



# Our program report

on the actions you made possible

Fiscal Year 2022



# For a greener Virginia



## 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 Virginia 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.*

**Elly Boehmer**  
State Director

*Elly Boehmer (left) leads staff in delivering petition signatures opposing offshore drilling to the office of U.S. Sen. Mark Warner. Photo credits: (Front cover) JayL via Shutterstock; (left) Yasir Alhumaidan, Yas Photography*

At Environment Virginia, 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@EnvironmentVirginia.org](mailto:info@EnvironmentVirginia.org)

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# 1 in 3

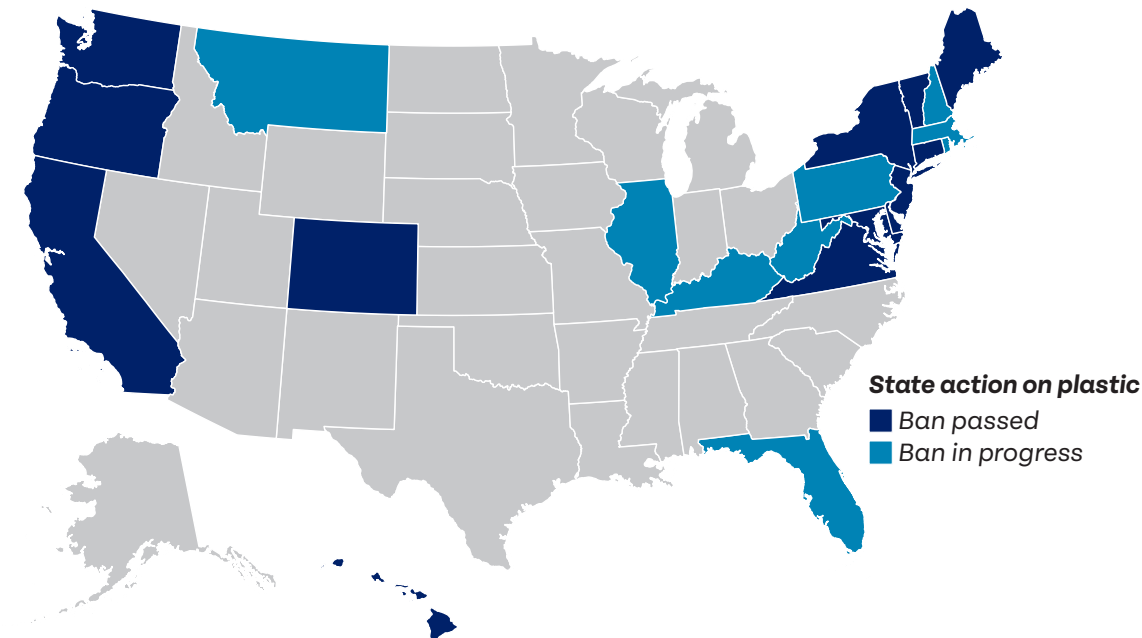


## WILDLIFE OVER WASTE

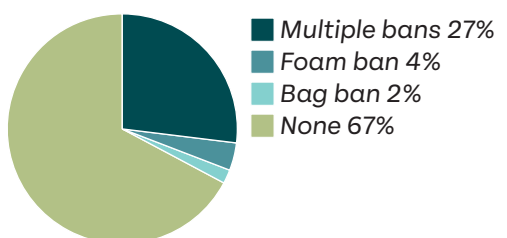
### One-third of Americans now live in states with plastic bans

By mid-2022, 1 in 3 Americans was living in a state with some form of single-use plastic ban. Through our Wildlife Over Waste campaign, members and staff of our national network have contributed to that total, helping to win ban after ban on plastic grocery bags, polystyrene foam cups and more.

We're also spurring companies to take responsibility for their plastic packaging—before it finds its way into our rivers and ultimately our oceans, where it harms and even kills wildlife. Our supporters have called on Whole Foods to lead the grocery industry in removing or replacing the single-use plastic packaging on its shelves.



Percent of U.S. population in states that currently have a ban on some types of single-use plastics.



(Left) Wildlife often mistake plastic pollution for food. (Above) Staff call for action to ban single-use plastics. Photo credits: (Left) Davdeka via Shutterstock; (above, left to right) staff; Ricky Mackie Photography



# 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.



# Cleaner



## 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.



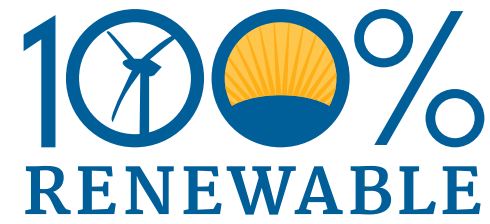
(Left) Staff sport 100% hats. (Above) Staff build support for clean, renewable wind and solar energy. Photo credits: (Left) Liam Louis, Elle Vignette Photography; (above, clockwise from left) Liam Louis, Elle Vignette Photography; Ricky Mackie Photography; staff; staff





Staff

In 2022, Environment Virginia 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.



anatoliy\_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.



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.



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.



Photo Denbow

After 13 years of litigation brought forward by National Environmental Law Center and our state partners at Environment Texas, a federal judge once again ruled that ExxonMobil must pay the largest civil penalty of its kind for 3,651 instances of illegal air pollution at its oil refinery in Baytown, Texas.



XARProduction 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 Virginia in calling for the policy.



Environment Virginia 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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