge Ahead California Initiative, the City of Los Angeles launched BlueLA, an innovative electric vehicle car-sharing program that will offer 100 all-electric vehicles and 200 public charging stations to low-income residents in Central L.A. This forward-thinking program will make it possible for more Angelenos to get in the driver's seat of the clean vehicle revolution.

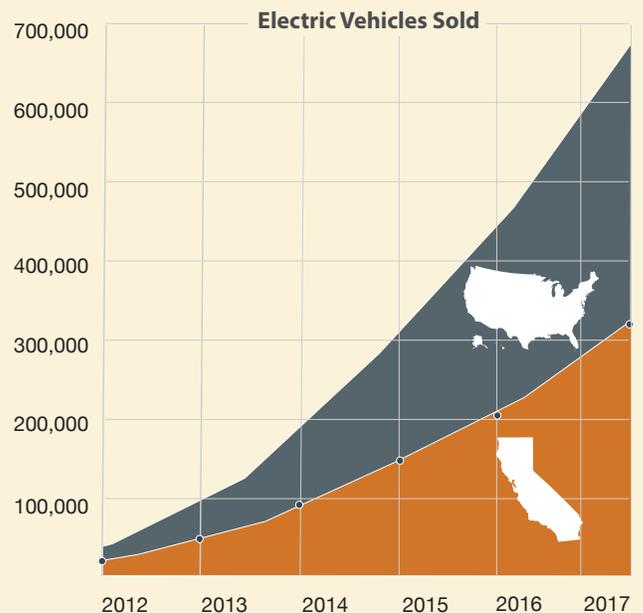
Our second victory came when, along with a diverse coalition, we convinced L.A. Metro to commit to achieving a 100 percent electric bus fleet for the county by 2030. With over 2,200 buses in operation, Metro will save more than 382 million pounds of carbon annually with a 100 percent electric bus fleet. The second-biggest city in the country is now driving to the front of the clean transit movement, blazing a trail for cities all across the country.

We built momentum in the Bay Area

In Oakland, San Francisco and Richmond, we organized public education and outreach events at which members of the community were able to test-drive electric cars, learn about financial incentives, and gain a better understanding of the impacts of burning fossil fuels. In partnership with local elected officials, churches and community organizations, we created excitement for accelerating the growth of clean vehicles throughout the Bay Area.

California Charges Ahead

It's no accident that California sales account for half of all electric vehicle sales nationwide: Initiatives we fought for are powering the transition.



Source: Veloz.org



No Bees, No Food

Bees are dying off at an unsustainable rate, with alarming consequences for our environment and our food supply. Scientists point to several causes of bee colony collapse, including climate change, parasites and pesticide use. We're working to save bees and other pollinators by banning the use of neonicotinoids—a class of pesticides linked to bee die-offs. After all, when bees pollinate everything from apples to strawberries to the alfalfa used to feed dairy cows, we know it's bees, not pesticides, that make our farms and food possible.

Give bees a chance

Neonicotinoids (neonics) are the most widely used class of pesticide in the country, yet big agrichemical companies are using them more and more. That's why Environment California worked hard last year to educate the public on the need to ban these bee-killing pesticides. Over the summer, we held events like bee-friendly BBQs and picnics to drive home how much we count on bees for the foods we eat every day.

This summer, Environment California and our allies gathered and delivered more than 164,000 public comments from people like you who called on the Environmental Protection Agency to carefully review and declare a moratorium on four bee-killing neonics.

The Bee Friendly Food Alliance

In 2017, we launched the Bee Friendly Food Alliance to unite chefs, restaurant owners and other leaders in the food industry to save the bees. The alliance keeps our allies updated on the problems facing bees and provides opportunities to make their voices heard by the public and decision-makers.

More than 30 restaurants joined us for National Pollinator Week in June to educate customers, highlight the contributions of bees through food and drink specials, and spread the word through social media.



Top: Our national network held events all over the country to raise awareness about the importance of bees and the problems they face.

Bottom: Our staff delivered public comments from citizens to the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C., calling for a ban on bee-killing pesticides.



Conservation

From the Grand Canyon to the Everglades, our parks, forests and public lands are a beloved part of our natural heritage. They're the places we visit with friends and family to hike, bike, fish and open our eyes to the wonders of the great outdoors. Last year, our public lands faced threats like never before, as the Trump administration and some members of Congress pushed shortsighted plans to open these sensitive landscapes to dirty and dangerous development.

You stood up for our national monuments

America's outdoors are part of what make this country special. So when President Trump ordered a review of 27 of our national monuments, from Katahdin Woods and Waters in Maine to Giant Sequoia in California, you spoke out.

Environment California and our coalition partners helped deliver more than 2.7 million of your public comments to the Department of the Interior, calling on the president and Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke to preserve our monuments.

While Secretary Zinke ultimately did not revoke any of our monuments' protected status, he recommended weakening protections for Bears Ears National Monument and nine others, potentially opening those lands up for mining and drilling. In the new year, we'll continue to defend these special places and keep our public lands in public hands.

You said no to offshore drilling

From Exxon-Valdez to Deepwater Horizon, we've seen time and again that when you drill, you spill. That's why Environment California and our national affiliates have stood strong against efforts by the Trump administration to open the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic oceans to expanded offshore drilling. We engaged coastal communities and Americans from Alaska to Florida to send a clear message to Washington, D.C.: Our oceans should be preserved, not sold off to the highest bidder.



Top: Environment California and our allies delivered more than 2.7 million public comments to the Department of the Interior, calling on them to save our monuments.

Bottom: Our Clean Oceans advocate LaShe Rodriguez educated the leadership of Del Mar and other cities on the dangers of offshore drilling and urged them to publicly oppose expanded drilling in the Pacific.

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