



Fall Report

Critical PA conservation program saved

Helping ignite support for the Keystone Fund

Since 1993, the Keystone Fund has been one of Pennsylvania's most successful conservation programs, helping to protect more than 145,000 acres of threatened open spaces and critical habitat, and funding our incredible state park system—the places where Pennsylvanians go hiking, fishing and take their families to explore and have an affordable way to just get away from it all.

That's why PennEnvironment was shocked when Gov. Tom Corbett proposed to eliminate the program earlier this year.

PennEnvironment staff and members joined other environmental groups in the commonwealth and jumped into action to show Gov. Corbett and our legislators in Harrisburg that putting Pennsylvania's great natural heritage on the chopping block is unacceptable.

Joining together to save the Fund

All told, PennEnvironment staff educated more than 50,000 concerned citizens about the threat to Pennsylvania's Keystone Fund and collected nearly 20,000 emails, letters, postcards and phone calls from concerned citizens calling for the program to be kept intact.

Our volunteers successfully got dozens of letters to the editor printed in local newspapers around the commonwealth to further inform residents about cuts to the Keystone Fund and local parks that were preserved because of this program.



mzarro/Creative Commons

▲ Great places like French Creek State Park (above) have been protected by the Keystone Fund.

All of our hard work culminated in a news conference on the steps of the state capitol in Harrisburg, where we were joined by the House Appropriations Committee Chairman Bill Adolph and Rep. Kate Harper, as well as Andy Loza of the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association. Together, we called on Gov. Corbett to reverse his plan to eliminate the Keystone Fund.

After months of vigilance, the state Legislature passed a bipartisan proposal to override the governor's plan and save the Keystone Fund from being eliminated.

"For years, the Keystone Fund has saved the places that make Pennsylvania great. We were proud to be part of the effort to save the Keystone Fund," stated PennEnvironment Director David Masur.



Staff

Staff in action

◀ PennEnvironment Director David Masur (left) was joined by Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee Bill Adolph (right) at a news conference in Harrisburg to defend the Keystone Fund.



To our members

This past summer, I was reminded how concerned citizens can work together and protect the places we love.

It was only a few months ago that Gov. Tom Corbett proposed to systematically dismantle some of Pennsylvania's most important environmental programs, including our nationally renowned farmland preservation program and the Keystone Fund.

But with a vigilant public voicing their dismay and outrage to our elected officials in Harrisburg (Democrats and Republicans alike), our legislators stood up and said, "No way, governor."

With bipartisan support, they defended these programs—staving off the cuts proposed by the governor.

So thank you—this summer you reminded me that together, we can make a difference for our environment.

David Masur
Director

Recent action

Fighting for clean air

This spring, PennEnvironment joined Earthjustice, Clean Air Council and the Sierra Club to file an appeal with the Environmental Hearing Board to force the commonwealth to issue overdue air quality permits for multiple coal-fired power plants across Pennsylvania.

While air quality permits must be renewed every five years to keep up with changing air pollution requirements, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection allowed permits for coal-fired power plants across the commonwealth to lapse, in many cases for years. Without updated permits and meaningful pollution monitoring requirements, these coal plants would be free to violate emission limits without regard to new regulations, threatening the health of Pennsylvanians—and residents of downwind states.

In response to this legal action, the DEP proposed long-overdue air quality permits for six of the coal-fired power plants in question. "Pennsylvanians will now have the opportunity to provide written comments and to offer testimony at public hearings," said David Masur, PennEnvironment Director.

Clean plug-in cars coming to Pennsylvania

Shortly before the Obama administration finalized historic new clean car standards, PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center released a study unveiling the future of electric vehicles in Pennsylvania.

For more than a century, owning a car meant relying on gasoline, which fuels global warming and exacerbates our dependence on foreign oil. But, our newest report showed that more than 15,000 Pennsylvanians could purchase plug-in vehicles in the next three years. This would reduce Pennsylvania's global warming pollution by nearly 20,000 tons—a number that will increase to 66,553 tons if these electric cars are powered with renewable energy.

