



Our annual report

on the actions you made possible

Fiscal Year 2023

For a greener Pennsylvania



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, PennEnvironment's staff and supporters worked to put the environment first. We organized the public to defend our nation's oldest trees from logging, helped Pennsylvanians take advantage of new clean energy tax credits to reduce climate-warming emissions, and took polluters to court who violated our cornerstone environmental laws.

The results included new protections for Pennsylvania's wildlife and wild places; more people plugging into clean, renewable technologies; and fewer single-use plastics polluting the Keystone State and our planet.

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



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

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100 million



WILDLIFE OVER WASTE

We helped reduce single-use plastic bags in Pennsylvania

In 2023, our work to rein in the scourge of wasteful single-use plastic bags gained incredible traction in communities across Pennsylvania. Over the past year, PennEnvironment's staff helped more than a dozen Pennsylvania cities and towns pass new bans on plastic bags, as well as other single-use plastic waste such as polystyrene foam takeout containers and single-use plastic cutlery.

Combined, these local bans on single-use plastics are expected to reduce plastic bag use in these communities by nearly 100 million bags each year, eliminating more than 550 tons of plastic waste.

New studies show that these policies are incredibly effective. For example, Philadelphia found that its 2019 ban on plastic bags (which PennEnvironment helped write), has decreased plastic bag use in the city by nearly 93%.



(Above, top) PennEnvironment Zero Waste Advocate Faran Savitz and (above, bottom left) PennEnvironment Deputy Director Ashleigh Deemer advocate for policies to reduce plastic in Pennsylvania. (Above, bottom right) Faran takes water samples to test for microplastic pollution. Photo credits: (Left) Ludovikus via Shutterstock (above, clockwise from top): Fox 56; Rick Dean Channel 69 News, WFMZ; Pittsburgh Action 4 News.

Cleaner



CLEAN, GREEN & RENEWABLE ENERGY

We helped pass new initiatives to reduce climate pollution

From the Inflation Reduction Act to proposals to reduce pollution from dirty power plants and fracking, the past year saw numerous policy initiatives pushed forward by the Biden administration that are expected to dramatically slash climate pollution in the U.S.

PennEnvironment wanted to send a message loud and clear: Pennsylvanians strongly support these proposals. To achieve this goal, PennEnvironment staff and volunteers collected statements of support from tens of thousands of Pennsylvanians and delivered them to federal officials in the EPA and in Congress. We garnered dozens of news stories to ensure that everyday Pennsylvanians were informed about these initiatives. And we mobilized more than 100 local elected officials to voice support for proposals to rein in climate change and promote clean, renewable energy opportunities.

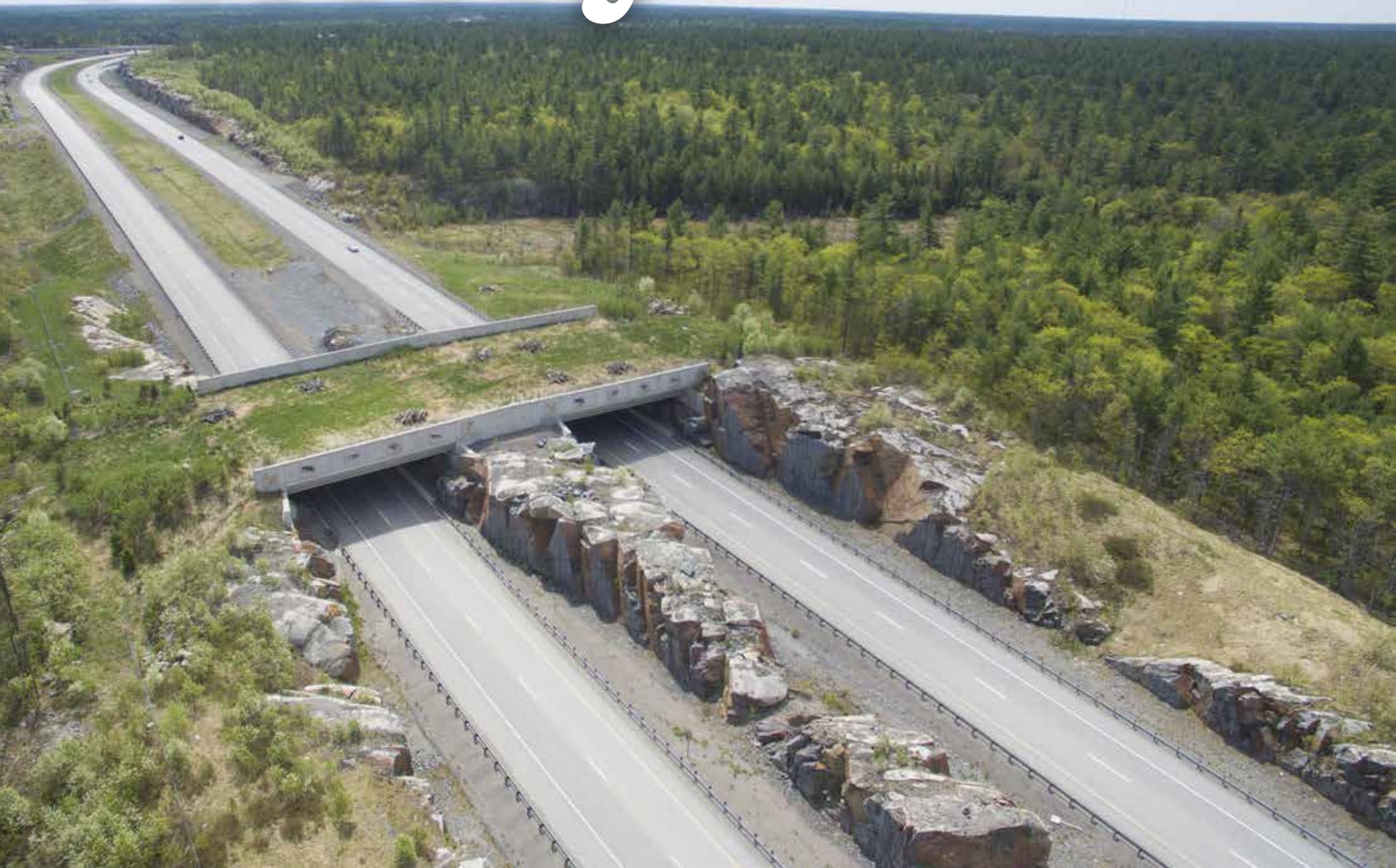
The Inflation Reduction Act has already made it over the finish line. We're confident the EPA's ensuing proposals will too.



You can find our Clean Energy Home Toolkit at:
[PennEnvironment.org/cleanenergyhome.](https://PennEnvironment.org/cleanenergyhome)

(Left) PennEnvironment Clean Air Advocate Zach Barber, state Sen. Lindsey Williams and PennEnvironment Deputy Director Ashleigh Deemer call for climate action. (Above, top to bottom) PennEnvironment Field Director Flora Cardoni speaks at a climate rally; U.S. Rep. Summer Lee and state Sen. Lindsey Williams join PennEnvironment and environmental advocates to celebrate climate progress; Flora and PennEnvironment Executive Director David Masur (second from right) attend a White House event celebrating the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act. Photo credits: (left): Abby Wilcox Photography, (above, top to bottom): Staff, Abby Wilcox Photography, staff.

Victory



WILDLIFE AND WILD PLACES

We delivered new protections for Pennsylvania's wildlife habitat

Pennsylvania is blessed to be home to incredible native wildlife species, from the monarch butterfly to elk and from black bears to our state bird, the ruffed grouse. But Pennsylvania's awe-inspiring species' ability to thrive and survive hinges on ensuring that they have the contiguous habitat they need to migrate, feed, mate and avoid human contact.

So PennEnvironment was excited about the opportunity to work with a bipartisan group of legislators in the Pennsylvania State House to push through a new policy that will help to identify opportunities and improve the protections provided by our vital wildlife corridors. These corridors are the tracts of land that allow wildlife to safely move between habitats fragmented by human interference to hunt, forage and breed.

This important step will help make sure we can protect the incredible wildlife species that call Pennsylvania home, now and for future generations.



Left) Wildlife corridors help knit together habitat that's been fractured by human development. (Above, top) Zach (first row on left), Faran (second row on right) and other PennEnvironment staff show support for wildlife corridors in Pennsylvania. (Above, bottom left) PennEnvironment Water and Conservation Advocate Stephanie Wein celebrates with state Rep. Mary Jo Daley, the prime sponsor of a new policy to improve and expand wildlife corridors that passed the state House this year. Photo credits: (left): Skyward Kick Productions via Shutterstock; (above, clockwise from top): Staff, Pamela Au via Adobe Stock, Staff

TOXIC THREATS



AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar

After a catastrophic train derailment and explosion near the Pennsylvania border in East Palestine, Ohio, PennEnvironment took action. Our staff shared policy recommendations from our 2015 report “Danger Around the Bend” and earned coverage in more than 500 news stories about the derailment.

! SAFE FOR SWIMMING



W/GME

“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.

CONSERVATION



Walt Bilous via Shutterstock

Our state parks are the crown jewel of Pennsylvania’s public lands. That’s why it was so exciting that state officials announced the creation of three new state parks last year. We hosted a webinar with the head of Pennsylvania’s state park system to inform our members and build support for this effort.



Staff

Being recognized by state leaders for our work is a reflection of PennEnvironment’s standing and influence in making strong environmental policies for Pennsylvania. That’s why we were honored to be appointed to Gov. Josh Shapiro’s official transition team in 2023 to help craft their environmental policy priorities.



Staff

Pennsylvanians love our great rivers. Sadly, two new PennEnvironment reports showed that untreated sewage discharges into Pittsburgh and Philadelphia rivers are making it hard to protect these great waterways, and we identified solutions to rein in this sewage pollution.



Staff

As extreme weather events triggered by climate change become the norm around the globe, PennEnvironment released its “Dirty Dozen” report last spring, uncovering the 12 biggest climate polluters in Pennsylvania and regionally, which are responsible for 20% of the state’s global warming emissions.

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.



2006: New rule to reduce mercury pollution

PennEnvironment helps secure a new rule to reduce toxic mercury pollution from the commonwealth's coal-fired power plants. The plan requires thirty-six power plants to reduce their mercury pollution by 90% by 2015, leaving Pennsylvania's lakes and ponds cleaner and healthier.

2007: We expand program to clean up hazardous waste

PennEnvironment helps reauthorize and increase funding for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act, the state's cornerstone program for cleaning up hazardous waste sites.

2008: PennEnvironment helps secure stronger statewide clean car standards

Pennsylvania establishes stronger emission standards for automobiles, providing significantly higher levels of pollution reduction than the then-existing federal standards.

2009: We win historic plan to curb global warming pollution

Pennsylvania finalizes a historic plan to curb the commonwealth's global warming pollution through a variety of clean energy solutions. PennEnvironment had played a critical role in developing the plan and mobilizing record public support for it.



2010: New e-waste recycling program

PennEnvironment successfully advocates for a law that establishes a statewide recycling program for electronics such as computers and televisions, while also banning this harmful waste from Pennsylvania's landfills.

2011: Record-breaking penalty against a water polluter

PennEnvironment wins a record-breaking \$3.75 million penalty against GenOn Energy and an order to stop its illegal pollution of aluminum, manganese, iron and other toxic pollutants into the Conemaugh River. The suit alleges that GenOn was

(Left to right) Nathan Willcox with PennEnvironment speaks with Fox43; David Masur (right) announces the GenOn settlement as NELC's Josh Kratka (left) and Foundation for Pennsylvania Watershed's John Dawes look on; E-waste. Photo credits: Fox43; Staff; Curtis Palmer via Flickr, CC BY 2.0 DEED, creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/



illegally dumping more than 3 million gallons of contaminated wastewater into the Conemaugh River each day, putting the company in continuous violation of its Clean Water Act permit.

2018: PennEnvironment delivers historic clean air settlement with Monessen coke plant

PennEnvironment wins a lawsuit against ArcelorMittal's Monessen Coke Plant in Pittsburgh for its air pollution, including a \$1.5 million penalty and pollution reduction measures. This is the largest Clean Air Act citizen suit penalty of its kind in Pennsylvania history.

2018: New law increases incentives for local solar

PennEnvironment helps win a new law to increase solar production in Pennsylvania. It blocks solar projects built in other states from taking advantage of Pennsylvania incentives for solar energy.

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.

2022: Philadelphia gets the lead out of school drinking water

By a unanimous vote, the Philadelphia City Council passes legislation requiring the School District of Philadelphia to replace all of its old drinking fountains with lead-filtering hydration stations by 2025. The bill is introduced following our report, which shows that 98% of public schools in Philadelphia tested since 2018 have some level of lead in the water, and over 60% of all water outlets have tested positive for lead.

(Left to right) PennEnvironment's Elwyn Corby at the Crane Arts Building solar installation; ArcelorMittal's Monessen plant; Stephanie Wein, PennEnvironment's clean water advocate, releases our "Get the Lead Out" report, giving Pennsylvania an "F" for the inadequacy of the state's policies aimed at stopping pervasive lead contamination of schools' drinking water. Photo credits: Staff; Khaetlyn Grindell; Staff



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

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