



Fall Report

A renewed effort to protect our beaches

Closing loopholes with grassroots action

Late this spring, the Environmental Protection Agency proposed a rule to close loopholes in the Clean Water Act that have left more than half New York's streams without the protection they need and contributed to more and more beach closings every summer.

On the heels of the EPA's announcement, this summer, Environment New York put boots to the ground to build the public support necessary to get the rule across the finish line.

100,000 comments collected

Together with our national federation of state groups, we talked to more than 400,000 people this summer and collected more than 100,000 public comments to the EPA. We also built a coalition of business owners, local elected officials and farmers.

Not surprisingly, big polluters ramped up their own efforts to block the rule, lobbying in Congress, spreading misinformation, and threatening "legal warfare."

Environment New York responded to their attacks by shining a spotlight on the fact that the polluters have been using our waterways as their personal sewers for too long. Our report, "Wasting Our Waterways" reported that more than 5.3 million pounds of toxic chemicals were dumped into New York's waterways in 2012 alone and named Eastman Kodak Co. as the top discharging facility.

"New York's waterways are the 15th most polluted in the nation and that's unacceptable," said Heather Leibowitz,



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▲ This summer, Environment New York worked to reduce pollution that ends up in our great beaches, like Coney Island.

director of Environment New York. "We should all be able to enjoy our beaches without worrying about pollution."

Businesses, farmers sign on

When polluters launched a misinformation campaign targeting farmers and lobbied in Congress saying the rule would negatively impact small businesses, we hit the streets and gathered the signatures of small business owners and collected com-

ments from farmers to call on the EPA to restore protections.

"With the public comment period on the rule coming to a close this fall, we're bringing people together to make sure that the Clean Water Act works for all our waterways," said Leibowitz. "We're confident that it's our grassroots efforts that are making a huge difference in this fight."



Staff

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To learn more, visit:
www.EnvironmentNewYork.org

◀ Heather Leibowitz, director, released our "Wasting our Waterways" report at the Riverfront Corning Preserve in Albany.

To our members

This past summer was a whirlwind. Our citizen outreach staff talked to people across the state and collected thousands of petition signatures to protect our beaches. We've made so much progress, and we owe that success to members like you.

Now, as fall gets underway, it's important to remember another important aspect of the movement for a cleaner, greener New York: Electing leaders who will do the right thing for our environment. Elections can have huge implications, and if our elected officials are willing to stand up for clean air, clean water and our open spaces, we stand a far better chance of winning lasting improvements.

So, if you haven't already, I encourage you to make plans to vote, and to bring family and friends with you to the polls. It's our environment and our future—let's get out there and vote!

Sincerely,



Heather Leibowitz
Campaign Director

Recent action

1.5 million acres designated for offshore wind

More than 1.5 million acres off the Atlantic coast—enough to power more than 5 million homes—are ready for offshore wind development, according to a new report from the National Wildlife Federation. “Catching the Wind” contains a new analysis showing how strong, consistent winds offshore can provide power to New York right when we need it most.

New York, in particular, has a major opportunity to invest in offshore wind power through the Long Island Power Authority, which in 2013 announced a request for proposals for 280 MW of new renewable energy generation, enough to power 120,000 New York homes.

“The vast wind resource off New York’s coast can provide tremendous amounts of pollution-free energy with no fuel costs,” said Heather Leibowitz, director of Environment New York. “A strong commitment to offshore wind from New York leaders is critical so that we can meet our energy needs and tackle the pollution that is altering our climate.”

New York ranks ninth in nation for installed solar

An August report by Environment New York Research & Policy Center ranked New York ninth in total solar capacity and 16th in the nation for solar installed per capita through 2013.

The report, “Lighting the Way: The Top 10 States that Helped Drive America’s Solar Energy Boom in 2013,” emphasized that it is not availability of sunlight that makes states solar leaders, but the degree to which state and local governments have created effective public policy to help capture the virtually unlimited and pollution-free energy from the sun. New York was named as a solar rising star, alongside Vermont and Georgia. These states have fast-growing solar energy markets and strong new solar policies or programs implemented since mid-2013.

“Solar energy is on the rise here in New York,” said Heather Leibowitz, Environment New York campaign director. “Thanks to the commitment of New York’s leaders, solar is poised to begin meeting our energy needs with pollution-free energy.”

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▲ Solar installation near New York City

A groundbreaking step for global warming

Historic limits proposed on dirty power plants

June 2 will go down as a day to remember in the fight to tackle global warming. The Environmental Protection Agency finally proposed the first-ever federal limits on carbon pollution from power plants.

