



2009 Annual Report



ENVIRONMENT
NEW YORK

Clean air. Clean water. Open space.



From our staff



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Director



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Dear Environment New York members,

This year has been one of rising expectations and mounting challenges—yet as I write to you today, I'm pleased to say I'm excited by where we find ourselves. We are closer than ever to a future where our power comes from the wind and the sun, not oil and coal; where our carbon footprint is small enough to sustain a healthy planet; and where our country's natural beauty and wonders are protected and preserved for future generations.

To help get to this point, Environment New York's staff has worked with our national federation, Environment America, to achieve important steps forward. We've won local and regional limits on carbon and other forms of pollution, new investments in clean energy, new safeguards for national forests and parks, and much more.

To some extent, the opposition of entrenched powerful interests has tempered the hopes raised by the 2008 election. Yet we knew from day one that Pres. Barack Obama couldn't do it alone and he couldn't do it all: As he led the country toward major change, we knew there would be great resistance.

In 2009, this played out with the oil, coal and other industries spending millions of dollars to block some of the critical changes we seek. We're proud of the first-ever cap on global warming passed by the U.S. House of Representatives, though we found the compromises necessary to win more than a little tough to swallow. Worse, the opposition prevented the Senate from even voting on a bill before international negotiations began in Copenhagen at the end of the year.

Yet despite all the sound and fury, all the money spent against us, and all of the aggressive lobbying on the other side, we still stand on the threshold of significant change. Building the cleaner, greener, healthier future we've dreamed of for so long will be neither easy nor quick. Real change never is. We're ready to do our part and we're thankful that people like you are with us. Thanks for making it all possible.

Sincerely,

Repower America

Two big steps toward a clean energy economy

What if New York's towns and cities were powered by the sun and the wind? What if every new home, school and office built in New York was an efficient, green building? This year, Environment New York and our colleagues across the country built support for two important policies that will help make that vision a reality.

Our staff mobilized grassroots action to keep the stimulus package green. The economic recovery plan that President Obama signed this February invested \$78.6 billion in clean energy, efficiency and public transit—the largest investment in renewable energy in U.S. history. The second victory came in May, when the White House announced a plan to dramatically reduce our country's oil consumption from cars and trucks. The plan, which mirrors the Clean Cars program that New York passed in 2005, will reduce national oil use by 1.8 billion gallons by 2016.



Federal Legislative Director Anna Aurilio at a clean energy event on Capitol Hill.

Tackling Global Warming

Historic votes on Capitol Hill

Can we build a new economy powered by clean energy? Can we act boldly and quickly enough to reduce our carbon footprint and draw our planet back from the brink of a climate disaster?

Global warming is the challenge of a lifetime, but not because our country lacks the technology or expertise to confront it. The real challenge is building support for the action that's required, especially given the influence powerful oil and coal interests have on Capitol Hill.

A different climate in Washington

With the election of Barack Obama and the most pro-environment Congress in decades, hopes are high for a clean break from the delay and denial that characterized the Bush administration's approach to climate policy.



Not only will sea levels rise and severe weather become more common, but even maple sugaring is under threat from global warming.



Over the last year, we outlined a vision on energy and climate policy to put our country on the right track: getting 100 percent of our electricity from renewable sources, improving efficiency in our homes and businesses, and cutting global warming pollution by at least 80 percent by 2050. During the presidential transition, Federal Global Warming Program Director Emily Figdor and Federal Director Anna Aurilio worked to build support for this vision with the new administration.

Despite setbacks, historic progress in Congress

During the first half of 2009, the House of Representatives debated new legislation to combat global warming. We focused our energy on building support among citizens and constituencies that could influence the congressional representatives whose votes would be essential to the bill's passage.

Our staff educated citizens and lawmakers on the consequences of inaction or further delay on global warming solutions. We also mobilized our grassroots activists—our staff gathered thousands of petition signatures during one-on-one conversations with New Yorkers, and thousands of Environment New York supporters took action on our Web site.

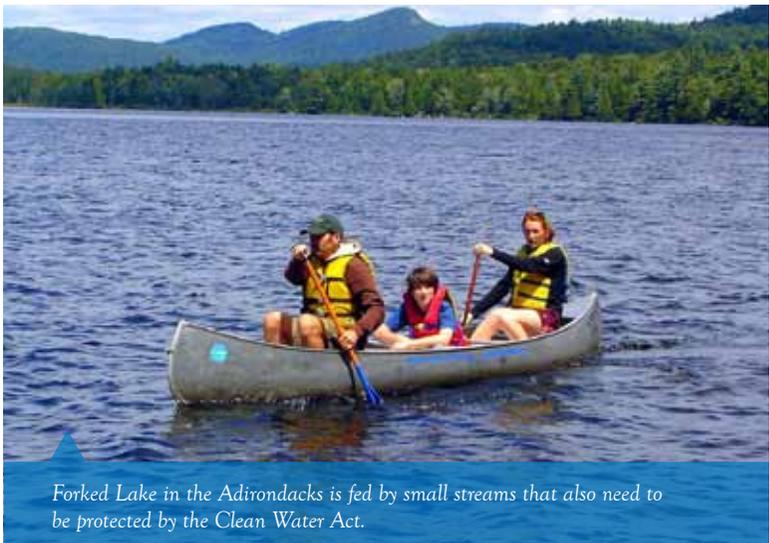
In July, the House voted to pass the energy and climate bill by a narrow seven-vote margin. Twenty-five members of New York's congressional delegation voted for this historic legislation. Although the bill made a number of concessions to oil and coal companies, we continued to support the legislation and worked hard to strengthen and pass it. America can't wait any longer to get started fighting global warming, and this bill has the potential to transform our energy systems.

