



Our program report

on the actions you made possible

Fiscal Year 2022



For a greener Colorado

A letter to our supporters

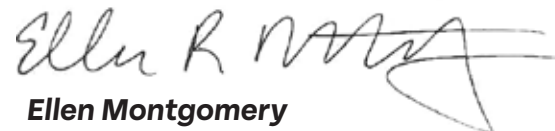
Amid a surplus of crises, restoring the natural world to health is humanity's most profound challenge. Defending the environment requires of advocates and activists an ample supply of focus, ingenuity, grit and perseverance.

In the past year, Environment Colorado 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.


Ellen Montgomery

On behalf of Environment Colorado

At Environment Colorado, 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@EnvironmentColorado.org

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

 [/EnvironmentColorado](https://www.facebook.com/EnvironmentColorado)

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Environment Colorado's Ellen Montgomery (front left) and organizers working to pass the Land and Water Conservation Fund in 2019. Photo credits: (Front cover) Jon Marc Lyttle via Shutterstock; (left) Mark Laidlaw

Victory



WILDLIFE OVER WASTE

Colorado passes plastic producer responsibility law

In June, Gov. Jared Polis signed a bipartisan producer responsibility bill into law. It's only the third such law to pass in the country, following recent action taken in Maine and Oregon. The new law will help keep plastic pollution out of our environment by reducing plastic packaging and improving Colorado's lagging recycling system, while shifting more of the cost of dealing with all this plastic waste onto its manufacturers.

Environment Colorado and our supporters played a key role in winning this legislation. Our staff testified on behalf of the bill, organized students and our members to show their support, and delivered thousands of petition signatures in favor of the bill to lawmakers.



(Above) Our staff attended the passage of the Plastic Pollution Reduction Act in 2021, which banned plastic bags and foam containers. (Left) Our staff canvass in support of plastic legislation.

(Left) Plastic pollution ultimately ends up in our oceans, where wildlife mistake it for food. Plastic fragments have been found in 44% of all seabird species, 43% of all marine mammal species, and every single species of sea turtle. Photo credits: (Left) Davdeka via Shutterstock; (above, top to bottom) Haley Hawn Photo; staff.

Historic



GLOBAL WARMING SOLUTIONS

America invested big in action against climate change

Our country made its largest ever investment in clean energy and climate solutions with the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act this past summer. Though the new law isn't perfect, it includes billions of dollars in funding designed to reduce global warming emissions 40% below 2005 levels by 2030—with many of its provisions modeled after proposals made and won by our Global Warming Solutions campaigns.

Our campaigns are continuing to promote solutions that will help more of our people and our economy go fossil fuel free, transition to carbon-free transportation, reduce power plant pollution, preserve forests and more.



(Above) Climate activists joined staff for a “honk and wave” event in July 2021. (Left) Staff head to the White House to celebrate the passage of the bipartisan infrastructure bill, which also included investments in climate solutions.

(Left) Staff with our national network attended a White House event on Sept. 13, 2022, to celebrate the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act. Photo credits: All photos by staff.



100% RENEWABLE ENERGY

More lives will be powered by the sun and wind

Our energy future is looking brighter ... and cleaner. Thanks in large part to victories that our staff and members have helped to win at both the state and federal levels, our country gets more than three times as much energy from the sun, wind and Earth as it did a decade ago, and all 50 states are seeing clean energy growth.

Through our 100% Renewable Energy campaign, our members and staff are calling on more state officials, more local officials, more companies, and more colleges and universities to commit to repowering themselves with clean, renewable energy.



(Left) Staff sport 100% hats. (Above) Staff build support for clean, renewable wind and solar energy. (Above center) Staff are joined by Sen. John Hickenlooper wearing a leaf jacket to support clean energy. Photo credits: (Left) Liam Louis, Elle Vignette Photography; (above, clockwise from left) Ted Gotwals; staff; staff



CONSERVATION



Staff

In 2022, Environment Colorado 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.




100% RENEWABLE




anatoly_gleb via Shutterstock

In October 2022, our research partners at Environment America Research & Policy Center released “Renewables on the Rise 2022.” Among the report’s findings: America now gets three times as much energy from the wind, sun and Earth as we did in 2012, with growth in all 50 states.




SAVE AMERICA'S WILDLIFE




Public Domain

Environment Colorado-backed bills to help wildlife saw progress. In 2021, Congress approved \$350 million in funding for wildlife corridors to connect fragmented habitats. In 2022, the U.S. House passed the Recovering America’s Wildlife Act, which would offer funds for 50,000 at-risk species.




PROTECT OUR PUBLIC LANDS




Thoffman via Shutterstock

In 2017, the Trump administration shrank two national monuments in the West and removed protections for one in the Atlantic Ocean. More than 500,000 supporters of our national network objected and the Biden administration listened, restoring all three national monuments.



SAVE THE BEES



Staff

Our supporters sent 25,000 petition signatures to Amazon urging it to stop selling bee-killing neonicotinoid pesticides and another 23,000 petition signatures urging the Biden administration to reinstate a ban on the use of neonics in wildlife refuges—safe havens for bees.



RECHARGE WHERE YOU RECHARGE



Ted Gotwals

In March 2022, Gov. Jared Polis unveiled the first electric vehicle charging station at a Colorado state park—one of at least 84 planned through the Recharge Where You Recharge program championed by Environment Colorado. Giving Coloradans more places to charge will help boost EV adoption in our state.

Environment Colorado 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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To see a full staff list and learn more about our campaigns, visit us online at EnvironmentColorado.org.

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