



# Summer Report

Nick Tonelli/ Creative Commons

## Historic action for our rivers, streams

### EPA announces plan to close loopholes in Clean Water Act

For more than a decade, PennEnvironment has been working to close loopholes in the Clean Water Act that have left nearly 60 percent of Pennsylvania's streams—and the drinking water sources for 8 million Pennsylvanians—at risk of unchecked pollution. This past March, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finally put forth a long-awaited proposal to close the loophole and restore protections to all our waterways.

### Clean water campaign launched

With polluters and their lobbyists in Washington, D.C., already lining up to dismantle this commonsense proposal, PennEnvironment launched a summer campaign to show public support for protecting all of Pennsylvania's rivers and streams from pollution. The campaign effort was kicked off along Brandywine Creek.

This grassroots campaign is expected to educate more than 100,000 Pennsylvanians about the benefit that the proposed protections could have for local streams. Our staff plan to collect 40,000 public comments in support of the EPA's proposal, release a new study on pollution flowing into Pennsylvania waterways, and recruit hundreds of fishing groups, businesses and local officials to take action for clean water.

### Outreach to 20 counties

"PennEnvironment is running campaigns in more than 20 Pennsylvania counties to close loopholes in the federal Clean Water Act," said Adam Garber, field director of PennEnvironment. "It's no small under-



Jenna Turner

▲ PennEnvironment's Field Director Adam Garber, along with Shawn M. Garvin, U.S. EPA Regional Administrator, Fred Gender, Trout Unlimited, and Terry Peach of a Marblehead Flyfisher, Inc., all spoke to the press about the need to protect our local waterways.

taking, but we know that building support for this rule is the best chance we have at protecting our state's waters."

### Polluters threaten progress

But not surprisingly, in the wake of the proposal's announcement, polluters from the Farm Bureau to the coal industry promised to do everything in their power to defeat this clean water plan, including in their own words, start "legal warfare" to

keep the EPA from taking action.

"From the Delaware River and Pittsburgh's Three Rivers, to the streams that crisscross our neighborhoods, we should be able to swim, fish, and play in our local waterways without worry of pollution," said Garber. "Polluters should not be allowed to use our rivers and streams like their own personal sewer."



Kim Senior/ Creative Commons

### take action

To learn more about our efforts to protect all our waterways, large and small, visit [www.PennEnvironment.org](http://www.PennEnvironment.org).

◀ Waterways that feed and filter the Wissahickon Creek, along with more than 49,000 miles of Pennsylvania streams, lack the protections they need, due to loopholes in the Clean Water Act.



## To our members

I hope this note finds you well and gearing up for summer fishing or canoeing trips with friends and family, be it at the Delaware Water Gap or in a local waterway closer to your home. After a winter like this past one, there's nothing like feeling the warmth of the sun on your face and being out in the fresh air.

PennEnvironment knows our iconic waterways make Pennsylvania a great places to live—and we're winning victories to protect them. You can read all about it in these pages. We've just launched a new campaign to talk to 100,000 people over the summer about closing loopholes in the Clean Water Act and protecting our waters. And none of it could be happening without your support.

Thanks for all you do.

David Masur  
Executive Director

## Recent action

### Green Future Fund: A new way to honor supporters

PennEnvironment's new Green Future Fund honors donors who ensure a greener future for Pennsylvania by remembering PennEnvironment or our sister group PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center, in their estate plans.

Including PennEnvironment in your planning costs nothing today, while protecting the places we love and the values we share for the future. With your permission, we'll recognize your gift in our publications, inspiring other members to make their own legacy gifts. Or you may choose to keep your gift private. Either way, any details you choose to provide about your gift will remain confidential. To enroll in the Green Future Fund, or to learn more, call 1-800-841-7299 ext. 312, or email [PlannedGiving@PennEnvironment.org](mailto:PlannedGiving@PennEnvironment.org).

### Federal budget good news for Delaware Water Gap

This year was off to a good start for the Delaware Water Gap when Congress restored funding for America's national parks system. The majority of Pennsylvania's Congressional delegation supported this funding initiative, after PennEnvironment and coalition partners weighed in with their local legislators calling for action. To make the case for our parks, PennEnvironment released a new study on the negative impacts that past budget cuts have had on our national park system.

The report, "Death by a Thousand Cuts," was released with Rep. Matt Cartwright. According to the study, previous cuts meant the loss of 17 seasonal staff and the closing of one of the most popular boat launches at the Delaware Water Gap, which is also one of the most visited parts of the national parks system.

"This budget shows that Congress has listened to Pennsylvanians who love our parks and were outraged when their gates were shut this fall," said Lina Blount, field associate. "I'm encouraged by the appropriators' decision to provide the Delaware Water Gap and other national parks with much-needed relief."



**Toward a greener future**

PennEnvironment and PennEnvironment 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@PennEnvironment.org](mailto:PlannedGiving@PennEnvironment.org).



