



Our program report

on the actions you made possible

Fiscal Year 2022

For a greener Oregon



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 Oregon 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.

Celeste Meiffren-Swango
State Director

At Environment Oregon, 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@EnvironmentOregon.org

[EnvironmentOregon.org](https://environmentoregon.org)

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Everywhere

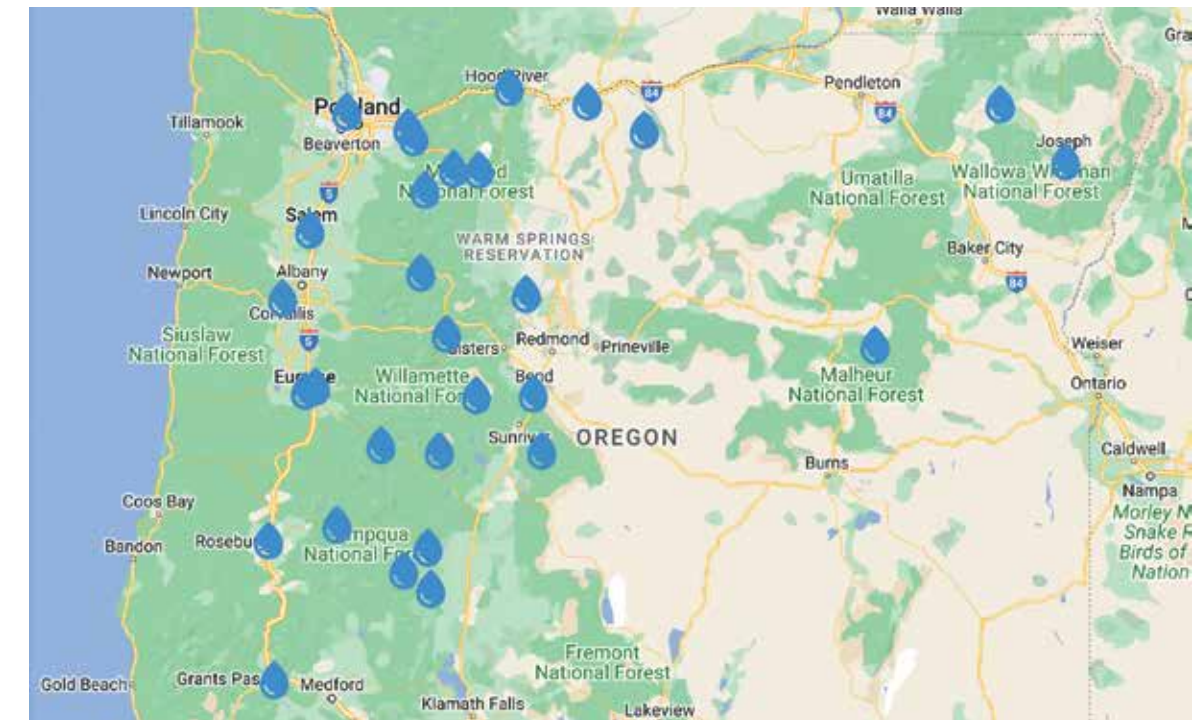


WILDLIFE OVER WASTE

Our survey found microplastics in every waterway sampled

In 2021, we sampled 30 Oregon waterways, from the Willamette River to Wallowa Lake, for microplastics. All 30 tested positive.

That’s dismaying, but not surprising—not when Americans throw out enough plastic to fill a large football stadium every 16 hours. All that plastic degrades, but it never breaks down completely, leaving small pieces of plastic—smaller than a grain of rice, but big enough to harm wildlife—almost everywhere. Oregon banned plastic grocery bags in 2019 and adopted a plastic producer responsibility law in 2021, both with Environment Oregon’s support. But as our research makes clear, there’s more to do.



(Left) Our staff and members in Oregon sampled waterways for microplastics. (Above) Environment Oregon sampled 30 waterways. All 30 contained microplastics. (Above left) Plastic trash found in Diamond Lake during sampling. (Above right) Staff call for action to ban single-use plastics. Photo credits: (Left) Staff, (above, left to right) staff, 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.

Environment Oregon staff and supporters urged our congressional delegation to back the law through photo petitions (right), phone calls, meetings and a youth climate town hall.



(Above) When we showed support for Rep. Peter DeFazio's climate leadership, the congressman himself showed up on his bike. (Left) Environment Oregon activists demonstrate their support for action on climate change. (Above, right) We sponsored a series of webinars on going solar, going electric with your car or home, and other climate actions.

(Left) Sept. 13, 2022: Celeste Meiffren-Swango (left) and other advocates celebrate historic investments in clean energy and climate action. Photo credits: All photos by staff.

Cleaner



100% RENEWABLE ENERGY

More Oregon lives are being powered by the sun and the wind

Our energy future is looking brighter. Thanks in part to victories that our staff and members have helped to win, including Oregon’s 2021 commitment to 100% clean electricity, our state’s reliance on renewable energy is rising. In 2012, wind, solar and geothermal supplied 14% of the our electricity. In 2021, they supplied 22%—a 57% increase.

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 our state with clean, renewable energy.



(Left) Staff sport 100% hats. (Above) Staff build support for clean, renewable wind and solar energy. Photo credits: (Left) Liam Louis, Elle Vignette Photography; (Above, clockwise from left) Liam Louis, Elle Vignette Photography; Bob Pool via Shutterstock; staff; staff

BRING THE SEA OTTERS BACK



Laura Hedien via Shutterstock

Hunting nearly eradicated the sea otter from our coast a century ago. Now the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service says it’s feasible to bring them back. Not only would the otters be a welcome sight, they’d also help restore sensitive kelp ecosystems. Thousands of Oregonians have joined our call to bring the sea otters back.

CONSERVATION



Staff

In 2022, Environment Oregon 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.

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.

WILDLIFE OVER WASTE



XafrProduction via Shutterstock

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 Oregon in calling for the policy.

SAVE AMERICA'S WILDLIFE



Public Domain

In 2021, Congress approved \$350 million to build wildlife corridors, which help animals get under, around or over roads to migrate and maintain biodiversity. We supported the move. We also documented solutions in a July 26 report on seven successful wildlife corridor projects.

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.

Environment Oregon 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 EnvironmentOregon.org.

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Staff

Toward a greener future

Support our work to build a cleaner, greener, healthier future by including a gift to Environment Oregon or Environment Oregon Research & Policy Center in your will, trust or retirement accounts. For more information call 1-800-841-7299 or send an email to PlannedGiving@EnvironmentOregon.org.