

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 Texas 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,

Luke Metzger
Executive 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 Texas 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 Texas, 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.

Here in Texas, we 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: Rep. Lloyd Doggett of Austin was one of our strongest champions in Congress last year.



San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg joins us at a solar energy event in Texas.



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 Texas has been working to put our cities, states, communities and corporations on a path to 100 percent renewable energy. From city halls across the country to Washington, D.C., we're leading the way to a cleaner, greener future.



▲ Clean Energy Advocate Michelle Kinman of our affiliate, Environment California, held a 12-city press tour in support of 100 percent renewable energy in California.



▲ Clean Energy Program Director Rob Sargent visited Block Island, R.I. for the opening of America's first offshore wind farm.

Renewable energy on the rise

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 renewable energy is growing faster than experts predicted. 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.

100% Renewable

Last year, Environment America took concrete steps to bring us closer to the world we want to live in. Knowing we were facing strong headwinds in Washington, we built momentum for clean energy at the state and local level.

In California and Massachusetts, we campaigned for legislation that would put both those states on a path to 100 percent renewable energy. Spurred on by our research and local action, Atlanta committed to going 100 percent renewable by 2035. Portland, Ore. and Philadelphia also made 100 percent renewable commitments in the last year.

There's even good news coming out of Washington, D.C. Last year, Sens. Jeff Merkley (Ore.), Ed Markey (Mass.), Bernie Sanders (Vt.), and Cory Booker (N.J.) introduced the "100 by '50 Act" into the U.S. Senate, with a House companion bill following a few months later. The bill would put in place a comprehensive plan to ramp up renewable energy and energy efficiency while halting the development of fossil fuel infrastructure, putting the United States on a path to achieve 100 percent renewable energy by 2050.

Go Solar

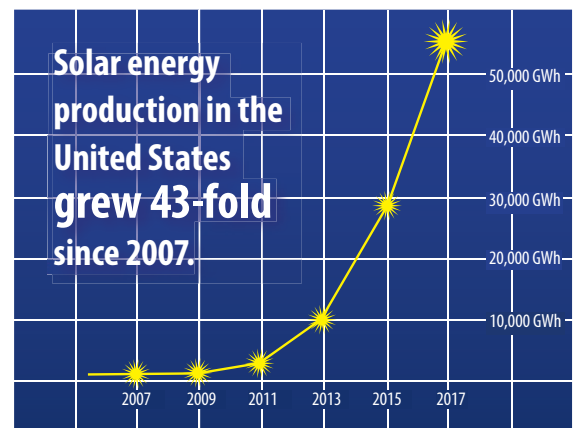
Every year enough sunlight shines on America to provide 100 times more power than we need. Environment America's Shining Cities project campaigned for expanded solar energy in 50 key cities, including San Antonio and Tempe, Ariz.

We stood for pro-solar policies in the face of attacks by special interest groups who sought to undermine them. In Washington State, we won a major expansion and modernization of the state's solar incentive program, which offers homeowners and businesses rebates for producing solar energy. In June, the Nevada legislature restored a rooftop solar incentive program after nearly a year and a half without it.

Go Big on Offshore Wind

Once wind farms are in operation, the fuel is free: Nobody can charge you for the wind. The Atlantic Coast is especially well-suited for wind power, with shallow waters and millions of people living close to shore. Atlantic winds could ultimately meet 40 percent of current energy needs.

Thanks in part to Environment America's research, advocacy and action, the nation's first offshore wind farm opened last year three miles off the Rhode Island coast.





Clean Water

The waterways that Americans love should be clean, safe and beautiful. In 2017, we defended the Clean Water Rule, which protects 2 million miles of streams, launched our effort to Get the Lead Out of school drinking water supplies, and worked with nearly 200 local watershed groups through our Clean Water Network.



▲ In February, Environment Texas Research & Policy Center released "Get the Lead Out," drawing attention to the threat of lead in our schools and preschools.



