



# Our program report

on the actions you made possible

Fiscal Year 2022

# For a greener California



## A letter to our supporters

*Amid a surplus of crises, restoring the natural world to health is humanity's most profound challenge. Defending the environment requires of advocates and activists an ample supply of focus, ingenuity, grit and perseverance.*

*In the past year, Environment California staff, supporters and allies put these attributes to work on multiple campaigns, raising public awareness, earning popular support, and winning pro-environment changes to public policies and corporate practices.*

*The results include parks and other special places gaining protection from conservation funding we secured through the Great American Outdoors Act. They include solar panels and wind turbines sprouting across the land (and sea), facilitated by federal tax incentives we won.*

*Are these victories permanent, complete solutions to our conservation and clean energy problems? Of course not. But in this polarized time, incremental steps offer a path forward—often the only one. Hence—we persevere.*

*Your action and support are the sparks that transform our research, advocacy, organizing and resolve into tangible results for a greener world. Onward and upward.*

*Laura Deehan*

**Laura Deehan**  
State Director

At Environment California, our mission is to work for clean air, clean water, clean energy, wildlife, open spaces and a livable climate.

But we can't do it without you. Our staff research the issues, educate the public, and advocate tangible results for a greener world. Our members give us the resources to carry out our mission and put grassroots support behind all of our campaigns and programs.

To keep up to date with our work and learn more about our campaigns and progress, you can follow us at the addresses below. We'd also love to hear from you—feel free to email us at [info@EnvironmentCalifornia.org](mailto:info@EnvironmentCalifornia.org)

[EnvironmentCalifornia.org](https://www.EnvironmentCalifornia.org)

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# The toughest



## WILDLIFE OVER WASTE

### We helped win the nation's toughest plastic pollution law

Sea lions swimming near the Channel Islands, gray whales migrating past Point Reyes, and numerous other marine animals will be spared from the harmful and often lethal effects of millions of tons of plastic pollution—thanks to California's Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act, signed into law on June 30, 2022.

The law requires companies to use less plastic in their packaging. By 2032, single-use foodware and packaging will have to be recyclable or compostable. And plastic producers will be held financially responsible for wasteful products. Each step marks another milestone in our decade-long effort—including the 2014 statewide plastic bag ban—to protect wildlife from plastic pollution.



(Left and above right) June 30, 2022: Environment California staff, along with our coalition partners, celebrate the passage of California's new plastic pollution law. (Inset) Environment California also urged Whole Foods to phase out single-use plastic packaging. Photo credits: (Left and above right) Ricky Mackie Photography; (above left) AJ Havrilla

# Powered up



## SAVE CALIFORNIA SOLAR

### We stood up for clean, renewable rooftop solar

“One million solar roofs and counting.” That’s what the signs said in 2019 as former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Environment California and others celebrated the success of our Million Solar Roofs Initiative.

Yet in 2022, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) voted to gut the state’s net metering program, a policy that fairly compensates solar owners for the power they supply back to the grid. After our coalition spoke in opposition, the commission dropped its plans for a solar tax and excluded from the net metering cuts people who already have gone solar or decide to go solar by April 2023.



(Above) Dec. 8, 2021: Solar supporters deliver 120,000 petition signatures to Gov. Gavin Newsom. (Inset) June 2, 2022: Wendy Wendlandt speaks at a pro-solar rally in Los Angeles.



(Left) Dec. 8, 2021: Ben Grundy rallies solar supporters. Photo credits: (Left) Solar Rights Alliance; (above) CALSSA

# Energized



## GO BIG ON OFFSHORE WIND

### Offshore wind may power 25 million California homes

By 2045, California will generate enough energy from offshore wind farms to power the equivalent of 25 million homes—if the state follows through on a commitment it made on Aug. 10.

Environment California’s Laura Deehan and Dan Jacobson both testified before the California Energy Commission in favor of going big on offshore wind, and we were founding members of the Offshore Wind Now coalition, representing environmental, justice, labor, energy, local government and business interests. According to a report by our partners at Environment America Research & Policy Center, California could produce enough offshore wind energy to meet more than 100% of the state’s electricity use.



(Left) Laura Deehan calls for offshore wind power. (Above center) Dan Jacobson testifies before the California Energy Commission. (Above left) Laura and allies celebrate the California Energy Commission’s offshore wind goal. (Above right) Staff host a webinar on the new report, “Renewables on the Rise.” Photo credits: (Left) Ricky Mackie Photography; (above, clockwise from top right) Ben Paulos via Wikimedia Commons, CC-BY 2.0, staff, David Braun, David Braun

# SAVE THE BEES



Staff

On Sept. 29, Gov. Gavin Newsom vetoed a bill to ban most non-agricultural uses of the bee-killing pesticides known as neonics. The silver lining is that, in his veto message, the governor called on the Department of Pesticide Regulation to issue rules in the coming year to address the problem.

# 100% RENEWABLE



anatoliy\_gleb via Shutterstock

In 2021, California led the nation for solar generation and ranked #2 for total renewable energy generation, according to “Renewables on the Rise 2022.” Our online dashboard documented the growth of clean energy technologies, including solar and wind, battery storage, energy efficiency, and electric vehicles.

