



Our program report

on the actions you made possible

Fiscal Year 2024

For a greener America



A letter to our supporters

In the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, which spreads out along the western slopes of the Cascade Range, a few trees have been alive nearly as long as our country has existed. They're the elders in a multigenerational forest that provides shelter to animals and plants, from black bears to evergreen huckleberries, along with adventure to people from all walks of life.

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

We also worked to expand and celebrate the accelerating rise of rooftop solar power; to stop the careless dumping of tiny plastic pellets 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.




Celeste Meiffren-Swango
Senior Advisor

Environment Washington 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@EnvironmentWashington.org

EnvironmentWashington.org

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10 trillion 'nurdles'



WILDLIFE OVER WASTE

We called for plastic-free waters

As our members know, birds, fish and other wildlife are often harmed and sometimes killed by plastic that has entered our waterways. Some of the most dangerous plastics are also the smallest.

Plastic “nurdles,” which are tiny plastic pellets used in making plastic products, have been spilled or dumped into rivers, streams and other waterways, where they can be eaten by wildlife. About 10 trillion pellets are carried into our oceans each year, making them the second-largest source of marine microplastic by weight.

In December 2023, our Pennsylvania affiliate worked with Three Rivers Waterkeeper to take legal action against Styropek, a plastic manufacturer found discharging nurdles into a tributary to the Ohio River. On April 10, staff gathered in Washington, D.C., to lobby for bipartisan support in Congress for the Plastic Pellet Free Waters Act, which would ban the discharge of tiny plastic nurdles.



(Left) Our efforts around the country exposed the breadth of the microplastic problem. (Above, clockwise from top) Our national staff and allies meet with Sen. Dick Durbin about microplastic pollution; a handful of nurdles; Steve Blackledge, director of our national conservation campaigns, huddles with staff before lobbying members of Congress. Photo credits: (Left) Garrick Schmitt; (above, clockwise from top) Athel Rogers; Brendan Gibbons, Oil & Gas Watch News; Athel Rogers.

10x more power



ROOFTOP
SOLAR
ON THE RISE

RENEWABLE ENERGY

We're accelerating the rise of rooftop solar

Rooftop solar, which produces energy right where it is needed, is growing rapidly. Our partners Environment America Research & Policy Center released a report in February that showed that in 2022, small-scale rooftop solar produced enough energy to power 5.7 million typical American homes, a tenfold increase over the last decade.

Solar's tremendous potential lies in its accessibility: there is no shortage of suitable rooftops on homes, warehouses and superstores. Despite this, rooftop solar currently provides only 1.5% of America's electricity but has the potential to generate 45%.

In the past year, members like you pushed to expand solar energy use. In January, we delivered the signatures of more than 11,500 supporters urging FedEx to install solar panels on its warehouses and parking lots by 2035. Our members also called on IKEA and Walmart to tap into their solar potential, now made more possible thanks to the Inflation Reduction Act.



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

(Left) Nationwide, we held events and invited our members who love solar power technology to participate. (Above, top to bottom) Johanna Neumann (center), our national clean energy campaigns director, on the solar rooftop of a warehouse; Student Ashanti Mclean at an event celebrating the growth of renewable energy; U.S. Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (center) on a tour of the solar panels at a local church. Photo credits: (Left) Tim O'Connor; (above, top to bottom) Tim O'Connor; Tim O'Connor; staff.

50 million acres



SAVE OUR FORESTS

Hundreds of thousands of us called for new protections for old-growth forests

As our supporters know, the most special forests are often the oldest, composed of trees that have been standing for longer than most of us have been alive. That's why in 2022 we called for new protections against logging on federal lands for more than 50 million acres of mature and old-growth forests, including the hundred-year-old-plus trees in the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

Last year, we reported that our coalition helped convince President Biden to direct the U.S. Forest Service to develop policies protecting mature and old-growth forests, and we delivered over 500,000 public comments supporting strong action.

In December 2023, the administration took the next step and proposed a plan for adding new safeguards against logging. Our coalition gathered another 100,000 comments to urge the administration to strengthen and follow through on this plan.



(Left) Olympic National Park; (Above, clockwise from top) Some of our national canvassing team, excited to launch their summer outreach campaign; a great horned owl; a black bear. Photo credits: (Left) JMY Photography via Shutterstock (above, clockwise from top) staff; Tim Malek via Shutterstock; BGSsmith via Adobe Stock.



Beth Ruggiero-York via Shutterstock

In August 2023, President Biden and Interior Secretary Deb Haaland announced the new Environment America-backed national monument, Baaj Nwaavjo l'tah Kukveni—Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon. More than 900,000 acres of land will be protected from new toxic uranium mining.



