



# Fall Report

## Dangerous fracking is wrong for New York

### Gov. Cuomo determined to bring fracking to New York

Despite growing evidence across the nation of the threats posed by gas drilling, Gov. Andrew Cuomo nonetheless continues to push forward plans to open New York to dangerous Marcellus Shale gas drilling (“fracking”).

In late June, Gov. Cuomo floated a scheme to permit fracking in five counties along the Pennsylvania border: Broome, Chemung, Chenango, Steuben and Tioga.

But we know from other states that once drillers get their boots in the door, they’ll keep pushing and pushing to open up the rest of the state, from the Finger Lakes to the Catskills and beyond.

### Cuomo administration ignores science

Gov. Cuomo has consistently stated that decisions about fracking in New York will be based on science. Yet at the same time, he has repeatedly opposed recommendations for an objective study of the effects of fracking on health—despite the fact that science shows real risks.

### Environment New York still fighting

It’s hard going toe-to-toe with the gas industry and their well-heeled lobbyists in Albany, but Environment New York is not backing down. This summer, we worked to build public opposition to the governor’s plans, talking with more than 100,000 New Yorkers about the dangers of fracking and calling on the governor and Legislature to keep the drilling moratorium in New York intact.



Beth Forsost, Queens Beat

▲ Environment New York educated New Yorkers from Ithaca to Forest Hills about fracking.

We also pushed to close a legal loophole that prohibits the state from classifying oil and gas waste as hazardous no matter how toxic or even radioactive it is. To draw attention to this crazy exemption, we joined with three other groups to do something a little crazy ourselves. Dressed as waiters, we held a toxic cock-

tail party in the Capitol building.

While frack cocktails might make a good joke, endangering public health and safety is no laughing matter. Environment New York will continue to fight for our environment and our health against dangerous drilling.



Staff

### More online

◀ David VanLuven with State Sen. Liz Krueger (one of our champs in the fight against fracking) at the toxic cocktail party.

Visit our website to tell Gov. Cuomo to keep fracking out of New York.  
[www.EnvironmentNewYork.org](http://www.EnvironmentNewYork.org)



## To our members

Believe it or not, the stream running past my elementary school in Park City, Utah was aptly (but sadly) named Poison Creek.

It was so toxic that we kids weren't allowed to play in it. Even as a child I was appalled that a mining company was allowed to get away with poisoning my creek.

Now, Marcellus Shale gas drilling companies are threatening to do the same thing here in New York. Gov. Andrew Cuomo claims that New York will have the strongest safety regulations for fracking in the nation. But drillers haven't even been able to meet lesser standards in neighboring states. Why should we expect them to meet higher ones here? We can't. That's why we cannot allow fracking in New York.

Your calls, emails and letters to state leaders really do make a difference, and your ongoing support of Environment New York allows us to keep fighting fracking everywhere in the state. Thank you.

David VanLuven,  
Director



## Recent action

### Sparking clean solar power

New York has excellent potential for solar power production—we receive as much sunshine annually as Germany, the world leader in solar power. Investing in our solar economy will create local jobs, fight global warming and help clean our air.

So Environment New York is pushing hard to make New York a national leader in solar energy. During the spring and summer, we partnered with a broad group of environmental organizations and clean energy businesses to meet with legislators in Albany and deliver hundreds of comments from New Yorkers supporting solar energy.

While the Legislature didn't take action on our priority solar proposal, the General Assembly did pass a tax credit proposal to incentivize the installation of solar panels for New York homeowners and businesses.

### Capping carbon pollution for cleaner air

For too long, power plants have pumped unlimited amounts of dangerous carbon pollution into our air. This pollution fuels global warming, causes unhealthy air days that contribute to asthma attacks and threatens our safety with more heat waves and extreme storms.

Fortunately, President Obama and the Environmental Protection Agency are in the final stages of creating the first-ever federal carbon pollution limits for new power plants—a truly historic step toward cleaning up the largest single source of carbon pollution.

Environment New York collected thousands of comments this summer to show our support for these important standards. Nationally, this effort was part of a historic drive that delivered 3 million comments to the EPA—the most ever on an environmental issue.



▲ Two thirds of New York City's roofs are suitable for solar panels and could generate 50 percent of the city's peak daytime needs, according to a study by the City University of New York.

# Stopping global warming

Global warming is happening now, but the steps we take in the coming decade will determine how severe it will be.