Our Rivers, Lakes and Streams

Standing up for the Clean Water Act

From the Hudson River to the Finger Lakes, from Niagara Falls to Long Island Sound—our rivers, lakes and coastal waters define what it means to be from New York. But last year, these majestic waterways faced a renewed threat from polluters. Into each of these great bodies of water flows a series of smaller streams and wetlands. If the smaller upstream waterways are polluted or impaired, the larger waters pay the price.

A pair of misguided Supreme Court decisions put New York's rivers, lakes and coastal waters at risk by removing Clean Water Act protections from millions of acres of wetlands and thousands of small streams. Environment New York built support to restore Clean Water Act protection to these streams and wetlands. Although there is still work to be done, we've made real progress—see the next page to learn more.



Forked Lake in the Adirondacks is fed by small streams that also need to be protected by the Clean Water Act.



Working for our waterways

Environment New York's staff has been working throughout the year to restore Clean Water Act safeguards to the small streams and wetlands that recent Supreme Court decisions left unprotected.

- *We won our first victory in June, when a Senate committee approved the Clean Water Restoration Act. If it passes, the bill will restore the protections for small streams and wetlands that the Supreme Court stripped away.*
- *In October, Environment New York's Senior Environmental Attorney John Rumpler testified before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on unlawful pollution threatening our waterways.*
- *Environment New York citizen activists took action online to urge their representatives to support the Clean Water Restoration Act.*
- *Environment New York Field Organizer Caitlin Seeley got the attention of the local media in October when she released a report on toxic chemicals in New York's rivers.*
- *"Wasting Our Waterways: Industrial Pollution and the Unfulfilled Promise of the Clean Water Act," demonstrated that in 2007, polluters dumped over 6.4 million pounds of toxic chemicals into New York's rivers, lakes and streams—and a total of 230 million pounds of pollution were discharged into waterways across the country.*





Our National Forests

A time-out for our last national forests

Every last acre of our national forests should be protected and preserved—for the beauty and enjoyment they offer to all of us, the clean air and the clean water they supply to our communities, and the home they provide to a rich array of wildlife.

In recent years, the battle over the fate of much of our national forests was waged around the Roadless Rule—the largest conservation initiative in American history. This rule extended protection to nearly 60 million acres of roadless, and therefore still wild, forests—from the Appalachians to the Finger Lakes National Forest in upstate New York .

President Clinton enacted the rule, but President Bush suspended it and then repealed it, opening the door for mining and timber companies to destroy sections of roadless forests. Since 2001, En-



Trailhead in the Finger Lakes National Forest.



vironment New York has worked as part of a broad coalition to restore the Roadless Rule. During the presidential campaign, then-candidate Obama promised to restore it. Yet soon after President Obama's inauguration, we learned that something was amiss.

Despite the president's support for the Roadless Rule, Bush-era officials within the Forest Service were still approving plans for logging, mining and other destructive activities in roadless forests in Colorado, Idaho, Oregon and Alaska. In April, we documented our findings in our report, "Quietly Paving Paradise," and urged Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to call a time-out on new road-building plans.

A temporary reprieve for our wild forests

Six weeks later, on May 28, Secretary Vilsack announced a temporary halt on permits for destructive activities within national forests. His sweeping directive protects millions of acres of the most pristine forests in America.

Still, there is much work to be done. The halt is only temporary. And while Secretary Vilsack's order ostensibly covered 8.5 million acres of Alaska's Tongass National Forest, the largest temperate rainforest in the world, officials subsequently authorized some extractive activity. And so, this summer we revived our efforts to convince Congress to permanently protect our national forests. Along with our coalition partners, we generated enough support to gain the attention of Congress. In October, the National Forest Roadless Conservation Act was introduced in Congress with 152 House sponsors, including 20 of New York's representatives. New York Sens. Chuck Schumer and Kirstin Gillibrand joined 23 of their colleagues to co-sponsor the legislation in the Senate.



Environment New York Supporters

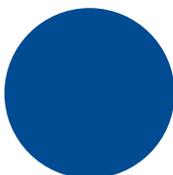
Citizen support is the cornerstone of Environment New York. Thousands of New York citizens supported Environment New York by making membership contributions in fiscal year 2009. The members listed below were particularly generous in backing the organization's research and advocacy. Names that appear in italics denote Monthly Supporters. These members provide stability to the organization's resources through our monthly giving program.



Financial Information

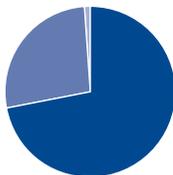
Charts reflect combined financial information for the environmental work conducted by Environment New York and Environment New York's citizen outreach programs.

FY09 Income



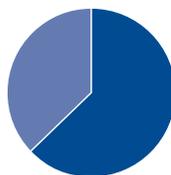
◆ Citizen Contributions **100%**

FY09 Expenses



◆ Program **72%**
◆ Fundraising **27%**
◆ Administrative **1%**

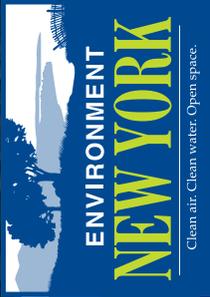
FY09 Programs



◆ New Energy Future **63%**
◆ Green Economy **37%**

Growing a greener New York

Environment New York gratefully accepts bequests and gifts of securities to support our work. Your gift will assure that we can continue to protect New York's air, water and open space for future generations. For more information, call 1-800-841-7299 or e-mail plannedgiving@EnvironmentNewYork.org.



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