▲ In June, Environment Texas staff joined with Austin City Council Members Ann Kitchen and Alison Alter to celebrate the passage of a green stormwater infrastructure resolution.

In defense of clean water

Stormwater runoff has become one of the top causes of water pollution in Texas. According to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, 431 miles of streams are polluted by urban runoff. Dirty stormwater threatens some of our most iconic waterways, including Galveston Bay, Lady Bird Lake, and the Trinity and San Antonio rivers.

Last year, we worked to persuade Texas cities to use rainwater retention features such as green roofs, rain gardens, permeable pavement and rain cisterns. Known as Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) and Low Impact Development (LID), these features can cut runoff by catching rain where it falls.

Our first success came in June, when we convinced the Austin City Council to adopt a resolution supporting the increased use of GSI/LID. We'll continue working to win similar commitments in Houston, Dallas, Fort Worth and San Antonio. Texas will keep growing, but together we can make our new growth as green as possible.

“Get the Lead Out”

Four years ago, the tragedy in Flint, Mich., stunned the nation. We watched the drinking water of an entire city become contaminated with lead. And now we know this toxic threat extends well beyond Flint to communities across the country—including in our schools and preschools.

Last February, Environment Texas Research & Policy Center released “Get the Lead Out,” a report showing the alarming prevalence of lead contamination in school drinking water. The information publicly available is still very limited, but what we do have access to paints a grim picture. The report found evidence of lead contamination in schools all across the country—including right here in Texas, where 779 schools in Houston, Dallas, Austin and other Texas cities have found significant lead contamination in their water.

Clean Water Network

Every day, we hear stories of new threats to the waterways that are critical to our health and quality of life. That's why we and our affiliates around the country formed the Clean Water Network. A project of Environment America Research & Policy Center, the Clean Water Network (CWN) is a nationwide coalition of nearly local 200 clean water groups working to protect the waterways we love.

Last year, CWN member group Shenandoah Riverkeeper celebrated a victory protecting the Shenandoah from waste treatment plant pollution, and Western Reserve Land Conservancy doubled the Hach-Otis Sanctuary and State Nature Preserve in Ohio by preserving approximately 80.5 acres of land.

Where do we need to get the lead out?



FLORIDA

At least 24 schools

GEORGIA

At least 25 Atlanta schools

ILLINOIS

At least 113 Chicago schools

MARYLAND

All Baltimore schools

MASSACHUSETTS

At least 20,000 school water outlets

NEW JERSEY

Schools in at least three counties

NEW YORK

14 percent of school water outlets

PENNSYLVANIA

Schools in Philadelphia and Butler Counties

TEXAS

779 schools in Houston, Dallas, Austin, and other Texas cities

WISCONSIN

183 school water fountains

WASHINGTON, D.C.

At least 64 schools



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 Texas 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 Texas 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: Environment Texas' Luke Metzger (left) urges the Texas Senate to take action to protect bees.

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

A historic victory

When we took ExxonMobil to court for Clean Air Act violations at its Baytown facility, we knew it would be a long, difficult process. But last year, after six years of litigation, we won a historic victory when a federal district court ruled in our favor and penalized Exxon \$19.95 million, proving that private citizens victimized by the world's biggest polluters can get justice in the American court system, even when government regulators look the other way.

Texas-sized justice for ExxonMobil

In April, we won a historic courtroom victory for our environment and public health as Environment Texas and the National Environmental Law Center (NELC) prevailed in a federal lawsuit against ExxonMobil Corporation.

Over the course of eight years, ExxonMobil's Baytown, Texas, refinery and chemical plant—one of the largest manufacturing facilities in the country—emitted 10 million pounds of illegal air pollution. This included carcinogens, other toxic air pollutants and respiratory irritants that affected tens of thousands of people living within a three-mile radius of the complex.

After an initial ruling in favor of ExxonMobil was overturned on appeal, a federal district court judge found ExxonMobil guilty of violating the Clean Air Act. The judge imposed a \$19.95 million penalty—which we believe is the largest civil penalty ever awarded in an environmental citizen suit—as punishment for more than 16,000 days of violations at Exxon's Baytown refinery.