This past July gave us a bitter taste of the sweltering summers New York can expect more frequently in the future due to global warming. The July 4 heat wave forced power outages in New York City, as electricity use increased dramatically in response to broiling temperatures. January through June, 2012 were the hottest first six months ever recorded.

And less than a year after Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee created record flooding and devastated New York, we released a new report confirming that extreme rainstorms and hurricanes have been happening 64 percent more frequently in New York since 1948. The report, "When It Rains, It Pours: Global Warming and the Increase in Extreme Precipitation from 1948 to 2011," integrated conclusions from numerous scientific studies that linked the more extreme storms with global warming. Warming increases evaporation and enables the atmosphere to hold more water, providing more fuel for extreme rainstorms and snowstorms.

Fortunately, there is a clear path to rein in global warming.

## Real solutions: cleaner cars

Over the summer, the Obama administration finalized new fuel efficiency standards for cars and light trucks that will achieve an average of 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025. Environment New York was part of a strong national coalition that supported the president's efforts to establish these new standards.

Two reports by Environment New York highlighted the astonishing benefits of the standards:

- New Yorkers will emit 24 billion fewer pounds of greenhouse gases each year. Nationally, 654 billion fewer pounds will be released annually.

- New Yorkers will save about \$1.4 billion at the pump each year.

- America will decrease its gas consumption by 23 billion gallons—that's how much crude oil we imported from Saudi Arabia and Iraq in 2010.

## Real solutions: Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

RGGI is the first program in America to make power plants pay for their global warming pollution and invest the revenues in energy efficiency and clean energy initiatives. And it's working. This summer, Environment New York released a new study, "A Record of Leadership." The report showed that New York and the nine other participating states cut their per capita global warming pollution 20 percent faster than the rest of the nation, while their gross product per capita grew 87 percent faster than the rest of the United States.

Environment New York remains resolute in our opposition to coal and other dirty fossil fuel power plants, and in our support for truly clean, renewable energy.



Photo: Toyota UK

## Clean Cars

Higher fuel efficiency standards will save New Yorkers millions at the pump and dramatically reduce global warming pollution.



Dennis Barnes, Creative Commons

## Green Future Fund

### A new way to honor supporters

Environment New York is proud to announce the establishment of our Green Future Fund.

The Green Future Fund will honor a special group of our donors: those who are ensuring a greener future by remembering Environment New York or our sister group, Environment New York Research & Policy Center, in their wills, life insurance policies or retirement accounts.

These legacy donors are helping to ensure that Environment New York will continue to flourish—protecting the places we love and the values we share—for years to come. "We appreciate all of our supporters," said Environment New York's David VanLuvan. "But I feel a special gratitude toward those members who have the vision and generosity to plan a gift that will protect our state's environment beyond their own lifetimes."

Establishing a legacy gift also offers donors a few advantages. Some supporters wish they could give more but can't right now. Including Environment New York in your estate plan costs nothing today, while ensuring support for our mission in the future. Legacy gifts may also offer tax benefits. (Your professional advisor can help you determine any tax advantage.)

As a Green Future Fund donor, with your permission, we'll recognize your gift in our annual report and other publications, helping to inspire other members to make their own legacy gifts. Of course, you may also choose to give anonymously. Either way, any specific details you choose to provide about your gift will remain confidential.

If you'd like to become a member of the Green Future Fund, or if you just have questions, call our planned giving coordinator, Marilyn Tesauro, at 1-800-841-7299 or email [plannedgiving@EnvironmentNewYork.org](mailto:plannedgiving@EnvironmentNewYork.org).

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ENVIRONMENT

**NEW YORK**

Clean air. Clean water. Open space.

## Fall Report

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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.

## Uniting for offshore wind power

Tapping the vast reserves of wind energy off our coast will reduce pollution and ramp up our clean energy economy. New York's ability to use this abundant resource, however, hinges on developing large-scale offshore wind projects.

This summer, Environment New York helped bring together more than 215 environmentalists, clean energy advocates, businesses, and local and state officials to call for bold action to accelerate installation of offshore wind farms along the Atlantic Coast. The coalition released a letter to the Obama administration to show strong support for past efforts and to urge continued action to develop offshore wind resources along the Atlantic.

"This letter shows broad support for offshore wind; it's time for our leaders to aggressively pursue it," said David VanLuven, director of Environment New York.



Axel Ivarsson, Creative Commons

◀ *New technology allows wind turbines to be built in deeper waters that are not visible from the shore.*