



# Our program report

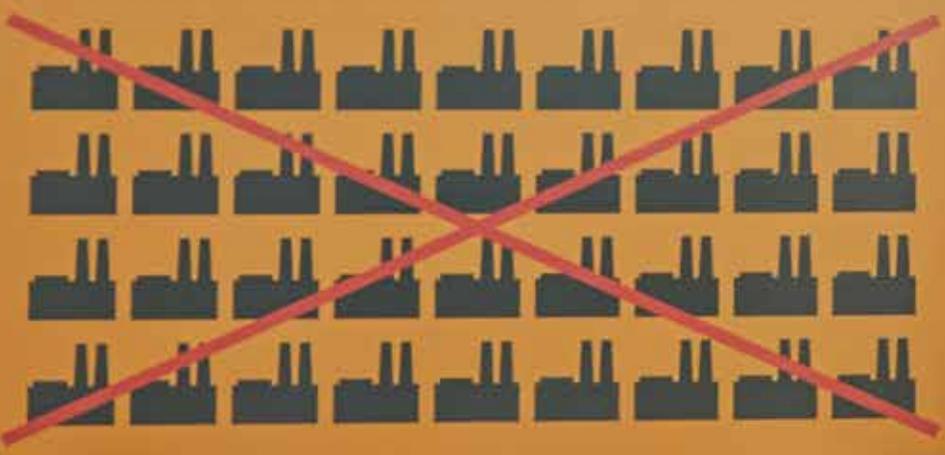
on the actions you made possible

Fiscal Year 2023

# For a greener Massachusetts

**WE SUPPORT**  
**STRONG**  
**WATER HEATER**  
**EFFICIENCY STANDARDS**  
**FOR**  
**OUR CLIMATE**

The water heater efficiency standards would cut climate pollution equivalent to taking 36 gas-fired power plants offline by 2050.



**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY:**  
**WE SUPPORT**  
**STRONG**  
**WATER HEATER**  
**EFFICIENCY**  
**STANDARDS**

# A letter to our supporters

*Every life depends on a livable environment. So there's nothing more important than protecting the web of life that sustains us all.*

*Over the past year, Environment Massachusetts staff and supporters worked to put the environment first. We organized the public to defend our nation's oldest trees from logging, helped Bay Staters take advantage of new clean energy tax credits to reduce climate-warming emissions, and raised a call on major corporations to do right by our planet.*

*The results included new protections for our country's wild spaces; more people plugging into clean, renewable technologies; and fewer single-use plastics polluting our seas and harming marine wildlife.*

*Your action and support make all our work possible. We couldn't do it without you.*



**Johanna Neumann**

On behalf of Environment Massachusetts

At Environment Massachusetts, our mission is to work for clean air, clean water, clean energy, wildlife, open spaces and a livable climate.

But we can't do it without you. Our staff research the issues, educate the public, and advocate tangible results for a greener world. Our members give us the resources to carry out our mission and put grassroots support behind all of our campaigns and programs.

To keep up to date with our work and learn more about our campaigns and progress, you can follow us at the addresses below. We'd also love to hear from you—feel free to email us at [info@EnvironmentMassachusetts.org](mailto:info@EnvironmentMassachusetts.org)

[EnvironmentMassachusetts.org](https://www.EnvironmentMassachusetts.org)

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# 500,000



  
**SAVE AMERICA'S  
OLDEST FORESTS**

**ENVIRONMENT  
AMERICA**  
Clean air. Clean water. Open space.  
[EnvironmentAmerica.org](http://EnvironmentAmerica.org)

  
**SAVE AMERICA'S  
OLDEST FORESTS**

**WORTH**

## PRESERVE OUR FORESTS

# We delivered 500,000 comments for our oldest forests

Our planet needs old trees. They're essential allies in the fight against climate change, but they're being cut down.

