



# Annual Report

A recap of our work for our members in 2013



## To our members

**“Whether it’s stopping fracking or taking concrete steps to promote global warming solutions, Environment New York has delivered real results to protect our environment.”**



**Eric Whalen**  
Field Organizer

*Dear members:*

*Over the last year, we’ve seen powerful polluters wielding influence in Albany and across the state—but Environment New York has stood strong in defense of our clean air, water and open space. If it’s stopping fracking or taking concrete steps to promote global warming solutions, Environment New York has delivered real results to protect our environment.*



**David Masur**  
Regional Director

*Keeping fracking out of New York remains our top priority, and with the support of our members and activists, we have successfully helped keep this dangerous drilling practice out of our state. Over the past year, Environment New York delivered tens of thousands of comments from concerned citizens like you to our elected officials in Washington D.C., and Albany. But we didn’t stop there—we also worked to promote clean energy, protect New York’s greatest outdoor places, and vigorously defend our clean air and water.*



**John Rumpler**  
Senior Attorney

*As new opportunities to protect our natural heritage and environment arise, rest assured knowing that Environment New York will advocate for the environmental values we all share.*

*Thank you for your continued support.*

**Heather Leibowitz**  
Campaign Director

# Protect our Parks and Forests

New York's parks, forests and majestic natural areas are some of the most incredible and unique in the nation. In 2013, President Obama proposed an increase to the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This critical preservation fund will help us protect special places—from the Hudson Valley and the Catskills, to the Adirondacks and the Finger Lakes.

