



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 Massachusetts 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, appearing to read "Ben Hellerstein". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ben Hellerstein
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.

What's going on in Washington, D.C.

Over the past year, our environmental protections have been under attack on all fronts. From threatening the protected status of our national monuments to rolling back the Obama administration's Clean Water Rule, this administration and Congress have set a reckless, shortsighted course to dismantle as many of America's environmental protections as they can.

Our path forward

With your help, Environment Massachusetts stood strong for the environment against all threats. Our best chance of stopping the attacks on our environmental protections lies in the U.S. Senate, where 51 votes will be enough to block most legislation. Last year, we joined our national network to run a nationwide campaign to educate and mobilize the majority of Americans who want to see our environment protected. We held more than 1 million conversations with Americans from Maine to California, from Minnesota to Texas, and we delivered hundreds of thousands of petitions to our senators urging them to form a green line of defense against further environmental rollbacks.

We built coalitions and united people from both sides of the political divide to defend the environmental progress we've made. We're living in challenging times, said Environment America Executive Director Margie Alt, but I'm confident our campaign will help galvanize the public, and make sure people's voices are heard loud and clear.



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

In a greener, healthier world, we would conserve more, use the energy we have more wisely and efficiently, and rely only on sources of energy that are clean, renewable and tread lightly on the planet. In the past year, we took concrete steps to move closer to the world we want to live in.



▲ 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

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. 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.

The 100% Renewable Energy Act

In January, Environment Massachusetts worked with State Representative Sean Garballey (D-Arlington), State Representative Marjorie Decker (D-Cambridge) and State Senator Jamie Eldridge (D-Acton) to file the 100% Renewable Energy Act. The bill would commit Massachusetts to obtaining 100 percent of its electricity from clean, renewable sources like solar and wind by 2035, and powering other sectors of the economy, like heating and transportation, with renewables by 2050.

Environment Massachusetts immediately went to work to build support for the legislation. Now is the time for Massachusetts to go big on clean energy, Environment Massachusetts Director Ben Hellerstein said the day the bill was filed. We're excited to work with Rep. Garballey, Rep. Decker, and Sen. Eldridge to advocate for the solutions we need.

Within two weeks, the bill had garnered 53 cosponsors in the House and Senate—more than a quarter of all members of the Legislature.

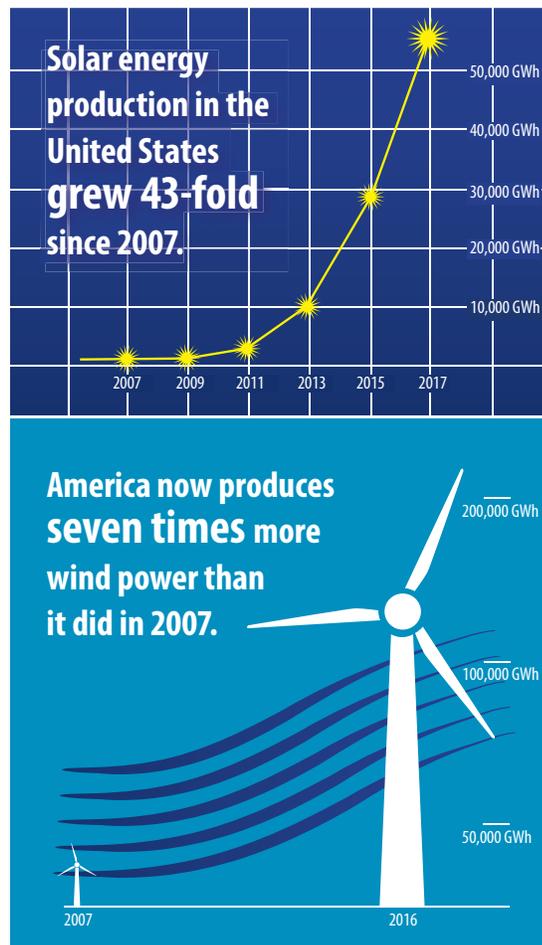
In June, President Trump's wrongheaded decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris climate agreement created even more impetus for leadership at the state level. Environment Massachusetts rallied advocates, local leaders and concerned citizens at the Statehouse to call on legislators to fast-track the 100% Renewable Energy Act.

Local and campus clean commitments

While we made the case for a 100 percent renewable future at the highest levels of state government, we also worked from the ground up. Along with a statewide coalition called Mass Power Forward, we released a handbook to help local activists advocate for clean energy in their communities.

As the state's largest city, Boston has an opportunity to lead the way on renewable energy. An Environment Massachusetts Research & Policy Center report titled 100% Renewable Boston describes how city officials can help Boston lead the transition to 100 percent renewable energy by scaling up solar installations, net zero carbon buildings, electric vehicles, mass transportation, energy storage and more.

In another report, Renewable Energy 100: The Course to a Carbon-Free Campus, Environment Massachusetts Research & Policy Center identified ways that institutions of higher education, so plentiful in the state, are well positioned to lead the way toward a 100 percent clean energy future.





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.



▲ Environment Massachusetts State Director Ben Hellerstein spoke at the Massachusetts Statehouse for a press conference launching our campaign to get the lead out of school drinking water.



▲ In March, Environment Massachusetts Clean Water Program Director John Rumpler (middle) and local water advocates from other states met with the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C., to raise concerns about proposals to weaken clean water protections.

In defense of clean water

When President Trump moved to roll back protections for waters that help provide drinking water for 117 million Americans, Environment Massachusetts was ready to stand up for our waters. We mobilized immediately to push back against the repeal, rallying support across the country to defend the Clean Water Rule and other key water protections.

