



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 if it were not for the passion, energy and support of concerned citizens across Pennsylvania. Together, we're doing big things."

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 worked with us to 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 "David Masur". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David Masur
PennEnvironment Executive Director

A 100 percent renewable future

If we're ever going to truly tackle climate change, we need Pennsylvania and the nation to move to 100 percent renewable energy as rapidly as possible. This will mean powering our lives without harming our environment, and producing and consuming energy while we enjoy healthy, livable communities. And it means ensuring that we give our children, grandchildren and future generations a livable future on a healthy planet. The stakes couldn't be higher.

A bold goal for Pennsylvania

Burning dirty fossil fuels like oil, gas and coal has polluted our air, water and land for decades. The practice is also a main culprit in our impending climate crisis.

But we have the knowledge, tools and desire to build healthier communities and a livable future for our children by making a transformative shift today in the ways we produce and consume energy. That's why PennEnvironment is pushing a big and bold goal: getting our state and national officials to make a commitment to 100 percent renewable power.

You're helping us get to 100 percent

At our annual citizen lobby day at the state Capitol, more than 100 of our members and volunteers traveled to Harrisburg to make the case for a clean energy future.

After meetings with more than 50 legislators from across the Commonwealth, it's clear that there is bipartisan support for clean energy. Dozens of legislators stepped up to support critical policies that will boost solar and wind power production and make our buildings more energy efficient.

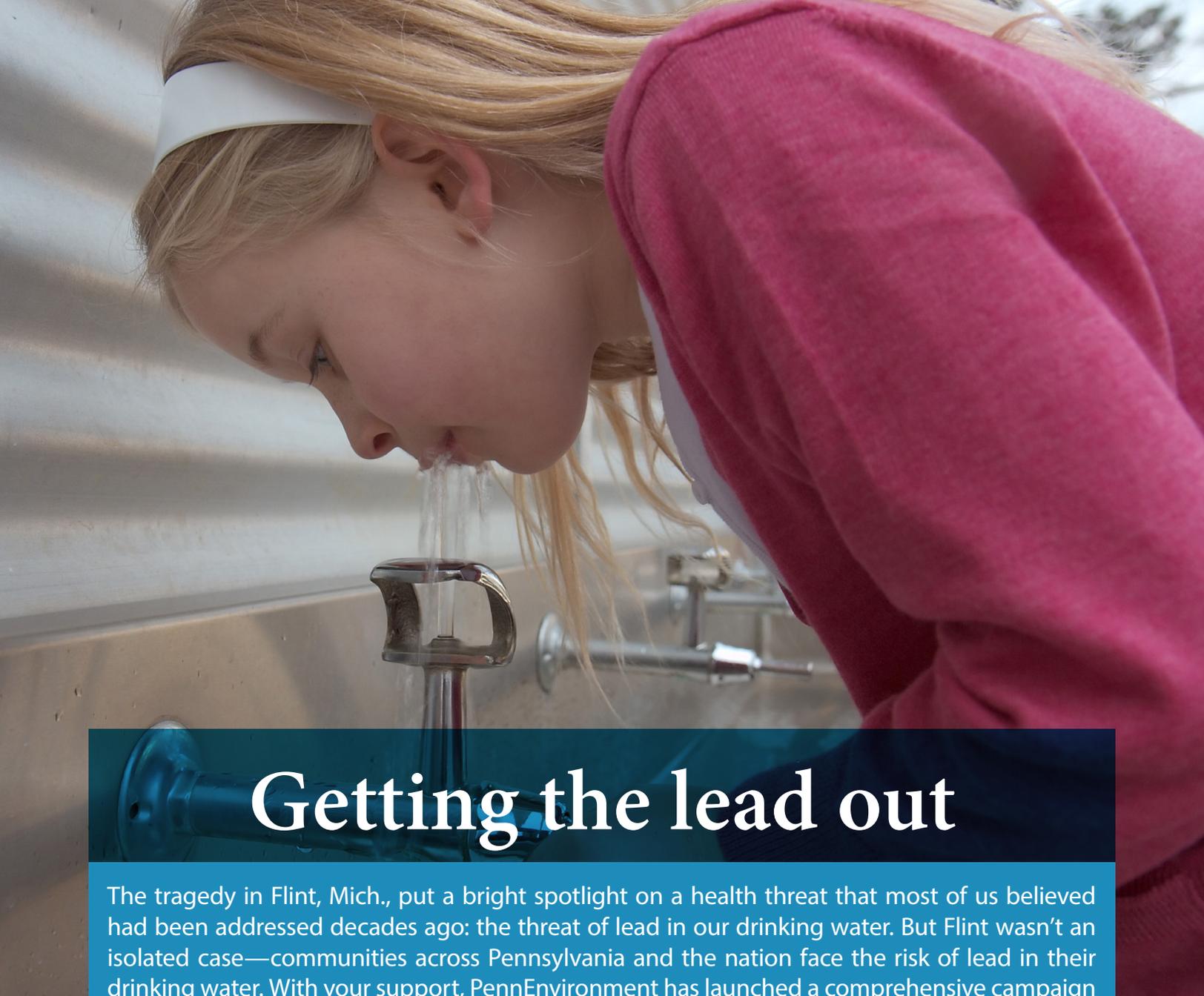
With your support, we're confident we'll be able to build upon these efforts over the next year when legislators introduce the first bipartisan proposal to make Pennsylvania run on 100 percent renewable energy.