"After six years of litigation against one of the state's biggest polluters, justice has finally been served," said Environment Texas Director Luke Metzger. "The appeals court ruling confirms that even the world's most powerful corporations must be held accountable when they violate our environmental and public health laws."



A federal court found that Exxon committed 16,386 days of violations of the Clean Air Act at its Baytown refinery and chemical plant.

Environment Texas and Sierra Club submitted thousands of pages of Exxon's legally mandated reports at trial, using its own words to prove that the company had violated its state-issued, federally mandated operating permits.

Environment Texas supporters

Citizen support is the cornerstone of Environment Texas. Thousands of Texans supported Environment Texas, Inc., a project of Environment America, Inc., Environment Texas Research & Policy Center, Inc., and/or Environment Texas's connected political action committee, Environment America Voter Action, by making contributions in fiscal year 2017. The members listed below were particularly generous in backing the organizations' research and advocacy. Names that appear in italics denote Monthly Supporters.

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The following members supported Environment Texas and/or Environment Texas Research & Policy Center with contributions of \$2,000 or more.

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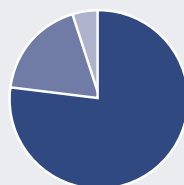
Foundation support

Environment Texas Research & Policy Center, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) organization, and conducts research and public education on emerging environmental issues. Contributions to Environment Texas Research & Policy Center, Inc., are tax-deductible. Environment Texas, Inc., and Environment Texas Research & Policy Center, Inc., would like to thank the following organizations for supporting our work in fiscal year 2017.

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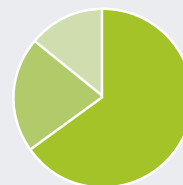
Financial information

Environment Texas, Inc. is a project of Environment America, Inc. These charts represent the final financial information for Environment America, Inc., for fiscal year 2016.



FY16 Expenses

- Program 77%
- Fundraising 18%
- Management 5%



FY16 Income

- Citizen 65%
- Grants 21%
- Other 14%

In Memoriam: Mary Muegge



We sadly note the passing of our great supporter Mary Muegge of Houston. An Environment Texas activist in years past, she has left a very generous IRA contribution to our organization.

Mary served as an elementary school teacher with the Houston Independent School District for more than 40 years; in more recent years, she was active with local Catholic and interfaith groups and with the Alley Theatre. In 2013, she inherited an IRA from her late brother Fred Muegge, a talented Hill Country furniture maker from Fredericksburg. Mary used the distributions from Fred's retirement account to support causes close to her brother's heart, and in the end left the balance of the account to Environment Texas. Fred had a great concern about the production and use of chemicals and pesticides that are harming people and our planet, and felt strongly that we all should all do our part to discourage these practices and to protect and nurture the environment.

We are deeply grateful for Mary's legacy gift, which honors both her brother's and her own environmental values.

The Public Interest Network

Environment Texas and our sister groups are part of The Public Interest Network. The network is home to more than 16 organizations, including the Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) and Green Corps. Each of our groups has its own mission, whether it's consumer advocacy, environmental litigation or training new organizers. But the 400-plus staff in our network share a vision of a better country, a set of core values about our work and a coordinated strategic approach to getting things done.

Toward a greener future

Environment Texas and Environment Texas 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 ext. 310 or send an email to:

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(512) 479-0388

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Luke Metzger
Executive Director,
Environment Texas



Brian Zabcik
Clean Air & Water Advocate



Rob Sargent
Director, Energy Program



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Director, Clean Water Program



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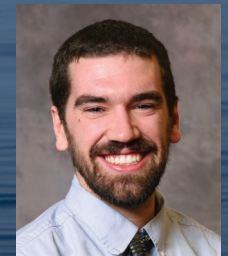
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Senior Policy Analyst



Chuck Caldart
Litigation Director and Senior
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Ed Johnson
Director, Outreach & Civic
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Pat Wood
Managing Director, Community
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Director, Digital



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