Unbelievably, until now, there have been no federal limits on the amount of carbon power plants are permitted to spew into the atmosphere, despite the fact that these culprits are the largest single source of global warming pollution.

Environment New York enthusiastically applauded the proposal, which would reduce carbon pollution from power plants by 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. Once finalized, this will be the largest step the United States has taken to combat global warming.

“This announcement is exactly what we’ve been waiting for,” said Heather Leibowitz, director of Environment New York. “This is America’s chance to lead and our best opportunity to give our children a legacy we can be proud of.”

Today’s climate consequences

The National Climate Assessment, released in May, recognized the current impacts of a warming planet and the urgent need for action: “Climate change, once considered an issue for a distant future, has moved firmly into the present.”

Here in New York, storms like Hurricane Sandy have devastated communities and threatened public safety. Sea levels are rising, making storm surges more damaging to Manhattan and other low-lying parts of our state.

“This proposal is a huge win for New York,” said Leibowitz. “It means a safer future to come.”

This step forward is in large part a testament to the millions of Americans, more than 600 local elected officials, and hundreds of small businesses who have

already demanded the cutting of carbon pollution. But we’ve still got work to do.

“Climate Defenders” pledge more action

Following the announcement, Environment America, our national affiliate, launched a nationwide “Global Warming Solutions Campaign.” Active in 24 states, the \$2.4 million campaign has helped Americans across the country connect the dots between the consequences of global warming and the meaningful impact of the Clean Power Plan.

In July, our national staff across the country testified in front of the EPA during hearings on the plan. Not surprisingly, the dirty energy industry showed up to stack these events and spew misinformation. But we were there too, standing up for the urgent need to act on climate.

“Once implemented, the Clean Power Plan will be the biggest step the U.S. has ever taken to cut global warming pollution,” said Leibowitz. “This is a huge deal. But it’s not yet a done deal. The fossil energy lobby and other polluters are spending millions to oppose the EPA’s commonsense action. That’s where Environment New York comes in: To ensure this critically-important step is taken. Our kids’ future depends on it.”



take action

To support limits on pollution from dirty power plants, visit www.EnvironmentNewYork.org

▲ EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy announced the Clean Power Plan

Transportation accounts for nearly half of global warming pollution.

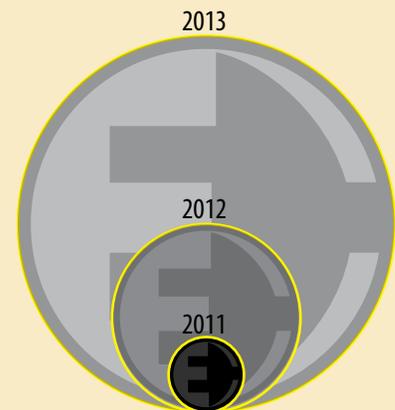
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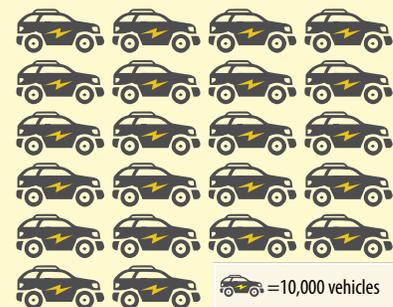
The time has come for America to:

CHARGE AHEAD

In the last two years, annual sales of electric vehicles have increased by **500%**.



Today, there are more than **220,000** electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles on U.S. roads.



SOURCE: Driving Cleaner: More Electric Vehicles Mean Less Pollution

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Environment New York

Our mission

We all want clean air, clean water and open space. 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 Environment New York. We focus exclusively on protecting New York's 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.

Court upholds town rights to ban fracking

In late June, the New York Court of Appeals ruled that towns are allowed to ban fracking within their borders. This is a victory for Environment New York and the many other environmental groups fighting to keep the Empire State safe from the dangers of gas drilling. More than 170 towns in New York have issued fracking moratoriums. Other recent bans on fracking include the California cities of Los Angeles and Santa Barbara and the Colorado cities of Lafayette and Fort Collins.

"This decision upholds the decisions of local communities to defend themselves against big oil and gas companies who are eager to get into New York, and that's good news," said Leibowitz. "Fracking is the greatest threat to New York's environment in decades, and we'll keep taking steps to build the public support necessary to shut the door on it for good."



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Tell Gov. Cuomo to keep dangerous drilling out of New York at:
www.EnvironmentNewYork.org

◀ New Yorkers protest fracking at rally