Top: PennEnvironment members met with Senate Minority Leader Jay Costa on moving Pennsylvania toward clean energy solutions.



Bottom: Hundreds of thousands of Americans have gone solar and millions more are ready to get panels on their roofs today.



Getting the lead out

The tragedy in Flint, Mich., put a bright spotlight on a health threat that most of us believed had been addressed decades ago: the threat of lead in our drinking water. But Flint wasn't an isolated case—communities across Pennsylvania and the nation face the risk of lead in their drinking water. With your support, PennEnvironment has launched a comprehensive campaign to help address this threat.



▲ Research by PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center showed that lead contamination in drinking water is pervasive in all types of schools—rural, suburban and urban—and is common all across the state and nation.



▲ PennEnvironment Clean Water Advocate Stephanie Wein (center) at the "Get the Lead Out" report release event, with Philadelphia City Councilwoman Helen Gym and Dr. Walter Tsou.

Confronting the threat

For many of us, the drinking water crisis in Flint raised more questions than it answered. People around the country were wondering: Just how pervasive *was* this problem of lead contamination?

To provide some answers, PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center released a study showing how lead in drinking water puts some of the most vulnerable Pennsylvanians—our children—at risk due to elevated levels of lead contamination in our school buildings, and that state officials are taking few steps to prevent this threat.

The report gave Pennsylvania a grade of “F”, because state law does nothing to prevent schoolchildren’s drinking water from becoming laced with lead.

The widely-touted study also offered a blueprint based on best practices that state and local officials can follow to ensure we’re protecting Pennsylvania’s kids and teachers with lead-free drinking water. On the heels of the report’s release, a bipartisan coalition of legislators joined together to introduce a package of legislation that aims to implement the report’s recommendations and finally get the lead out of our schools.

Helping residents test for lead

But it’s going to take more than just having the facts on our side to tackle lead in drinking water. With your support, PennEnvironment launched a comprehensive effort to help local residents get their home drinking water tested for lead contamination.

We worked with producers at PBS to highlight our findings for their nationally televised series, *The Crowd & the Cloud*. Through this television series, we were able to show how science and citizen engagement can come together to help communities that are facing the threat of lead in their drinking water—and steps we can all take to protect our families and communities from this threat.

Getting real results to tackle lead

With your support, PennEnvironment helped convince officials to act. After working with a broad coalition of parent and teacher organizations, health and community groups, we were elated when the Philadelphia City Council voted unanimously to take comprehensive steps to test, report and address lead in drinking water in the city’s public schools.

These newly implemented standards are some of the strongest for any city in the nation. They dramatically reduce the acceptable threshold for lead, set strict new requirements for lead testing and require school officials to immediately make all results public. With that victory under our belt, PennEnvironment staff are working with local officials in other major cities in Pennsylvania to get them to follow Philadelphia’s lead and pass comprehensive standards to protect our school kids from the threat of lead in our schools’ drinking water.

