



# Summer Report

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## Keeping New York safe from drilling

### Gas companies continue push to drill in New York

Across the country, the dirty gas drilling practice known as fracking is an ongoing environmental disaster—contaminating drinking water, making residents sick, and transforming forests into industrial zones. Here in New York, the effort to protect our state from fracking has become one of the biggest environmental struggles in recent memory.

Gas drilling companies like Exxon-Mobil have spent millions trying to convince Gov. Andrew Cuomo to allow fracking in New York despite clear evidence that it's polluted the air and water of thousands of Pennsylvanians right next door. Fortunately, concerned citizens have joined Environment New York and our allies to stand up and speak out.

### Public pressure helps stall plans to drill

Under pressure from the gas industry, Gov. Cuomo had set a mid-February deadline to finalize regulations on drilling, and prepare to issue permits. In response, concerned citizens across New York mobilized and took action. Environment New York members and activists delivered more than 25,000 hand-signed public comments to Gov. Cuomo urging him to protect our state from drilling. This effort joined the record breaking 200,000 public comments already collected. Under this extreme public pressure, Gov. Cuomo announced that he did not have enough information to allow fracking at this time.



Photo: staff

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

This short-term victory is worth celebrating, but Gov. Cuomo could still move to allow fracking at any time.

### State Assembly acts to protect New York

With public concern growing, in March the New York State Assembly passed legislation to extend a two-year

moratorium on fracking. While the Assembly has acted to protect New Yorkers, it remains to be seen if the state Senate and Gov. Cuomo will do the same. In the meantime, Environment New York continues to work in support of a moratorium, and ultimately a ban on fracking.



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### more online

To support our effort to keep drilling out of New York, visit us online to take action and call for a ban on fracking in the state:

[www.EnvironmentNewYork.org](http://www.EnvironmentNewYork.org)



Photo: RNN

## To our members

The ongoing struggle against fracking is one of the most profound environmental fights in New York's history, and thanks to the support of people like you—we may be turning a corner.

Poll after poll shows public opinion moving against gas drilling in New York; the New York State Assembly recently passed a bill that would keep fracking out of the state; and public pressure forced Gov. Cuomo to back away from his first opportunity to allow gas drilling. Obviously, we're by no means safe from drilling, and we expect a long, tough fight ahead. But despite the millions of dollars fracking companies are spending to push decision-makers, it's clear that the citizen movement against fracking is making headway.

I'm excited Environment New York is part of the movement to protect our air and water from fracking, but most of all, I'm excited that you continue to be a part of it.

Thank you for making this work possible,

Eric Whalen

## Recent action

### Funding for parks and streams increased

The New York State Legislature recently renewed and increased funding for New York's landmark environmental protection program: the Environmental Protection Fund. If you've gone for a hike in New York's most popular outdoor areas, or paddled in Long Island Sound or Lake George, you've seen the benefits of these funds. This year's state budget allotted \$152 million to help protect our rivers, parks and wilderness areas—a 14 percent increase over last year.

Protecting waterfronts along the Hudson River and the Finger Lakes makes sense for New York's environment, but also for our economy. Studies show that every dollar invested in the Environmental Protection Fund generates seven dollars for local businesses, tourism companies, and outdoor sports retailers.

### Extreme weather events becoming more frequent

In the wake of Superstorm Sandy which caused billions in damage, tragically claimed lives and left countless New Yorkers without housing and basic necessities, Environment New York released its newest report on global warming and extreme weather disasters. Our report documents how extreme weather events have already become more frequent and severe—a trend that is expected to continue until we address global warming pollution.

Our report found that more than 90 percent of New Yorkers live in a county where at least one weather-related disaster has struck in the last six years. Superstorm Sandy, which caused more than \$60 billion in damages in New York alone, was cited as just one example in the report.

“Given that global warming will likely fuel even more extreme weather, we need to cut dangerous carbon pollution now,” said Eric Whalen, Environment New York field organizer.



## Toward a greener future

Environment New York and Environment New York Research & Policy Center gratefully accept bequests, beneficiary designations of IRAs and life insurance, and gifts of securities to support our work to build a cleaner, greener, healthier future.

For more information, call 1-800-841-7299 or send an email to: [PlannedGiving@EnvironmentNewYork.org](mailto:PlannedGiving@EnvironmentNewYork.org).

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Photo: Leonard Zhulovsky/Bigstock

▲ Homes destroyed by Superstorm Sandy in Breezy Point, NY

# New York takes action to cut global warming pollution

Photo: Ralf Broskvar/Shutterstock

Global warming pollution from dirty power plants in New York and across the Northeast will decline by more than 20 percent over the next decade under a plan announced in January by Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the New York Department of Environmental Conservation.

