

2021 Legislative Agenda



Right to Repair

We use and throw away too much, and electronic waste is the fastest growing part of the waste stream. Meanwhile, the companies that make modern electronic equipment actively restrict our ability to repair. Many manufacturers make repairs proprietary, so that the only place those goods can be repaired is from the manufacturing company. When the manufacturer is the only option for repair, they can drive up the costs or push consumers to upgrade. We need to empower more repair to cut waste. Environment Missouri supports Missourians' right to repair their equipment by:

- Requiring fair and reasonable access and pricing to the 5 essentials of repair: replacement parts, tools, manuals, firmware, and diagnostics.
 - Farmers are struggling to repair newer tractors and other modern electronic equipment. Manufacturers including John Deere install digital locks on equipment that blocks anyone but the dealership technicians from performing repairs. We support the right to repair all farming machinery and construction equipment.
 - Only 15-20% of our e-waste is recycled, filling our landfills and depleting our resources of rare-earth metals. Apple has been known to throttle processors through updates on iPhones, pushing customers to buy new phones when all they need are a simply battery swap. We support the right to repair all electronics in the state.

No Bees, No Food

Millions of bees are dying off, with alarming consequences for our environment and our food supply. We rely on bees to pollinate 71 of the 100 crops that provide 90% of most of the world's food. Imagine no almonds, fewer apples and strawberries, less alfalfa to feed dairy cows, and the list goes on. One such way to protect our bees is to stop the use of bee-killing pesticides such as neonicotinoids and chlorpyrifos. Environment Missouri supports:

- Discontinued use of the pesticide known as neonicotinoids in order to protect our pollinators and bees.

Wildlife Over Waste

Every day, people are throwing away tons of single-use cups, containers, and other plastic "stuff." All of this waste not only trashes our parks and public spaces, but it also washes into our rivers, where it's harmful to wildlife and pollutes our drinking water. Toxic chemicals in plastic can harm animals' health--and people can ingest these chemicals as they make their way up the food chain. Environment Missouri supports:

- Full repeal of the state's preemption laws banning any type of local plastic bag ban, tax, or fees.
- The right of local governments to enact bans on other products such as polystyrene, plastic straws, or plastic water bottles/cups to reduce waste and pollution in their own communities.

Clean Energy for Missouri

Missourians support clean, renewable energy to power the state. In 2008, Missouri voters passed the Missouri Clean Energy Act with 66% of the vote, which set a target for Missouri to generate 15% of our energy from renewable sources by 2021. Wind and solar energy are abundant in Missouri and the technology to access these clean energy sources are becoming less expensive and more reliable. Environment Missouri supports:

- Increasing the Renewable Energy Standard of 15% renewable energy by 2021 to at least 50% by 2035.
- Requiring utility companies to make plans for securitization of coal assets.
- Incentives for the expansion of community rooftop solar
- Allowing local political subdivisions to promote electrification and ban expansion of new gas infrastructure
- Construction of the Grain Belt Express, an 800-mile transmission line delivering abundant wind energy from Kansas, across Missouri, in order to assist in the renewable energy standard goals. Missouri will benefit from this renewable energy infrastructure in 25,000 MW of wind energy, alongside broadband infrastructure for rural communities along the route.

Protect Missouri's State Parks and Wildlife

Missouri is known for its beautiful state parks that attract outdoor recreation, tourism, and appreciation for Missouri's natural beauty. Missourians can continue to appreciate the great outdoors while teaching younger generations about the beauty and importance of nature. Environment Missouri opposes:

- Any legislation allowing counties to sell state parks that lie within their geographic areas. We support the expansion of state parks.
- Establishing that nature or the ecosystem does not have legal standing to bring forward any civil action. We oppose the "Protection of Missouri Farms and Private Property Act."

Destination Zero Carbon

Transportation is one of the leading contributors to our greenhouse gas emissions. Our car-dependent transportation system is dangerous, harms our communities, and is the nation's leading source of global warming pollution. And more than ever before, it is clear that Missouri needs to invest in giving people healthier, more sustainable transportation options. Environment Missouri supports policies to help maintain our existing roadways, increase electric vehicle ownership, and invest in alternatives to driving by:

- Removing the requirement of an alternative fuel decal for electric vehicles.
- Increase the current 17 cent fuel tax to 30 cents per gallon by 2026. Funding should be used for "fix it first" policies to maintain existing roadways and expand clean transportation alternatives.
- Support investments in sidewalks, bike lanes, and public transportation.

Get the Lead Out

Our children need clean, safe drinking water—especially at school where they go to learn and play each day. Unfortunately, lead is contaminating drinking water at school, pre-schools, and child care facilities.. The problem stems from pipes, plumbing, faucets and fixtures that contain lead. To keep children safe and healthy, the state must ensure that we get the lead out of the drinking water at schools across Missouri by:

- Installing filters on all outlets used for drinking or cooking
- Replacing lead-laden water coolers.
- Install signs on all water outlets that are not to be used for drinking water.
- Testing all schools' water outlets regularly, fully, and properly across the state and providing public access to all data and remediation.
- Immediate shut off and remediation of any water outlet that contains more lead than 1 part per billion, consistent with the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics.