



Your Fall Report

PennEnvironment builds support for Biden plan to reduce climate pollution

After being battered with extreme weather all summer, it's clear that urgent action is needed to address climate change. From the hottest month on record in July to smoke from Canadian wildfires to catastrophic flooding and downpours that led to the destruction of property and loss of life, Pennsylvanians experienced these threats firsthand.

With that in mind, the Biden administration is moving full steam ahead with a new proposal to dramatically reduce global warming pollution from coal- and gas-fired power plants. These dirty power plants are the second-largest source of climate pollution in the U.S. and the single-largest source of global warming pollution in Pennsylvania.

When finalized, the proposal is projected to eliminate more than 600 million tons of global warming pollution by 2042. This is equivalent to halting the annual climate emissions of 137 million cars—half of all cars in the U.S.

To show officials at the Biden administration's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that Pennsylvanians strongly support their effort to tackle global warming pollution from dirty power plants, PennEnvironment garnered more than 5,000 comments in favor of the proposed rule during the recent 60-day official public input process. PennEnvironment also recruited 20 concerned Pennsylvanians to testify at national virtual hearings being held by EPA on this topic. To help inform interested Pennsylvanians and answer questions about the proposal, PennEnvironment staff also collaborated with coalition partner groups to hold an educational webinar about the EPA's proposal. We also shared how concerned citizens could participate in the official public input process.



Zach Barber, clean air advocate for PennEnvironment, delivered more than 20,000 comments from concerned Pennsylvanians in support of EPA's proposal to reduce global warming pollution from dirty power plants.

“For too long, Pennsylvania has been a big part of the climate pollution problem. The EPA's proposed rule can help make Pennsylvania a part of the solution by reining in the state's biggest climate culprits,” said Flora Cardoni, field director for PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center. “It's clearer than ever that we need to reduce planet-warming carbon emissions from the power sector. The EPA's proposal would be a big step in the right direction.”

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Thanks
for making it
all possible

EV fleets could save Pennsylvania taxpayers \$360 million

A new study by PennEnvironment shows that transitioning local, county and state-owned government fleets from gas-powered vehicles to electric vehicles (EVs) could lead to a significant reduction in climate pollution and significant financial savings for Pennsylvania taxpayers—over \$360 million over the next 10 years.

that are so high that it's unsafe for boating, swimming or other recreational activities for an average of 128 or more days each year.

“From the tiniest tributaries of the Schuylkill to the mighty Delaware, people love to walk, hike, boat, fish and sometimes even swim in and around Philly's amazing waterways,” said Stephanie Wein, clean water advocate at PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center. “This problem puts public health at risk on far too many days of the year.”

To release our report, PennEnvironment held a news conference along the banks of the Schuylkill River. Media outlets including the Philadelphia Inquirer, KYW radio, WHYY and NBC-10 ran stories about our findings.

Safe for Swimming? Study shines light on Pennsylvania beach pollution

From the shores of Lake Erie to the ocean beaches of the Jersey Shore, a new report by PennEnvironment warns that more work is needed to ensure that all of our favorite beaches are safe for swimming.

Unfortunately, our report, “Safe for Swimming?,” showed that three popular Lake Erie beaches exceeded the Environmental Protection Agency's safety levels for bacteria on at least 25% of the days they were tested. At least five Jersey Shore beaches tested as potentially unsafe on a double-digit number of days.

This new research comes as Pennsylvania and other states decide how much federal and state funding to spend on reducing sewage overflows and runoff pollution.

To accompany these findings, PennEnvironment released a new interactive website to help local Pennsylvanians see the number of days that tested unsafe for swimming and how to stay on top of future swimming warnings.

PennEnvironment's report also documents how transitioning state and local fleets to EVs will reduce air pollution and global warming emissions in Pennsylvania over the next decade. Pennsylvania could expect to see an 800,000-ton reduction in global warming pollution by transitioning government fleets to EVs, and a reduction of carbon monoxide emissions from government vehicle fleets by 94%, VOC emissions by 92%, and nitrogen oxide emissions by 31%.

“PennEnvironment's report refutes the common assumption that choosing the cleaner energy option costs more,” said Pennsylvania state Rep. Paul Takac (State College). “In fact, it's actually more expensive to do nothing and to keep buying polluting gasoline-powered vehicles.”