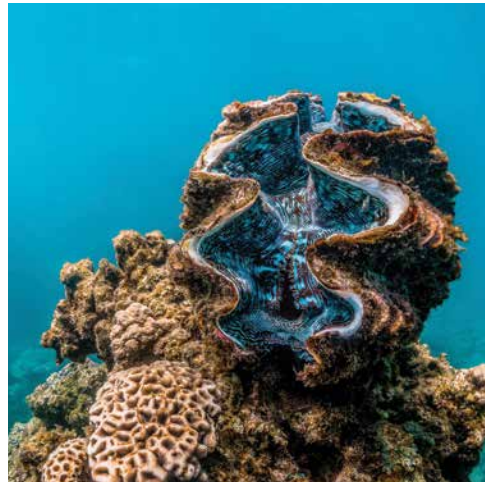
Tony via Adobe Stock

In April, advocates from Environment America traveled to Washington, D.C., to call on 70 congressional offices to support the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and other pro-environment bills. The act would provide \$1 billion each year toward the conservation of bees, trout, bison, whales and other wildlife.



Marc Olivier Le Blanc

From April to July, applications for the Monarch and Pollinator Highway Program opened up for states. This program supports bee-, butterfly- and other pollinator-friendly practices, like reducing mowing and introducing native plants along state and federal highways. We urged Congress to fund the program.



Acron via Adobe Stock

In June, our partners Environment America Research & Policy Center released a report, “We don’t need deep-sea mining.” Mining for materials such as cobalt and copper would destroy coral ecosystems and spread plumes of disruptive sediment. The report showed how reducing electronic waste could render such mining economically unnecessary.



Abby Wilcox

In July, our partners PennEnvironment and Clean Air Council secured a historic \$42 million settlement against the U.S. Steel Corporation for Clean Air Act violations. The settlement includes a \$5 million penalty, \$37 million in pollution control upgrades, and the closure of 10% of the facility’s coke ovens.

WILDLIFE OVER WASTE



Oceana

In June, Amazon announced its plans to phase out plastic air pillows in North American shipments by year’s end. This move, along with an 11.6% reduction in single-use plastic from 2021 to 2022, paves the way for other corporations to join the drive to reduce plastic pollution and microplastic proliferation.

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.



2007: Environment Washington helps block coal development

With support from Environment Washington, the state stops buying coal-generated power. A new coal-fired power plant is also rejected as a result of new state commitments to lower greenhouse gas emissions.

2009: Washington passes bill to improve energy efficiency standards

Environment Washington supports SB 5854, improving energy efficiency standards for new buildings. This makes Washington the first state in the country to require all new buildings to be carbon-neutral by 2030.

2010: \$50 million put in place to protect waterways from pollution

The Washington Legislature approves a \$50 million investment for preventing stormwater runoff and other pollution, protecting waterways around Puget Sound and across the state. Environment Washington supported the measure.

2012-2014: Environment Washington spearheads local plastic bag bans

Between 2012 and 2014, Environment Washington helps pass local bans on single-use plastic bags in various



municipalities and counties, targeting single-use carry out and grocery bags. Prior to this ban, Washingtonians were using 2 billion single-use plastic bags each year.

2012: Environment Washington helps secure national clean car standards

Environment Washington and our national network play a key role in securing new national clean car standards. By 2025, new cars that get 54.5 miles per gallon will be the norm. This win sets automakers on a path toward improving fuel efficiency across their fleets and helps usher more electric vehicles onto Washington's roads.

(Left to right) State Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon (Burien) announced his statewide bag ban bill, flanked by Environment Washington's Robb Krehbiel (right) and Melinda Merrill of Fred Meyer; Judith Rubin (left) and Courtney Fearon dressed as "bag monsters" to raise awareness of plastic waste at the Port Townsend Farmers' Market; Washington Clean Car Show. Photo credits: Andrew McVicar; Staff; Staff.



2017: Environment Washington helps state uphold the Paris Agreement

Environment Washington urges local representatives including governors, mayors and community leaders to uphold their commitments to the environment. State environmental groups help convince Washington state, along with California, Colorado, Minnesota, North Carolina, New York, Oregon, and Virginia, to uphold the Paris Climate Agreement.

2019: \$750,000 allocated towards study to save orcas

Environment Washington successfully urges the legislature to approve \$750,000 for the study of salmon.

This study helps bolster a key food source for orca whales and benefits preservation efforts.

2021: Washington adopts zero-emission vehicle standards

Environment Washington helps to win new policies that promote adoption of zero-emission and low-emission vehicles. These new standards require a percentage of vehicles sold in Washington to be zero-emission.

2021: Clean air and water get a boost in infrastructure bill

Environment America advocates to help pass a major bipartisan package to improve our transportation and



power infrastructure and ensure clean water and broadband access across the U.S. over the coming decades.

2022: Historic investment in climate action

In 2022, President Biden approved our country's largest-ever investment in clean energy and climate solutions. Environment America advocated for expanded tax credits for clean energy, giving people crucial support for a transition to a cleaner future.



(Left to right) Environment America staff and supporters of the Clean Power Plan at a rally in front of the EPA; Environment America staff celebrate the signing of the Inflation Reduction Act; Orca and calf. Photo credits: Johnathan Comer; Staff; Mike Charest via Flickr, <https://flic.kr/p/qcjh96>, CC-BY-2.0, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>.



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