# PROTECT OUR PUBLIC LANDS



Edison Velez II, BLM via Flickr / CC BY 2.0

In 2015, we supported the establishment of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument. In 2022, we backed a bill to add another 3,925 acres to the 330,000-acre monument—a step that would safeguard mountainsides covered in unique plants such as adobe lily and habitat for roaming tule elk.

# CONSERVATION



Staff

In 2022, Environment California Research & Policy Center and our coalition launched the Let Trees Grow campaign to protect older trees from logging. By Earth Day, we had our first win: President Joe Biden ordered federal agencies to inventory and develop policies to protect mature and old-growth forests on federal lands.

# WILDLIFE OVER WASTE



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In June 2022, Interior Secretary Deb Haaland issued an order to phase out single-use plastic products from national parks and other public lands by 2032. More than 20,000 supporters joined Environment California in calling for the policy.

# CLEAN WATER & AIR



Mark Geistweite via Shutterstock

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced on Oct. 21 a plan to establish a 3,200-foot buffer zone near all new oil and gas extraction sites. We pointed out the risks of drilling happening so close to homes, schools and hospitals, leading to increased health risks. Now California will have the nation’s strongest buffer zone policy.

Environment California is part of the Environment America network. Together, we have a long legacy of victories for clean air, clean water, clean energy and more—including state and local wins that have provided blueprints for action nationwide.



**2007: 5 states join regional climate pact**

Environment Massachusetts, Environment Maine, Environment New Hampshire, Environment New Jersey and Environment Rhode Island help convince their states to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)—a climate program that cuts power plant pollution.

**2011: Nation sets first mercury coal standards**

Environment America helps win the first nationwide standards for limiting mercury from coal power plants. The Mercury Air and Toxics Standards go on to reduce mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants by 86%

between 2011 and 2017.

**2012: We help secure national clean car standards**

Environment America plays a key role in securing new national clean car standards equivalent to 54.5 mpg that will make super-efficient cars the norm by 2025. This win sets automakers on a path toward improving fuel efficiency across their fleets and even helps usher electric vehicles into the mainstream.

**2012-2014: 4 states spearhead local plastic bag bans**

Between 2012 and 2014, Environment Oregon, Environment California,



Environment Rhode Island and Environment Washington help pass bans on single-use plastic bags in various municipalities and counties. California passes the nation’s first statewide plastic bag ban in 2014, and nine more states follow suit over the next eight years.

**2015: Clean Water Rule finalized**

Environment America helps win the Clean Water Rule, restoring federal Clean Water Act protections for half the nation’s streams, which help provide drinking water for 1 in 3 Americans. Environment America has since worked to uphold the promise of the Clean Water Act by defending hard-won protections from attacks.



**2017: Environment Florida wins toxic wastewater settlement**

Environment Florida wins a settlement against the world’s second-largest chicken producer, Pilgrim’s Pride, over its discharges of toxic pollution into the Suwannee River. As part of the settlement, the company agrees to upgrade its pollution control equipment.

**2018: Giant leap as California goes for 100%**

In September, as Environment California’s Dan Jacobson looks on, Gov. Jerry Brown signs Senate Bill 100 into law. The bill commits the world’s fifth-largest economy to 60% renewable electricity by 2030 and

100% zero-carbon electricity by 2045.

**2020: U.S. military phases out PFAS use**

Environment America helps win a law compelling the military to phase out its use of firefighting foams containing toxic PFAS chemicals, which have contaminated drinking water in communities across the country.

**2020: Conservation gets \$900 million annually**

After winning the permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in 2019, Environment America wins full



funding of \$900 million annually for the LWCF the following year. It’s the nation’s most effective conservation and recreation law, putting billions of federal dollars into national and local parks, playgrounds and trails across the country over the last 50 years.

**2021: PennEnvironment helps win waste cleanup lawsuit**

PennEnvironment wins a lawsuit against PPG Industries, forcing the company to clean up soil and water contamination at its waste site in Ford City, Pennsylvania. The suit was first filed in 2012 over ongoing Clean Water Act violations that polluted the neighboring Allegheny River.

(Left to right) Dena Mottola with Environment New Jersey speaks with NJN News about climate change; our staff meet with President Obama at an event celebrating the new fuel efficiency standards; Environment California’s Dan Jacobson calls for the passage of the statewide plastic bag ban. Photo credits: NJN News; White House; Staff

(Left to right) Environment Florida’s Jennifer Rubiello speaks at a press event; Environment California’s Dan Jacobson (front row, third from right) and Emily Rusch of The Public Interest Network (back row, left) attend the bill signing for SB100; our staff distribute lawn signs calling on Congress to fully fund LWCF. Photo credits: Jose Matos; Joe McHugh, California Highway Patrol; Suzanne Navarro Photography



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## Our staff

To see a full staff list and learn more about our campaigns, visit us online at [EnvironmentCalifornia.org](http://EnvironmentCalifornia.org).

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