Philadelphia City Council passed much-needed policies to help reduce the threat of lead in the drinking water of the city’s public schools.

Here are some of the highlights:



Requiring the School District of Philadelphia to test and re-test drinking fountains and faucets for lead every 5 years



Requiring the school district to share the testing results with the public within 15 days of getting the data back



Tightening lead standards for school drinking fountains and faucets by one-third



A historic legal victory

With your support, PennEnvironment delivered one of the largest citizen suit penalties against an illegal polluter under the federal Clean Air Act. This victory against ArcelorMittal—the largest steel company in the world—will help protect the health of local residents, and send a message to illegal polluters: PennEnvironment won't sit idly by if you break the law and put the health of Pennsylvanians and our environment at risk.



▲ PennEnvironment Executive Director David Masur, accompanied by local residents, announced our Clean Air Act lawsuit against the world's largest steel company. PennEnvironment went on to win a historic settlement.



▲ The ArcelorMittal coal processing plant in Monessen committed hundreds of Clean Air Act violations.

Taking on illegal polluters

When local residents outside of Pittsburgh complained of chronic odors and soot raining down on their homes from the nearby industrial plant owned by international steel giant ArcelorMittal, PennEnvironment jumped into action.

Hundreds of violations

We worked with a team of experienced attorneys from the National Environmental Law Center and engineering experts to investigate the threat.

What we discovered was shocking: hundreds of violations of the federal Clean Air Act at the company's coal processing plant. These included illegal levels of sulfur dioxide, hydrogen sulfide and soot, improper monitoring equipment, and even days and weeks at a time when the plant operated without a key air pollution control device in place. For a global company with annual revenues greater than \$80 billion, these flagrant violations were unacceptable.

A truly historic settlement

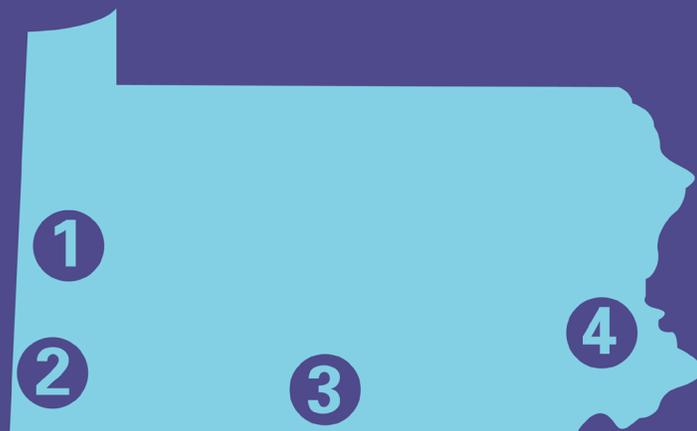
PennEnvironment filed a lawsuit under the federal Clean Air Act in October 2015. After nearly two years of wrestling with the company and moving through the legal process, we were excited to join representatives from the U.S. Department of Justice and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection in announcing a truly historic settlement.

The settlement requires massive upgrades to the plant to bring it into compliance with the law, and includes significant penalties if the facility goes back into non-compliance. Hundreds of thousands of dollars will go back to the local community to implement projects that reduce air pollution and protect the health of local residents.

It is one of the largest citizen suit penalties against an illegal polluter under the federal Clean Air Act in Pennsylvania history, totaling over \$2 million, and it cements PennEnvironment's track record of successful litigation against illegal polluters in Pennsylvania. Already, PennEnvironment has helped deliver the two largest citizen suit penalties in state history under the Clean Water Act.

“This historic victory would not be possible without the support and involvement of PennEnvironment's citizen members—both our local members in and around Monessen, and statewide,” noted Executive Director David Masur. “Hopefully this will send a message that's heard loud and clear by illegal polluters: if you violate our cornerstone environmental laws in Pennsylvania, PennEnvironment will be there to take strong action.”

