



Our program report

on the actions you made possible

Fiscal Year 2023

For a greener California



A letter to our supporters

Every life depends on a livable environment. So there's nothing more important than protecting the web of life that sustains us all.

Over the past year, Environment California staff and supporters worked to put the environment first. We organized the public to defend our nation's oldest trees from logging, helped Californians take advantage of new clean energy tax credits to reduce climate-warming emissions, and raised a call on major corporations to do right by our planet.

The results included new protections for our country's wild spaces; more people plugging into clean, renewable technologies; and fewer single-use plastics polluting our seas and harming marine wildlife.

Your action and support make all our work possible. We couldn't do it without you.



Laura Deehan
State Director

At Environment California, 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@EnvironmentCalifornia.org

EnvironmentCalifornia.org

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More nature



PROTECT OUR OCEANS

We advocated expanding California's ocean protections

Dolphins and seals surf the waves, sea turtles patrol the reefs, and the last great whales migrate up and down our coasts. Our oceans are amazing. But these waters are also threatened by climate change, plastic pollution and offshore drilling, and they need our help.

Over the past year, Environment California worked to build support for expanding our state's network of 124 Marine Protected Areas as part of the plan to conserve 30% of California's coastal waters by 2030. In March 2023, our staff were joined in Sacramento by students from across the University of California system for a lobby day to support expanding and strengthening ocean protections. We delivered thousands of petition signatures and public comments and met with more than 50 legislative offices. And in August, we celebrated when the Biden administration proposed the creation of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary off the Central Coast.



(Above, top) Environment California State Director Laura Deehan speaks with attendees at the 18th annual California Ocean Day at the Capitol. (Above, bottom left) Staff and supporters kayaking at an event. Photo credits: (Left): Imagine Earth Photography via Shutterstock; (above, clockwise from top): Ricky Mackie Photography, Laura Hedien via Shutterstock, James Rivas



Powerful



GO SOLAR

We called on the Golden State to tap into its vast potential

California has long been a leader in harnessing the clean energy potential of the sun, and rooftop solar panels are an increasingly common sight in our neighborhoods. But there's still more the Golden State can do to tap into its solar potential.

In April 2023, our research partners at Environment California Research & Policy Center released “Solar on Warehouses,” a report that found that covering the roofs of California’s warehouses and distribution centers with solar panels could generate enough clean electricity to power nearly 5 million households. Also in the spring, we delivered a letter signed by 64 environmental, consumer and other community groups in support of an Environment California-sponsored bill that will spur the construction of solar canopies over parking lots and of solar panels and other clean energy infrastructure along California’s highways. It passed with unanimous votes in both the California Senate and the Assembly, and the governor signed it into law in October.



You can find our Clean Energy Home Toolkit at:
EnvironmentCalifornia.org/cleanenergyhome.

(Left) 100% Renewable Energy Campaign Senior Director Johanna Neumann releases a report on the benefits of installing solar panels on warehouse rooftops. (Above, top and bottom) Staff call for clean energy in California. (Above, middle) Environment California’s Steven King and Laura Deehan and CALPIRG’s Jenn Engstrom join Gov. Gavin Newsom at the Capitol.. Photo credits: (Left) Tim O’Connor; (above, top to bottom) Staff, Staff, Ricky Mackie.

Ten v. neonics



SAVE THE BEES

California restricts bee-killing pesticides

Bees play a crucial role in our ecosystems—but their populations are plummeting, due in part to the use of bee-killing neonicotinoid pesticides (or neonics for short).

Over the past year, our staff and supporters worked to win the passage of legislation to make California the 10th state to take action to save the bees.

In March 2023, Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan introduced the Environment California-backed Pollinator Protection Act to limit the use of neonics. Environment California canvassers then spent the summer talking with citizens across the Golden State to build support for the bill—and it passed the state Assembly in May and the state Senate in September. And in a major win for bees in California, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed the bill into law in October.



(Left) Conservation America Campaign Director Steve Blackledge (top right) joins Environment California canvassers in the field, who went door to door to build support for saving the bees. (Above, clockwise from the top) Staff speak with farmers market visitors about bees; Steve with canvassers; staff call for saving the bees. Photo credits: (Left) Marc Olivier Le Blanc; (above, clockwise from top) Marc Olivier Le Blanc; Marc Olivier Le Blanc; Dave Angelini; Andy Smith.



Ricky Mackie Photography

In 2023, the California Legislature passed an Environment California-backed offshore wind bill to boost the development of offshore wind projects off our coast. These projects will help California meet its goal of generating 25 gigawatts of wind energy by 2045, enough to power 25 million homes.

WILDLIFE OVER WASTE



Courtesy of Oceana

Our supporters helped send 137,000 petition signatures to Amazon, urging the company to stop using single-use plastic packaging in its shipments. In July 2023, the company announced it would phase out its blue-and-white plastic padded envelopes in favor of recyclable alternatives.