▲ Canoe trip in the Delaware Water Gap

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# Delivering a one-two punch in the global warming fight

Felicia McCauly

From severe flooding to extreme snowstorms, communities all across Pennsylvania have been feeling the impacts of extreme weather that's fueled by global warming. And scientists are saying that this constant barrage of extreme weather could be the new normal—unless we act to cut the global warming pollution fueling the problem. PennEnvironment has been working aggressively to try and reduce our carbon footprint and tackle global warming pollution.

## The end of the winter games?

The first step was to get the facts out to the public and decision-makers about the disastrous effects of global warming—and the policies that will avert this disaster. So with the world's attention turned towards the winter Olympics, PennEnvironment released a summary of global warming's impacts on winter sports. The report showed that the average winter in the past two decades has been 10 days shorter, compared to earlier winters. As the result, fewer areas of the world will be conducive to hosting the important event.

Following this study, PennEnvironment released another report to show how our state can reduce its carbon pollution through the clean energy technology that's right at our fingertips. "Moving America Forward" showed that statewide clean energy policies, like wind and solar, have already helped Pennsylvania develop enough renewable energy to offset as much carbon pollution as 212,500 cars produce each year. And more commitments to renewables are being made all the time.

## 20,000 solar roofs by 2025

Once we offered policy makers the solutions that will help address global warming, we needed to support them to be implemented. In March, at our urging, the Philadelphia City Council voted to commit to a goal of 20,000 solar roofs within the city limits by 2025.

"By using energy more efficiently, and by generating more power from clean, renew-

able sources, we can deliver a one-two punch in the fight against global warming," said Elwyn Corby, global warming and clean energy associate.

## Holding their feet to the fire

While PennEnvironment is pressing for solutions to tackle global warming, we're also working aggressively to halt attacks in Washington, D.C., and Harrisburg that are meant to stall action on global warming.

Most recently, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a proposal that would tie the hands of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) when it comes to tackling global warming.

PennEnvironment mobilized concerned citizens to voice their disappointment with local members of Congress who supported this shortsighted proposal. This included getting hundreds of phone calls and emails into congressional offices. We're also working closely with religious leaders and local businesses to show politicians that Pennsylvanians from all walks of life want to tackle global warming.



### Shining Cities

At the Forefront of America's Solar Energy Revolution

research



To read the full report visit,  
[www.PennEnvironmentCenter.org](http://www.PennEnvironmentCenter.org)



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## A talk with Climatologist Michael Mann

In March, PennEnvironment interviewed scientist Michael Mann to learn more about how Pennsylvania can tackle global warming.

### What do you see as your role in the fight against climate change?

I see my role as insuring that discussions of climate change and energy policy are informed by a sober assessment of what the science has to say—that we risk committing to increasingly dangerous and potentially irreversible changes in our climate if we continue with “business as usual” fossil fuel burning. There is a worthy debate to be had about the specific policy prescriptions to get us there. But we can no longer continue the absurd debate about whether the problem exists.

### How do you see your research feeding into the fight on the ground, and how do science and grassroots engagement best support each other on this issue?

The science that my collaborators and I do, whether it be basic climate science research, the analysis of climate model projections, or assessment of climate change impacts, helps inform my assessment of the risks posed by climate change. In that sense, it makes me a more effective communicator of not only the scientific evidence, but its implications as well.

### What do you see as PennEnvironment's role in addressing the obstacle of global warming?

PennEnvironment has been, and I'm confident will continue to be, a leading voice in this state, calling for an informed, rational discussion of energy policy in this state, which takes full account of the environmental impacts of our energy choices.

Read the full interview online at:  
[www.PennEnvironment.org](http://www.PennEnvironment.org)

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# PennEnvironment

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## Summer Report

VOLUME 12 | NO. 1 | 2014

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### PennEnvironment

#### 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 PennEnvironment. We focus exclusively on protecting Pennsylvania'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.

## 10,000 act to protect parks from fracking

Earlier this spring, Gov. Tom Corbett proposed lifting Pennsylvania's moratorium from fracking under state forestlands and parklands—exposing some of our state's most pristine places, like Loyalsock State Forest and Ohiopyle State Park, to fracking.

Within a few days of this shortsighted announcement, PennEnvironment joined a statewide network of groups to defeat this effort. More than 10,000 PennEnvironment activists sent messages to the governor—and their respective legislators—to keep our public lands safe from what we already know is an immeasurable threat.

Alongside our partners, we coordinated a press event days with allies in the Legislature and members of the environmental and outdoor recreational community. On the heels of this news event, PennEnvironment and our partners brought concerned citizens to the state Capitol building to hold a rally and have our voices heard to protect the parks and forests we love.



Staff

### local action

*A talk with climatologist Michael Mann; Campaign launched to close polluter loopholes in the Clean Water Act, and more.*

- ◀ *Kristen Cevoli, fracking program advocate, briefs activists on "Shalefield Stories," a new booklet featuring stories from people on the frontlines of fracking.*