## Extreme weather events fueled by global warming hit New York

For decades, scientists have been telling us that global warming will make our storms more frequent and intense. But nothing could have made this more apparent than Superstorm Sandy. Just a year after the devastation left by Storms Lee and Irene, New York was hit by the second costliest storm in United States history. Second only to Hurricane Katrina, Sandy flooded tunnels, stopped transit, cut power, destroyed buildings and tragically took lives. Total damages to New York State were estimated at more than \$60 billion dollars. Incredibly, many communities in New York are still struggling to rebuild after the storm. As Environment New York has called for time and again, we need to curb the global warming pollution fueling these extreme weather events. Global warming is no longer a problem of the future; it's clear that we're seeing the impacts here and now.

## A plan to cut global warming pollution

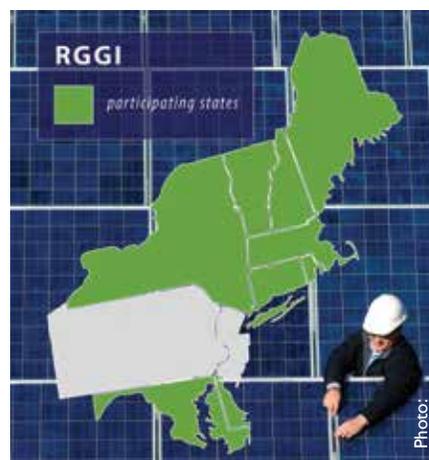
The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is a key part of New York's strategy to reduce pollution from fossil fuels and shift to clean energy. Since 2009, New York has limited carbon pollution from dirty power plants, required polluters to pay to pollute, and invested the revenues into energy efficiency and renewable energy. This has helped New York meet our environmental and energy challenges while curbing dependence on fossil fuels. As New York cuts its global warming pollution, we help take the wind out of extreme weather events like Superstorm Sandy.

RGGI-funded investments are also benefiting New York economically, boosting

economic growth by \$326 million and creating 4,620 jobs during the first two and a half years of the program. RGGI is helping New York reduce global warming pollution and transition to clean energy, but in the wake of recent storms, it's clear that we urgently need even more aggressive action.

## Gov. Cuomo acts to cut pollution and help curb global warming

In January, Gov. Cuomo's Department of Environmental Conservation joined other Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states in dramatically strengthening RGGI. The newer, stronger RGGI program will cap global warming pollution from power plants at current levels and then tighten them, requiring much-needed pollution cuts each year. This is a big victory against global warming pollution, and we look forward to continuing to push the envelope and find ways to tackle climate change.



## more online

*Strengthening RGGI is an important step to cut carbon pollution and slow global warming.*

Read more online:  
[www.EnvironmentNewYork.org](http://www.EnvironmentNewYork.org)



Photo: shutterruder/Bigstock

## Fracking by the numbers:

All across America as fracking expands, the environmental and public health effects have been disastrous. Here are some of the most eye-popping facts from state-to-state: and why we can't let fracking come to New York.

**1 in 3** Frack jobs report using cancer-causing chemicals.

**320** Leaks or spills where fluid reached groundwater in Colorado.

**421** Drilling-waste pits that leaked into groundwater in New Mexico.

**3,355** Violations by drilling companies in Pennsylvania from 2008-2011.

**40,000** Estimated number of wells drilled if fracking starts in New York.

**\$1.6 million** Chesapeake Energy agreed to pay three families last summer whose drinking water was contaminated with methane.

**1.3 billion** Gallons of fracking wastewater created in Pennsylvania over 3 years.

**These numbers add up, and New Yorkers are taking action:**

**225,000** People urging Gov. Andrew Cuomo not to proceed with fracking in New York.

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# Environment New York

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### Environment New York

#### 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 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.

### Battle for our parks looms in Congress

From the peaks of the Adirondack Mountains to the shores of Long Island Sound and the Great Lakes, our parks, forests, waterways and wildlife refuges define much of New York. Sadly, many of New York's public lands face increasing threats from overdevelopment and pollution. To make matters worse, the federal program which supports and protects places like Finger Lakes National Forest, New York's portion of the Appalachian Trail, and Fire Island is facing cuts by Congress.

Environment New York is working to protect our most treasured natural areas—places like the Adirondacks and Watkins Glen near Ithaca, where New Yorkers have the opportunity to enjoy hiking, biking, camping, and boating. We're working to ensure these treasured places get the funding and protection they deserve, through permanent and dedicated support of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

President Obama recently proposed an increase in funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, but now we're working to ensure Congress approves this support for our most treasured open spaces and wilderness areas.



Photo: Songquan Deng/Bigstock

◀ Programs like the Land and Water Conservation Fund help protect New York's threatened special places, including many projects in the Hudson Valley (pictured).