Our clean water team enlisted hundreds of business and political leaders to voice their support for the Clean Water Rule. Our state leaders submitted op-eds and letters to the editor to dozens of local papers, as well as national media outlets like The New York Times and CNBC.

Clean water is vital to our ecology, our health and our quality of life, said Environment Massachusetts Clean Water Program Director John Rumpler. Repealing the Clean Water Rule turns the mission of the EPA on its head.

“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 Massachusetts Research & Policy Center released Get the Lead Out, a report showing the alarming prevalence of lead contamination in school drinking water. Even the limited information that’s publicly available showed evidence of lead contamination in schools across the country, including right here in the Bay State.

To address this threat to our children’s health, Environment Massachusetts helped introduce a bill in the State Legislature: HD 3453/SD 1985, An Act Ensuring Safe Drinking Water at Schools and Early Childhood Programs.

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 200 local 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

At least **62** Dallas-Ft. Worth area schools

WISCONSIN

183 school water fountains

WASHINGTON, D.C.

At least **64** schools



Global Warming Solutions

We need to do all we can as fast as we can wherever we can to slow global warming. In 2017, we defended the Clean Power Plan, waged successful regional and local campaigns to reduce pollution from power plants and other sources, and encouraged investors to go fossil fuel free.



▲ Susan Rakov leads our research team. Last year, the team published extensive reports on the climate benefits of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, the environmental impacts of the president's proposed budget cuts, and much more.



▲ Global Warming Campaign Organizer Meghan Hassett (left) organized a tour of the Boston Public Library, where funding from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative has supported major energy efficiency improvements.

We took concrete climate action

When President Trump was elected, we knew our work was going to get more challenging. Last year, we defended climate progress and continued to take smaller, concrete steps toward a healthy future.

Defend the Clean Power Plan

Once President Trump took office, he set his sights on President Obama's Clean Power Plan, a set of measures to limit carbon pollution from dirty power plants. Environment America acted immediately to defend the plan against attempts to roll it back.

We rallied thousands of public comments in support of the plan, educated citizens and leaders about the plan's importance to our climate and health, and backed our efforts up with hard-hitting research on carbon-cutting success stories and the health risks of carbon pollution.

Think globally, act locally

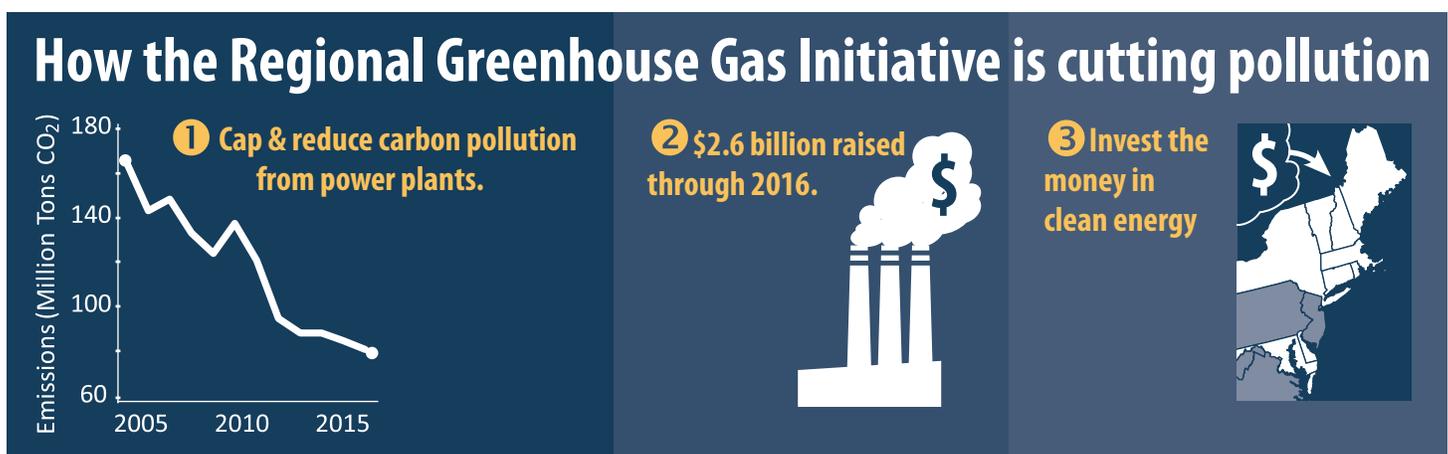
Nine states in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, including Massachusetts, are leading the way with America's most successful clean air and climate protection program: the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). Since 2009, the program has cut dangerous pollution from power plants while generating billions in funding for clean energy programs. Environment America helped shape RGGI from the very beginning, and now we're working to strengthen it, and ratchet down greenhouse gas emissions even faster.

In March, Environment Massachusetts Research & Policy Center released "Doubling Down on Climate Progress," a report that found that RGGI's clean air benefits have saved 600 lives over the past six years, prevented 9,000 asthma attacks, and averted 260,000 days of restricted activity—such as inability to exercise outdoors—caused by poor air quality.

Fossil-free investing

We offer our members a way to align their investments with their values through the Green Century Funds, which were founded by environmental advocacy groups affiliated with Environment Massachusetts.* Green Century is the first family of diversified, responsible, fossil fuel free mutual funds, allowing people to avoid industries that accelerate climate change and instead supporting companies helping to build a more sustainable economy.

Green Century also uses its leverage as a shareholder to push companies to improve environmental policies and practices. For example, our Forest Protection Campaign will keep at least 1.5 gigatons of carbon dioxide out of our air through the company zero-deforestation commitments we have secured.





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 Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts 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: In April, President Trump signed an executive order to allow expanded offshore drilling in the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic Oceans.

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