The finalized clean cars standards from the Obama administration will increase the transition to plug-in vehicles and other fuel-efficient vehicles.



▲ PennEnvironment Field Director Adam Garber released a report touting the benefits of plug-in vehicles with Nissan of Devon Owner Joe Spadaro (left).

Record support for tackling global warming

For years, coal-fired power plants have been allowed to spew unlimited amounts of industrial carbon pollution, leading to more dangerous red-alert air quality days in Pennsylvania and across the nation. But that could all change if the newly-proposed limits on industrial carbon pollution proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are put into place.

During a summer of record-breaking heat waves, PennEnvironment helped demonstrate historic levels of support for limiting the industrial carbon pollution that fuels global warming and exacerbates the days when it's harmful to breathe the air. Altogether, we collected more than 150,000 public comments from concerned Pennsylvanians in support of the standards. That is more Pennsylvanians to comment on an EPA proposal than ever before, helping to make the proposal the most supported environmental rule in the agency's history.

Hotter days mean more unhealthy air

For years doctors, nurses and public health experts have warned that carbon pollution fuels global warming. More hot days mean more asthma-inducing smog. That is especially problematic in Pennsylvania, where more than 835,000 adults and more than 225,000 children suffer from asthma.

Much of this pollution comes from coal-fired power plants. According to the Center for American Progress, existing power plants are responsible for adding more than 2 billion tons of carbon and other toxic pollutants into the air each year—equaling nearly 13,000 pounds for every man, woman and child in the United States.

The health threat from global warming became even clearer this summer as temperatures spiked throughout Pennsylvania, breaking heat records and leading to numerous air quality red-alert days.

Philadelphia citizen hearing puts a face on air pollution

As the EPA's public comment period came to a close, PennEnvironment and our allies organized a clean air citizens' hearing with Philadelphia City Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown at City Hall.

"The ramifications of air pollution will impact generations of Philadelphians," said Brown, who presided over the hearing. "I was proud to partner with PennEnvironment to offer this forum to give the people of Philadelphia an opportunity to have their voices heard."

Helping build historic support

During the summer, PennEnvironment staff and volunteers spread out across the commonwealth as part of a national effort to collect more than 3 million public comments in support of these historic clean air standards. Our staff collected more than 150,000 comments, and recruited dozens of doctors and local officials to support the standards.

We are optimistic that the EPA will finalize this important rule about carbon pollution in the coming months.



Staff

Community speaks out

Close to 50 PennEnvironment supporters, including Susan Walker (above), spoke at a town hall meeting at Philadelphia City Hall in support of stronger clean air standards.

Green Future Fund

A new way to honor supporters

PennEnvironment 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 for Pennsylvania by remembering PennEnvironment or our sister group, PennEnvironment Research & Policy Center, in their wills, life insurance policies or retirement accounts. These legacy donors are helping to ensure that PennEnvironment 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 PennEnvironment's David Masur. "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 PennEnvironment 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@PennEnvironment.org.

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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.

PennEnvironment announces endorsements

With the November elections right around the corner, PennEnvironment announced our endorsements for federal, state and local candidates who have worked tirelessly to make the protection of our environment a top priority. This includes endorsing the reelection of Barack Obama for President and Robert Casey for the U.S. Senate.

At the same time, PennEnvironment announced its opposition to Pennsylvania's "Marcellus Shale Filthy Five": the state legislators who, time and again, voted with gas drillers and against our environment and public health—especially in supporting the passage of far-reaching, omnibus Marcellus Shale gas drilling legislation that rolls back environmental protection and local control from gas drilling.

To see whom PennEnvironment endorsed in your community—and to share our endorsements with friends and family—visit our website, at PennEnvironment.org/2012endorsements.



More online

To learn more about PennEnvironment's endorsement of President Barack Obama and our other endorsements, please visit: www.PennEnvironment.org.

◀ PennEnvironment Director David Masur with President Barack Obama

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