PennEnvironment: Taking on Illegal Polluters



- 1: 2011 Conemaugh Power Plant Clean Water Lawsuit
- 2: 2017 Arcelor Mittal Clean Air Act Lawsuit
- 3: 2001 P. H. Glatfelter Papermill Lawsuit
- 4: 2014 Tredyffrin Township Dumping in Valley Creek & Valley Forge



Defending against environmental rollbacks

We're in a historic moment in the fight to protect our environment. Fifty years of progress reducing air and water pollution, preserving America's greatest outdoor places and public lands, promoting a clean energy economy and tackling climate change—all of this is at risk. PennEnvironment is doubling down to protect the nation's important environmental protections and safeguards, and to defend the places we love and the values we share.



▲ We collected more than 25,000 signatures from Pennsylvanians in support of critical environmental protections.



▲ Hundreds of Pennsylvanians explored the connection between climate change and beer with Senator Bob Casey at PennEnvironment's "Climate on Tap" event at Evil Genius Brewing in northeast Philadelphia.

Taking our fight to the people

The Trump administration, polluters and their allies in Congress have made their intentions clear: every environmental law and protection will be scrutinized—and potentially repealed or weakened. We'll never have the sway with the Trump administration that the polluters hold, but with a mobilized public we can continue to stall anti-environmental action through Congress and halt regulatory rollbacks that put our health and environment at risk.

So PennEnvironment launched a massive statewide campaign to educate environmentally-minded Pennsylvanians about what's at stake, and get them mobilized to defend our environment. We knocked on 150,000 doors to collect more than 25,000 petition signatures against rollbacks, and our staff worked to identify and train networks of volunteers to lead local efforts in their congressional districts and counties to organize other concerned citizens as harmful policy proposals came up.

Taking our fight to the press

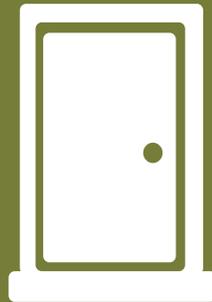
When President Trump pulled out of the Paris climate agreement after stating he represents “Pittsburgh not Paris,” PennEnvironment jumped to action. We purchased a full-page ad in Pittsburgh's largest newspaper, the Post-Gazette, and recruited 25 locally elected officials including Mayor William Peduto, Congressman Mike Doyle and others to add their names to an open letter stating that President Trump's disastrous climate policies don't represent the opinion of Pittsburghers, who want action to solve climate change, not delay it.

Taking our fight to the courts

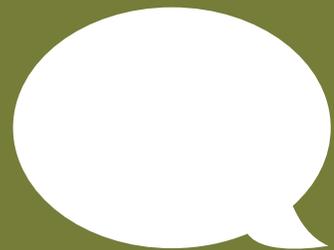
PennEnvironment's will fight on all fronts to halt the egregious environmental rollbacks being peddled by the Trump administration on behalf of polluters and their lobbyists. This includes using the courts and other legal avenues to complement our citizen organizing and media work.

So we joined with our friends at the Environmental Integrity Project (EIP), Earthjustice and other groups last year to file suit. We announced a lawsuit against the Trump administration for illegally halting existing safeguards that protect the public from the emission of mercury, arsenic and other toxic contaminants from coal-fired power plants. Our lawsuit seeks to invalidate an April 2017 order by the Trump administration EPA that abruptly put an indefinite hold on any new safeguards for these and other toxic chemicals, instead allowing power plants to continue discharging toxics without any specific limits and using standards set 35 years ago.

In the first 100 days of our campaign to stand up to the Trump administration, PennEnvironment:



Knocked on **150,000** doors and distributed scorecards holding local elected officials accountable for their environmental votes



Talked to more than **75,000** Pennsylvanians about the threat posed by the Trump administration's environmental rollbacks



Gathered **25,000** signatures in support of our environmental protections

A frack-free Pennsylvania

There are few greater threats to our health and environment than the threat of fracking. It's a fight against some of the planet's most powerful corporations to defend Pennsylvania's health and environment. It's David versus Goliath when we take on ExxonMobil, Shell Oil and other polluter powerhouses. But it's a fight we welcome at PennEnvironment, and in 2017 we continued to build the momentum it's going to take to get fracking out of Pennsylvania once and for all.

