



ENVIRONMENT NEW JERSEY Your Winter Report

Meet the bees your action is helping to save

From half-inch honeybees to the endangered rusty patched bumblebee, the best pollinators need our help. Across the country, bee populations are dropping, sometimes at alarming rates. No matter their size or status, these pollinators face a triple threat of bee-killing pesticides, habitat loss and climate change.

If we're going to save the bees, we'll need the whole Environment New Jersey hive behind us. Let's meet some of the bees your action is helping to save:

Native bees

Our country's more than 4,000 native bee species are "specialists" in their field—they're perfectly suited to pollinate only a few specific plants or flowers. The Southeastern blueberry bee, for example, is one hard-working pollinator—visiting as many as 50,000 blueberry flowers and helping to produce up to 6,000 blueberries in its short life.

The squash bee is another specialist (and an early riser, too). In the hours after sunrise, you'll find them hard at work, buzzing from flower to flower as they gather nectar and pollinate zucchini and butternut squash. By noon, they'll be fast asleep napping on some flowers.

Most native bees are also highly independent. After a long day of flying solo from flower to flower, these busy bees retire to the nests that they dug or built themselves.



(Clockwise from top left): One Southeastern blueberry bee can help produce up to 6,000 blueberries. Squash bees like to nap on flowers. Only an estimated 471 rusty patched bumblebees remain. Up to 60,000 honeybees can live in one hive.

Honeybees

Honeybees are non-native, but they're some of the sweetest, most social pollinators. Their colonies are also filled with hard workers: In just one year, a colony can make up to 100 pounds of honey. When they're on duty, honeybees can fly to 100 flowers in a single trip—adding up to thousands of flower visits each day.

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Thanks for making it all possible

More state wins on the road to renewable energy

Illinois, Oregon, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Maine are among the latest states to advance commitments to renewable energy.

On Aug. 19, our national partner Environment America released “The United States of Clean Energy,” a summary of clean energy progress made in state legislatures during this year’s spring and summer sessions. While noting backsliding in some states, the round-

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Clean energy champions across the country are calling on their state lawmakers to advance 100% clean, renewable energy.



up featured state victories such as Oregon’s 100% clean power commitment, Massachusetts’ strengthened renewable electricity requirements, and new energy storage goals in Connecticut and Maine.

“Whenever I’m feeling pessimistic about the slow pace of change in the halls of our federal government, I look to the states,” said Emma Searson, our national network’s 100% Renewable campaign director. “We’re not just seeing the steady march of progress, but a real race to the top when it comes to clean and renewable energy.”

Now, we’re working to make New Jersey the next state to commit to 100% clean, renewable energy.

Is there trouble in your air? For 1 in 6 Americans, there is.

More than 58.4 million Americans experienced at least 100 days of polluted air in 2020.

That was the finding of the 2021 edition of the “Trouble in the Air” report, released by our national research partner Environment America Research & Policy Center in

October. Here in New Jersey, more than 1 million people experienced at least 29 days of elevated air pollution according to the report. Air pollution increases the risk of premature death, asthma attacks and cancer.

“Even with COVID lockdowns, we still suffered through a nearly a month with unhealthy air,” said Hayley Berliner, clean energy advocate with Environment New Jersey Research & Policy Center. “We need to do more to deliver cleaner air for our communities.”

But it doesn’t have to be that way. While the report finds that air pollution problems persist across the country, the solutions for cleaning up our air are readily achievable if policymakers act swiftly to zero out fossil fuels from all aspects of our lives.

Victory: Biden administration restores three monuments’ protections

When the previous administration shrank the size of two national monuments by up to 85% and weakened protections for a third, more than 436,000 supporters of Environment New Jersey and our national network objected.

On Oct. 7, the Biden administration responded by restoring Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante and the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Monuments.

This action restores protections for the monuments’ wildlife, ecological integrity and more than 100,000 archaeologically significant objects.

“Our country has a long history of ensuring ‘America the Beautiful’ exists for generations to come,” said Steve Blackledge, senior director of our national network’s Conservation America campaign. “Now we can rest assured that these treasured areas will remain a part of that lasting legacy.”

Not only did our network supply hundreds of thousands of emails and comments in support of the monuments, but our staff also met with Department of Interior officials and organized a “Meet the Monuments” webinar to raise public awareness.

Get more updates on our work online at <http://environmentnewjersey.org>.



USFWS via Flickr/CCO

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After eight-hour workdays, honeybees go to rest with up to 60,000 family members.

The rusty patched bumblebee

There’s only one type of native bee that is truly social: bumblebees. And under the bumblebee umbrella is the rusty patched bumblebee. Known for their rust-colored backs, they made headlines after becoming the first bee in the continental United States to land on the endangered species list. Now, only an estimated 471 remain.

These bumblebees won’t be last to be listed as endangered if we don’t act. The worst threats facing bees today?

Climate change: As temperatures rise, flowers bloom earlier, which creates a mismatch in timing between when flowers produce pollen and when bees can feed on that pollen.

Habitat loss: As climate change and human development make bee habitat unlivable, bees have fewer flowers to forage and nowhere to lay eggs or raise their young.

Bee-killing pesticides: A pervasive, dangerous class of bee-killing pesticides called neonicotinoids poisons baby bees’ brains, disrupts bees’ sleep, alters foraging, and diminishes bees’ ability to reproduce.

Bees are in crisis. And with native bees pollinating 80% of Earth’s flowering plants, losing bees could be the first domino in a chain of extinctions. So we’re working to ban the worst bee-killing pesticides, restore bee habitat, and get Amazon to protect bees.

As of Oct. 1, more than 47,000 supporters of our national network have urged Amazon to stop selling bee-killing pesticides. If you haven’t already, you can call on Amazon too by going to this link and adding your name: <http://environmentnewjersey.org/savebees>

Our canvassers have gone door to door rallying supporters like you to call on Amazon to stop selling bee-killing pesticides.



Staff



Kenyon R. Newton

Thanks to you, this fall we’ve been able to protect our wildlife and wild places while improving our chances at achieving that cleaner, greener future we all want. In this issue, you’ll learn more about the critical campaigns you’ve helped and the causes you’ve advanced. Thanks for making it all possible.

Doug O’Malley
State Director

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Your Winter Report

Our mission:

We all want clean air, clean water and open spaces. But it takes independent research and tough-minded advocacy to win concrete results for our environment, especially when powerful interests stand in the way of environmental progress.

That's the idea behind Environment New Jersey, Inc., a project of Environment America, Inc. We focus exclusively on protecting New Jersey's air, water and open spaces. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

Environment New Jersey Research & Policy Center celebrates the end of a dangerous pipeline plan

What do 235 New Jersey waterways and 4,300 acres of preserved lands in the state have in common? They are now safer, thanks to the withdrawal of plans to build a 116-mile gas pipeline.

Even after the U.S. Supreme Court allowed the PennEast Pipeline Company to use the eminent domain process to seize land,

Environment New Jersey Research & Policy Center and our allies continued to raise objections to granting the company state permits for its pipeline. On Sept. 27, PennEast announced it was dropping the plan, which would have resulted in more than 460 new fracked gas wells and increased fracking water demands by 880 million gallons.

"This is a watershed victory to stop fossil fuel companies from destroying our natural lands and waterways and polluting our climate," said Doug O'Malley, state director of Environment New Jersey Research & Policy Center. "This win is a testament that you can't bulldoze the public and the environment."

The pipeline would have damaged 235 waterways, including 31 pristine streams in New Jersey and 4,300 acres of preserved lands.



Northlight Photography