



Our annual report

on the actions you made possible

For a greener California



A letter to our supporters

In the Klamath National Forest, which runs along the Salmon River near the Trinity Alps in far Northern California, a few trees have been alive as long as our country has existed. They're the elders in a multigenerational forest that provides shelter to animals and plants, from the spotted owl to the little furry animal that is the Pacific fisher, along with adventure to people from all walks of life.

Over the past year, Environment California staff and supporters worked to stop plans to log the oldest trees in the Klamath and other national forests across the nation—just one of the actions we advocated to put our country on a greener, healthier path.

We stood up for renewable energy from rooftop solar power to clean offshore wind, supported a ban on grocery store plastic bags that are making an oversized contribution to the pollution of our oceans, lakes, rivers and streams, and much more.

Your action and support make all this work possible. Nature can't thank you, but we certainly do.



Laura Deehan
State Director

(Left) Laura Deehan speaks at a public lands hearing in support of the Chuckwalla National Monument. Photo credits: (Front cover) Sundry Photography via Shutterstock; (left) Steven Gaskin, Steven Jay Photo.

Environment California is a policy and action group with one mission: to protect and restore the natural world.

But we can't do it without you. Our staff researches the issues, educates the public and advocates 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

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100 days



**GO BIG ON
OFFSHORE
WIND**

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RENEWABLE ENERGY

We got closer to 100% renewable

Step by step, California is moving closer to the ambitious goal (set by an Environment California-supported 2018 law) of being powered by 100% renewable energy—all thanks to vocal members like you.

In 2024, Environment California-backed clean energy bills made it through the Senate and Assembly. These bills supported solar energy power by expanding offshore wind and upgrading power lines with “grid enhancing technologies” that transform existing power lines to be able to carry two to three times as many electrons—helping the state’s goal of reaching 100% renewable energy come to fruition.

We’re also celebrating a set of renewable energy milestones: nearly 2 million solar systems on roofs, one and a half million electric vehicles sold in the state, and more than 100 days when California’s electricity was provided, for at least a portion of each day, by completely renewable resources.



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

(Left) Laura Deehan speaks at an event announcing the introduction of the California Ports Development and Offshore Wind Infrastructure Bond Act of 2024. (Above, clockwise from top) Nurit Katz, Chief Sustainability Officer at UCLA, speaks at Environment California Research & Policy Center’s event to release the Renewables on the Rise 2023 dashboard; solar panels overlooking Los Angeles; Environment California held an offshore wind celebration honoring Asm. Rick Zbur (second from right). Photo credits: (Left): Andy Smith; (above, clockwise from top): James Rivas, Wang An Qi via Shutterstock, Jean Marie Beale.

More than 4,000 square miles



PROTECT OUR OCEANS

California just got a new marine sanctuary

We care about our oceans and marine life, and after another year campaigning, more of California’s coastal waters are now protected.

In October 2024, the Biden administration designated the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary in response to decades of advocacy from the Northern Chumash Tribal Council and conservation advocates. This sanctuary will protect sea turtles, coral, sea otters and other wildlife from threats posed by oil and gas drilling.

Renewable energy goals initially posed a challenge, but after public support, including our members weighing in, state and federal leaders committed to a two-phase adoption. In 2024, more than 4,000 square miles will be protected, with plans to expand the sanctuary by 2031 after the Central Coast offshore wind cables are laid.

We’re now urging state leaders to protect 30% of the ocean from all commercial activity, like fishing, to help marine ecosystems recover from years of damage.



(Left) California common dolphins. (Above, clockwise from top) Dozens gathered in Sacramento to participate in California Ocean Day 2024 to advocate for ocean protection in Sacramento; Environment California’s national Conservation America Campaign Director Steve Blackledge speaks at Ocean Day; Environment California’s Ocean Conservation Campaign Associate Rachel Lucine lobbies in Washington, D.C. Photo credits: (Left) mikedray via Shutterstock; (above, clockwise from top) Marc Olivier Le Blanc; Marc Olivier Le Blanc; staff.

50 million acres



SAVE OUR FORESTS

Speaking for the trees

From the mighty redwoods to the giant sequoias, California is home to some of America's most iconic old-growth trees. These special forests foster biological diversity and provide acres of recreational space, while also absorbing carbon. And, thanks to your help, they may be allowed to keep growing.

More than a million people like you voiced your support for protecting old-growth and mature forests from logging. This massive public response prompted the Biden administration to announce a plan to protect many of these forests. Now, an amendment is underway to safeguard these vital ecosystems for future generations. The National Forest Service released its draft plan in June and opened a public comment period for further input to inform the final draft. Our coalition gathered another 100,000 comments to urge the administration to strengthen and follow through on this plan.



(Left) Klamath National Forest; (Above, clockwise from top) Some of our national canvass team, excited to launch their summer outreach campaign; a great horned owl; a black bear. Photo credits: (Left) Zack Frank via Shutterstock; (above, clockwise from top) staff; Tim Malek via Shutterstock; BGSmith via Adobe Stock.



Steven Gaskin, Steven Jay Photo

Hundreds showed support for protecting the California desert at a public hearing on the proposed Chuckwalla National Monument. Monument status would help safeguard the area's wildlife and cultural sites. Environment California presented over 16,000 petition signatures to the Biden administration, urging the designation.



Staff

In 2023, the California State Legislature codified Gov. Gavin Newsom's 2020 order to protect 30% of the state's land and coastal waters by 2030. In September 2024, the legislature passed an Environment California-backed resolution directing state agencies to prioritize expanding marine protected areas to help reach this goal.



David G Hayes via Shutterstock

Southern sea otters will retain federal protection under the Endangered Species Act, following a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service review. Environment California backed the decision, highlighting the otters' role in maintaining marine ecosystems and supporting biodiversity along the California coast.

CLEAN GREEN & RENEWABLE ENERGY



Gerry Matthews

After lawmakers approved it, Californians had the opportunity in November to vote on a \$10 billion bond to fund projects designed to promote clean energy and strengthen clean air, clean water and other protections. California voters overwhelmingly passed the ballot measure.

GLOBAL WARMING SOLUTIONS



Staff

At one of our most successful lobbying days of the year, Environment California joined with partners and spoke with lawmakers and legislators, advocating strong climate action. Advocates called for solar power incentives and fossil fuel divestment, and thanks to your work, these are one step closer to becoming a reality.

WILDLIFE OVER WASTE



Andy Smith

Ten years after Californians approved the first statewide bag ban, in 2024 we did it again! During the pandemic, plastic companies exploited a loophole and started using plastic bags at grocery store checkouts again. Thanks to your support, we closed this loophole and banned plastic bags at store checkouts once and for all.

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 helps 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 that we’ve witnessed in recent years, such as wildfires.

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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