Building the public power to win

Over the last year, PennEnvironment ran a massive effort to educate Pennsylvanians about the threat posed by fracking, countering the misinformation that frackers spent millions of dollars spreading. We distributed more than a quarter-million educational fact sheets to everyday Pennsylvanians with the truth about fracking. And, through the investigative research of our staff, we uncovered and shined a bright light on thousands of environmental violations by fracking companies via statewide media outlets.

Defeating dangerous fracking projects

With the support of our members, we turned all those efforts into real victories against fracking. In partnership with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), PennEnvironment contributed to an amicus brief opposing the gas industry's Constitution Pipeline and supporting New York state for halting the project on environmental grounds. This 124-mile pipeline would likely have criss-crossed hundreds of streams and creeks as it carried fracked gas from Pennsylvania's shale fields across New York, putting those waterways in danger. And in 2017, the federal court agreed with the assessment of PennEnvironment, NRDC, and the state of New York—halting the construction of the pipeline because it could pose a significant risk to the environment. The fight against fracking isn't over, but we're standing up to protect Pennsylvanians from fracking every day.



Top: PennEnvironment staff helped educate more than 150,000 Pennsylvanians about the dangers fracking poses to our health and environment.

Bottom: We celebrated in 2017 when a federal court halted construction of a 124-mile pipeline that threatened hundreds of our waterways.

Reducing air pollution

Breathing clean air is a right, not a privilege. Sadly, Pennsylvania is home to major air polluters that put our environment and health at risk. Maybe that's why it's not surprising that Pennsylvania is home to some of the dirtiest air in the nation. This is unacceptable. So PennEnvironment launched a campaign to rein in the worst air polluters to protect our health and environment.

The risk of air pollution

Despite decades of progress under the Clean Air Act, air pollution remains a chronic threat in Pennsylvania. To show what is still at stake, PennEnvironment's advocates wrote a new investigative report in 2017 showing the number of unhealthy air pollution days experienced by Pennsylvania's major metropolitan areas.

And the data was staggering: 12 Pennsylvania cities had at least 100 days over the course of a year with unhealthy levels of air pollution. Our findings raised a red flag for the state's health experts and elected officials alike, and garnered media attention in dozens of Pennsylvania's largest media outlets, sounding the alarm about Pennsylvania's ongoing air pollution problem.

Reining in the polluters

With the support of PennEnvironment's members, we brought this fight directly to its source. We gave legal notice to the Allegheny Ludlum steel plant, one of Pittsburgh's biggest air polluters, for violating its pollution permits for a decade and a half. Our work spotlighting the pollution from the Cheswick power plant in Allegheny County led local officials to ratchet down allowable pollution levels at the facility.

These clean air victories wouldn't happen without our members and supporters—and we'll continue to deliver them on your behalf in upcoming years.



Top: Kids struggle to breathe all too often in Pennsylvania due to air pollution.

Bottom: PennEnvironment's Steve Riccardi and local health experts spoke at the release of a report on air quality. Among the report's findings: it is dangerous to breathe the air on one in four days in the Pittsburgh region.

PennEnvironment
1429 Walnut St., Ste. 1100
Philadelphia, PA 19102
(215) 732-5897

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Our staff (partial list)



David Masur
Executive Director



Adam Garber
Deputy Director



Stephanie Wein
Advocate, Clean Water
and Conservation



Rob Sargent
Director, Energy
Program



John Rumpler
Director, Clean Water
Program



Anna Aurilio
Director, Global
Warming Program



Susan Rakov
Director, Research and
Policy



Elizabeth Ridlington
Senior Policy Analyst



Chuck Caldart
Litigation Director and
Senior Attorney



Ed Johnson
Director, Outreach and
Civic Engagement



Pat Wood
Managing Director,
Community Outreach



Will Vanderbilt
Director, Digital



Pat Kelly
Senior Digital
Organizer



Wendy Wendlandt,
Political Director



Rich Hannigan
Senior Communications
Manager and Editorial
Director



Katrina Riley
Content Creator



Amy Floyd
Managing Director,
Grants



Johanna Neumann
Managing Director,
Donor Program