! SAFE FOR SWIMMING



WGME

“Safe for Swimming?,” a report from our research partner Environment America Research & Policy Center, found that 55% of tested beaches nationwide experienced at least one day in 2022 in which fecal bacteria reached potentially unsafe levels. Read the full report at our website.



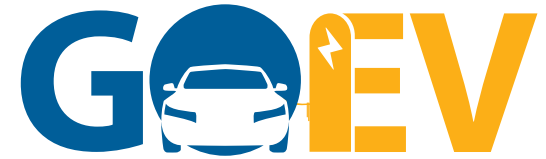
Staff

Our national Conservation team helped convince President Biden to designate three new national monuments in the last year: Camp Hale-Continental Divide in Colorado, Avi Kwa Ame in Nevada and Castner Range in Texas. These special places and the wildlife that call them home will now be better protected.



Harlan Schwartz via Shutterstock

The boreal forest is being cut down in part to make products such as toilet paper. Our supporters sent more than 30,000 petition signatures to Procter & Gamble, maker of paper products including Charmin toilet paper, Puffs tissues and Bounty paper towels, urging it to protect the boreal by going forest-free.



Staff

More than 1 million electric vehicles (EVs) were sold in California by the end of 2023—breaking a goal that Environment California supporters helped convince then-Gov. Jerry Brown to set 10 years ago. Our research partner's "Renewables on the Rise" report gave California first place for EV sales growth.

OUR LEGACY: A GREENER AMERICA

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.



2005: Goal set for 1 million solar roofs in California over 10 years

Environment California helps pass the Million Solar Roofs initiative to create a 10-year, \$3 billion declining rebate program to entice homeowners and small businesses to go solar, with a goal of installing 3,000 megawatts of solar capacity (enough to power 1 million homes).

2006: Climate action enacted

Environment California helps pass groundbreaking legislation to reduce global warming pollution. Four years later, clean energy use in California doubles, reducing the state's carbon emissions and attracting \$9 billion in clean technology investments.

2010: Californians defend climate action in referendum

Environment California organizers help defeat Prop. 23, a ballot measure that would have rolled back California's cap on global warming pollution. Prop. 23 goes down in a landslide: 61% no to 39% yes, the largest margin for any of the nine statewide ballot measures in 2010.

2011-2014: California spearheads plastic bag bans

Between 2011 and 2014, Environment California help pass bans on single-use plastic bags in dozens of 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.

2014: 1 million clean cars to hit the road in California

Environment California wins a requirement for the state to have 1 million electric vehicles on the road in less than 10 years. We secure support from more than 80 mayors and city councilmembers, more than 30,000 Californians and a number of powerful allies.

2018: Public transit goes zero carbon

Environment California and its partner organization CALPIRG convince the

(Left to right) Environment California Clean Energy Advocate Bernadette Del Chiaro with Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger after signing the Million Solar Roofs bill; a "vote no on Prop. 23" supporter; Environment California's Dan Jacobson calls for the passage of the statewide plastic bag ban. Photo credits: Office of the Governor of California; Susana Bates; Staff



state to require that all public transit buses emit zero carbon and zero lung-damaging pollutants by 2040.

2018: Parks win \$4 billion

Voters approve Environment California-backed bond initiative to provide \$4 billion for parks. It protects California's natural areas, safeguards our drinking water, and better prepares the state for the types of natural disasters, such as wildfires, that we've witnessed in recent years.

2018: Giant leap as California goes for 100% clean electricity

As Environment California's Dan Jacobson looks on, Gov. Jerry Brown signs the Environment California-

backed Senate Bill 100 into law. The bill commits the world's fifth-largest economy to reach 60% renewable electricity by 2030 and 100% zero-carbon electricity by 2045.

2020: Clean cars zoom ahead

Clean cars zoom ahead as Gov. Gavin Newsom sets a target of making 100% of new car sales be of zero-emission vehicles by 2035. This Advanced Clean Car rule is formally adopted in 2022, and since then, 17 states have followed California's lead.

2020: California to stop oil production by 2045

Following years of Environment



California advocacy, Gov. Newsom sets a goal of stopping all oil production in California by 2045. This is the first official phase-out of the fossil fuel industry in any state.

2022: Nation's most ambitious effort to stop plastic pollution passes

California becomes home to the nation's most ambitious effort to stop plastic pollution with the passage of the Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act. Environment California teams up with other allies to ensure decision-makers overwhelmingly hear from the public over the voices of the plastics industry.

(Left to right) Environment California's Michelle Kinman 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 and supporters rally to reduce single-use plastic. Photo credits: Jonathen E. Davis; Joe McHugh, California Highway Patrol; Ricky Mackie Photography



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

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