PennEnvironment study: Billions of gallons of raw sewage threaten Delaware River

Nearly 15 billion gallons of raw sewage and polluted stormwater are released into local rivers and streams each year by the Philadelphia Water Department's (PWD) sewage system, according to PennEnvironment's newest study on water pollution. This untreated sewage contributes to pollution levels in the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers

Get more updates on our work online at <https://pennenvironment.org>.

Staff



Field Director Flora Cardoni, along with state Reps. Joe Cerisi (middle), and Ben Waxman (closest to Flora), released a new report “Electric Vehicles Save Money for Government Fleets” highlighting how the transition to EVs could save Pennsylvanians \$360 million over the next 10 years.



Toward a greener future

Support our work to build a cleaner, greener, healthier future by including a gift to PennEnvironment or PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center in your will, trust or retirement accounts.

For more information call 1-800-841-7299 or send an email to: PlannedGiving@PennEnvironment.org



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Reducing climate pollution

Time to rein in PA's Dirty Dozen

On the verge of the Biden administration's policy announcement, PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center released a new study showing the worst culprits of global warming pollution in Pennsylvania. The commonwealth is the nation's fourth largest source of greenhouse gases, much of which comes from just 12 polluting facilities dubbed Pennsylvania's "Dirty Dozen." These dozen facilities account for nearly one-fifth of Pennsylvania's total climate pollution, and dirty power plants make up 11 of the 12 facilities.

PennEnvironment staff held news conferences across the state to release our study's findings, which led to dozens of media stories, including stories in the Philadelphia Inquirer, Pittsburgh City Paper, CBS News, the Allentown Morning Call and the Johnstown Tribune-Democrat.

"The old adage 'cheaper by the dozen' doesn't apply to Pennsylvania's 12 largest global warming polluters," said Ashleigh Deemer, deputy director with PennEnvironment. "The Dirty Dozen's climate-changing emissions are costly to Pennsylvanians and our planet."

With PennEnvironment's research showing the extent of Pennsylvania's contribution to the nation's overall climate pollution, along with the ongoing media coverage garnered by PennEnvironment's advocates and the extensive input from thousands of concerned Pennsylvanians, we are confident that the Biden administration will move full steam ahead with its proposal to dramatically reduce climate pollution from the nation's fleet of dirty power plants.

Above: Clairton Coke Works in Allegheny County is the only non-power plant named as one of the worst polluters in PennEnvironment's "Dirty Dozen" report. Below: Water and Conservation Advocate Stephanie Wein at an event releasing the report.



Staff

Featured staff



Garen Meserian

David Masur
 Executive Director

As executive director, David spearheads the issue advocacy, civic engagement campaigns and long-term organizational building for PennEnvironment. David has served on the environmental transition teams for Govs. Josh Shapiro and Tom Wolf and Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney, and he was recently recognized by City & State in Pennsylvania's "Government Relations Power 100." Under David's leadership, PennEnvironment has won the two largest citizen suit penalties in Pennsylvania history against illegal polluters under the federal Clean Water Act.



PennEnvironment and The Public Interest Network are celebrating 50 years of action for a change.

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PennEnvironment

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Your 2023 Fall Report

Our mission:

We all want clean air, clean water and open spaces. But it takes independent research and tough-minded advocacy to win concrete results for our environment, especially when powerful interests stand in the way of environmental progress.

That's the idea behind PennEnvironment. We focus exclusively on protecting air, water and open spaces. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

PennEnvironment makes summer strides in passing plastic bag bans

PennEnvironment's efforts to work with elected officials to implement local bans on single-use plastic bags and other single-use plastic products reached new highs, with five more cities and towns passing ordinances over the summer of 2023.

Specifically, the Montgomery County municipalities of Lower Merion, Upper Merion, Upper Moreland and Whitemarsh, along with Delaware County's Swarthmore Borough, all passed plastic bag bans this

summer with PennEnvironment's assistance and policy expertise.

These municipalities are home to 150,000 Pennsylvanians, and the plastic bag bans that they've implemented this summer are expected to reduce plastic bag consumption in Pennsylvania by almost 150 million single-use bags each year. That's the equivalent of 300 tons of plastic waste that will be avoided by these local policy victories.

PennEnvironment's role in helping get these policies over the finish line didn't go unnoticed, with our staff being quoted in the Philadelphia Inquirer and WHY? and KYW radio, among other news outlets covering the passage of these local plastic bag bans.

PennEnvironment's Zero Waste Advocate Faran Savitz speaks to KYW radio at a recent news conference in Philadelphia.



Staff