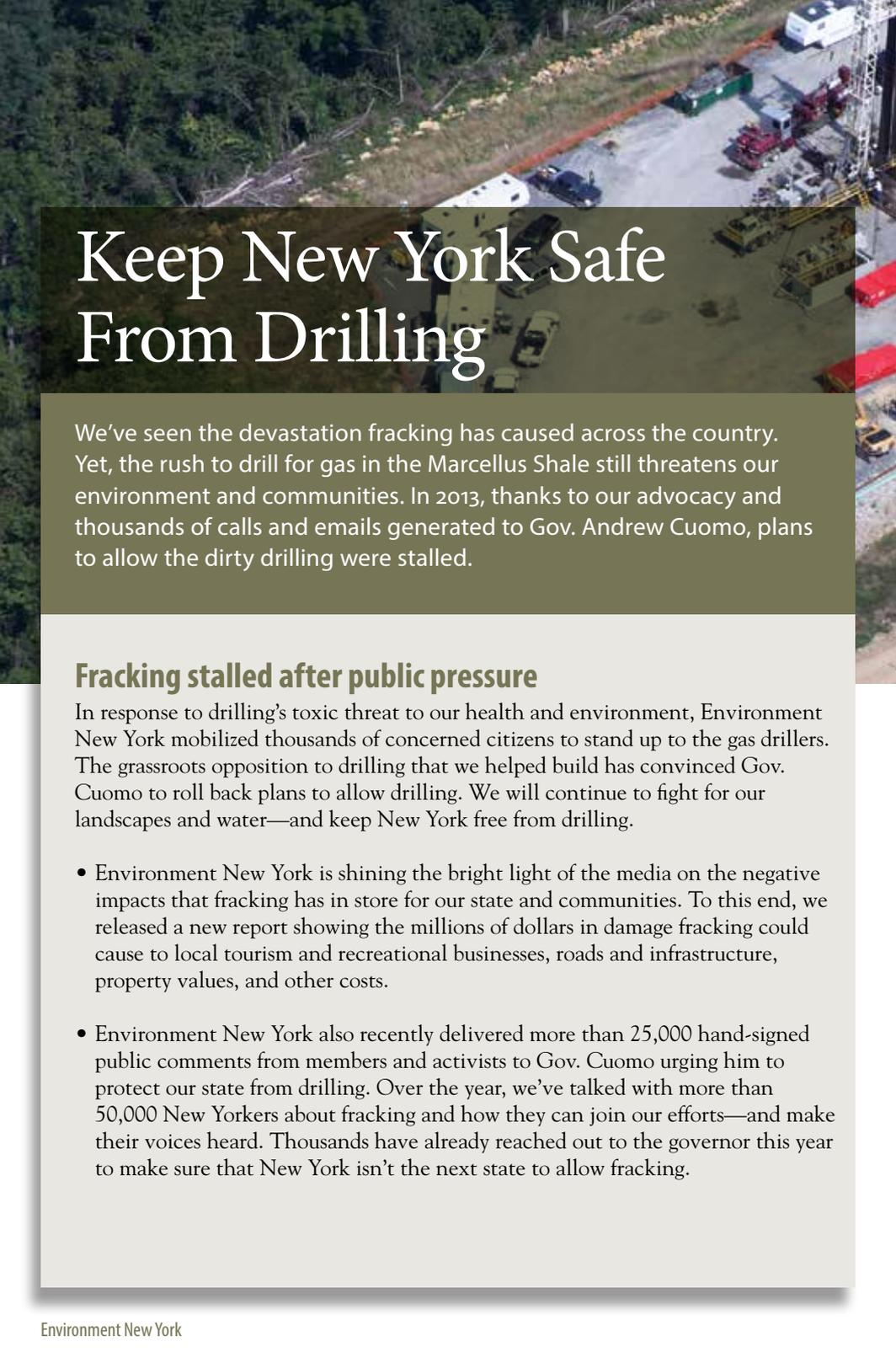
## Increased protections proposed

Sadly, one of our cornerstone conservation programs faced cuts from Congress in 2013. And the fight to protect our precious places continued. The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) was designed to protect and expand parks. Yet in 2013, Congress proposed to zero out funding for this program.

- Luckily, President Obama recently proposed an increase in funding for the LWCF. Environment New York is working to ensure Congress approves this support for our most treasured open spaces and wilderness areas.
- Environment New York spoke to thousands and built crucial support for the program to protect the places we love. With your support, we're working to ensure these treasured places get the funding and protection they deserve.



Top: Poughkeepsie, N.Y.  
Bottom: Rafting along the Hudson River

An aerial photograph of a fracking site. The site is a large, cleared area with various pieces of heavy machinery, including drilling rigs, trucks, and storage tanks. The site is surrounded by a dense forest of green trees. The sky is clear and blue.

# Keep New York Safe From Drilling

We've seen the devastation fracking has caused across the country. Yet, the rush to drill for gas in the Marcellus Shale still threatens our environment and communities. In 2013, thanks to our advocacy and thousands of calls and emails generated to Gov. Andrew Cuomo, plans to allow the dirty drilling were stalled.

## Fracking stalled after public pressure

In response to drilling's toxic threat to our health and environment, Environment New York mobilized thousands of concerned citizens to stand up to the gas drillers. The grassroots opposition to drilling that we helped build has convinced Gov. Cuomo to roll back plans to allow drilling. We will continue to fight for our landscapes and water—and keep New York free from drilling.

- Environment New York is shining the bright light of the media on the negative impacts that fracking has in store for our state and communities. To this end, we released a new report showing the millions of dollars in damage fracking could cause to local tourism and recreational businesses, roads and infrastructure, property values, and other costs.
- Environment New York also recently delivered more than 25,000 hand-signed public comments from members and activists to Gov. Cuomo urging him to protect our state from drilling. Over the year, we've talked with more than 50,000 New Yorkers about fracking and how they can join our efforts—and make their voices heard. Thousands have already reached out to the governor this year to make sure that New York isn't the next state to allow fracking.



## More than 25,000 postcards delivered against fracking

As the dangers of fracking continue to come to light, public opposition to the process is growing. Here in New York, the effort to protect our state from fracking has become one of the biggest environmental struggles in recent memory.

