



Our program report

on the actions you made possible

Fiscal Year 2022

For a greener Pennsylvania



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, PennEnvironment 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Masur".

David Masur
Executive Director

At PennEnvironment, 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@PennEnvironment.org

PennEnvironment.org

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1 in 6



WILDLIFE OVER WASTE

One-sixth of Pennsylvanians live in places with plastic bans

In the summer of 2021, PennEnvironment played a crucial role in overturning a statewide law that barred local single-use plastic policies, such as plastic bag bans and fees. We used this momentum in 2022 to help seven municipalities in Pennsylvania pass local bans on single-use plastic bags, including Pittsburgh, Haverford and Radnor. Now, nearly 16% of Pennsylvanians live in communities with bans on single-use plastic bags.

It is expected that these ordinances alone will reduce plastic bag use in these towns by more than 150 million bags per year and avert more than 875 tons of plastic waste annually.



(Left) Moshannon Creek Watershed Association volunteer collecting a water sample. (Above) Staff call for reducing plastic pollution in Pennsylvania. Photo credits: (Left) Photo by Moshannon Creek Watershed Association, used by permission; (right) all other photos by staff.

Victory



GLOBAL WARMING SOLUTIONS

Pennsylvania took a big step to tackle climate change

With the support of members like you, PennEnvironment played a critical role in finalizing Pennsylvania’s participation in one of the nation’s most successful programs for reducing global warming pollution—the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

The program is expected to reduce Pennsylvania’s carbon footprint by a whopping 250 million tons in the first eight years alone. And after defending the program for more than two years against an onslaught of attacks in the state Legislature, Pennsylvania’s participation in RGGI was finalized on Earth Day 2022. This is an important first step—and an incredible legacy we leave for future generations—in the fight to solve climate change.



Hundreds of Pennsylvanians logged on to PennEnvironment’s lobby day and spoke directly to our legislators, such as state Sen. Carolyn Comitta (center, bottom), about our environment.



PennEnvironment staff and volunteers with state Rep. Steve Samuelson (center, right) demonstrate their support for acting on climate change. Photo credits: All photos by staff.

Safer



GET THE LEAD OUT

Philadelphia acted to keep kids safe from lead

Philadelphia schoolchildren will be protected from lead in school drinking water, thanks to the passage of a policy advocated by PennEnvironment.

After our groundbreaking 2022 study exposed lead contamination in drinking water throughout Philadelphia’s school buildings, PennEnvironment convinced the City Council to pass new protections requiring all schools to replace old drinking fountains with lead-filtering water bottle filling stations by 2025.

Our victory was accompanied by \$6.2 million in funding to make the drinking water replacements possible. These safeguards are the strongest in the nation, and only four other cities in the United States have passed similar protections.



(Left) PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center Executive Director David Masur (right) discusses the “Lead in the Water” report, joined by Philadelphia City Councilmember Derek Green (left). (Above, top to bottom) PennEnvironment staff and coalition partners attend an event to celebrate the passage of Philadelphia Councilmember Helen Gym’s legislation tackling lead in school drinking water; Philadelphia Councilmember Helen Gym. Photo credits: All photos by staff.

GLOBAL WARMING SOLUTIONS



Staff

PennEnvironment mobilized support for the Inflation Reduction Act, the nation's largest-ever investment in climate solutions. It includes billions of dollars in funding to achieve a 40% reduction in global warming emissions by 2030 by promoting wind and solar energy, electric vehicles and energy conservation.

100% RENEWABLE



Staff

In 2022, PennEnvironment worked with state lawmakers to introduce our bipartisan legislation to transition the Keystone State to 100% renewable energy by 2050. This initiative serves as a critical blueprint for Pennsylvania's path to rein in climate-warming pollution.

CLEAN WATER & AIR



Brittany Courville via Shutterstock

After uncovering thousands of pollution violations, PennEnvironment is standing up for public health and forging ahead with our Clean Air Act lawsuit against three U.S. Steel facilities in the Pittsburgh area, including the largest coal refining facility of its kind in North America.

PROTECT OUR PUBLIC LANDS



Staff

As frackers and other fossil fuels companies continue to press for opening our most beloved parks and public lands to drilling, PennEnvironment helped deliver a critical victory in 2022 when we convinced elected officials in Pittsburgh's Allegheny County to implement a ban on fracking in its county park system.

GO EV



Scharfsinn via Shutterstock

After PennEnvironment urged decision-makers to purchase electric buses, local transit authorities in the Pittsburgh area announced a plan to transition all 730 vehicles in its bus fleet to zero-emission models by 2045, a \$1 billion investment for purchasing clean buses.

CONSERVATION



Zack Frank via Shutterstock

PennEnvironment and the larger conservation community called for increased funding to protect state parks and other beloved outdoor spaces, and in 2022 the state Legislature listened. It approved a bipartisan initiative to direct nearly \$700 million toward conservation, outdoor recreation, clean water and preservation.

PennEnvironment 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.



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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Toward a greener future

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