- Next door in Pennsylvania, we've seen drinking water contaminated, fracking waste spilled into rivers and streams, forests trampled by drilling rigs and trucks, and air pollution levels spiked near drilling sites. Already, more than 1.3 billion gallons of wastewater has been generated by fracking happening next door in Pennsylvania—wastewater that is loaded with toxic chemicals, corrosive salts, and sometimes even radioactive particles.
- The shift in public pressure is a promising step in the fight against fracking, and while the state is nowhere near protected from dangerous drilling, Environment New York will continue to organize action, educate the public and work to ensure our landscapes, air, water and health are protected from fracking.



Environment New York staff and volunteers delivered more than 25,000 postcards from concerned New Yorkers to Gov. Cuomo calling for a ban on fracking.



# Tackling Global Warming

We know the consequences of global warming here in N.Y., and these dangers are cause for immediate action. In 2013, we got to work standing up to elected leaders who have long dragged their feet on protecting future generations. And we were successful. Our campaign to stop global warming came to a head this year, when President Obama released his in-depth plan to tackle global warming.

## President's historic climate plan announced

In the summer of 2013, President Obama announced a plan that takes decisive action to address global warming. Scientists have warned that the window is rapidly closing for making the necessary cuts in global warming pollution to protect future generations from the worst consequences of climate change. The president's plan will:

- **Set limits on carbon pollution from new and existing power plants.** These facilities currently lack any such federal limits—despite being the largest single source of the carbon pollution fueling global warming.
- **Invest in new energy efficiency measures for buildings and appliances.** This will cut global warming pollution by reducing our overall energy demand.
- **Build more renewable energy** by expanding the production of clean, renewable energy sources, like wind and solar power.
- **Rebuild U.S. leadership** internationally and support affected communities.

## Plan to limit carbon pollution in place

Environment New York offered special praise for the president's pledge to cut carbon pollution from existing power plants. More than 3.2 million Americans submitted public comments last year in support of the president setting limits on carbon pollution from power plants. Numerous organizations and opinion leaders from New York have spoken out in support as well, including Sens. Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand.

- Two months before the announcement, Environment New York released a study entitled, "In the Path of the Storm," demonstrating that more than 90 percent of New York's counties have been hit by extreme weather.
- Environment New York also released a new report uncovering the state's five filthiest power plants, to educate and build support for EPA action to crack down on carbon pollution from these dirty facilities.



Left: President Obama announcing his climate plan at Georgetown University

Right: New York City after Hurricane Sandy

# Global Warming Solutions

For more than a decade, New York has been at the forefront of national efforts to shift to clean energy and reduce the pollution that contributes to global warming. This year, Environment New York continued to prioritize strengthening the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a key, collaborative step to tackle global warming.

## Strengthened Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

New York is part of a groundbreaking 10-state program known as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)—the first program of its kind in the nation to limit global warming emissions. Environment New York has prioritized strengthening this program and making the state a leader in tackling global warming.

- This year, Environment New York applauded Gov. Andrew Cuomo when he joined with nine other northeastern states to commit to further cuts in global warming pollution by strengthening the RGGI program. This is a win-win for New Yorkers.
- RGGI has been a tremendous success. New York has already invested nearly \$238 million dollars of revenue from RGGI in programs that improve energy efficiency and accelerate the development of cleaner energy sources. RGGI has also contributed 4,620 new jobs and \$326 million in economic growth.



Solar installation near New York City



# Repower New York

Wind energy already powers nearly 13 million homes across the country—offsetting the need for 44 coal-fired power plants. This year, Environment New York and our allies achieved a landmark victory to promote more clean energy and expand wind power off the coast of New York and across the nation.

## Victory for the future of wind power

As 2012 came to a close, some in Congress threatened to end federal tax credits for wind power, a move that would have threatened the industry, meant less wind power, and more of the pollution that fuels global warming.

- In response, we released our report, “Wind Power for a Cleaner America.” We found that each year, wind energy displaces as much global warming pollution as taking 13 million cars off the road, and saves enough water to meet the needs of a city the size of Boston.
- Confident of public support for wind power, we worked to engage thousands of citizens and stakeholders from key states to convince Congress to act. In the end, President Obama and Congress agreed to extend the wind power tax credits in 2013.



Worker installing an offshore wind turbine.

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