In the summer of 2023, more than half a million people (including members like you) submitted public comments on behalf of our oldest trees. Through our Save America's Oldest Forests campaign, our staff and supporters played a key role in building to this moment.

In 2022, we led a coalition of more than 100 organizations to convince President Biden to direct the U.S. Forest Service to develop policies protecting mature and old-growth forests—and when the Forest Service issued its proposal on Earth Day 2023, our supporters were ready. We helped deliver more than 500,000 messages urging the Forest Service to protect mature and old-growth trees on federal lands from logging before the public comment period closed.



(Left and above) Public Lands Campaign Director Ellen Montgomery and staff help deliver more than 500,000 public comments to the U.S. Forest Service to protect mature and old-growth forests and trees from logging on federal land. Photo credits: (Left) Staff; (above, clockwise from top) Bob Pool via Shutterstock; Glen Fortner, Wood Valley Productions; Danita Delimont via Adobe Stock.

# 100% clean



**CLEAN, GREEN & RENEWABLE ENERGY**

**We advocated for a clean energy bill in Massachusetts**

Over the last year, our staff called for the passage of a clean energy bill in Massachusetts and educated the public to make the most of the clean energy opportunities available to them.

In January 2023, Massachusetts state Reps. Marjorie Decker and Sean Garballey introduced the Environment Massachusetts-backed 100% Clean Act to power our state with 100% clean electricity by 2035 and transition heating and transportation to 100% clean energy by 2045. Environment Massachusetts canvassers spent the summer talking with citizens across the Commonwealth to build support for the bill—and in mid-July, our canvassers met with 20 legislative offices and delivered 9,000 petition signatures from Bay Staters urging their lawmakers to support the bill.

Meanwhile, our clean energy team held a series of webinars to help Bay Staters make the most of new clean energy tax credits included in the Inflation Reduction Act. You can watch them on our website.



You can find our Clean Energy Home Toolkit at: [EnvironmentMassachusetts.org/cleanenergyhome](https://EnvironmentMassachusetts.org/cleanenergyhome).

*(Left) Environment Massachusetts canvassers celebrate a successful summer of building support with Bay Staters for the 100% Clean Act. (Above, top and middle) Staff call for clean energy. (Above, bottom) Lisa Frank, executive director of our federal legislative office, leads a webinar on how to use new clean energy tax credits. Photo credits: (Left) Staff; (above, top to bottom) staff; Christian Fiore; staff.*

# Ten v. neonics



## SAVE THE BEES

# Ten states have now restricted bee-killing pesticides

Bees play a crucial role in our ecosystems—but their populations are plummeting, due in part to the use of bee-killing neonicotinoid pesticides. Fortunately, decision-makers are starting to recognize the dangers these pesticides pose, and by mid-2023, 1 in 7 Americans was living in a state that had taken action to limit the use of neonics.

Last year, staff and supporters of our national Save the Bees campaign helped win policies in more states (now up to 10 and counting, including Massachusetts) to restrict the use of these pesticides, and we're calling on companies to take action, too. Over the past year, we delivered more than 30,000 petition signatures to online giant Amazon, urging it to stop selling bee-killing neonic pesticides.



*(Left) Conservation America Campaign Director Steve Blackledge (top right) joins canvassers in the field, who went door to door to build support for saving the bees. (Above, right to left) Steve with canvassers; staff speak with visitors at a farmers market about our campaign to save the bees. Photo credits: (Left) Marc Olivier Le Blanc; (above, clockwise from top) Dave Angelini, Marc Olivier Le Blanc; Marc Olivier Le Blanc.*



Tim O'Connor

In April 2023, Environment Massachusetts joined 35 environmental, health and business leaders as well as local elected officials across the Commonwealth to urge Gov. Maura Healey to set a target of installing 10 gigawatts of solar capacity—the equivalent of 1 million solar roofs—by 2030.

## WILDLIFE OVER WASTE



Courtesy of Oceana

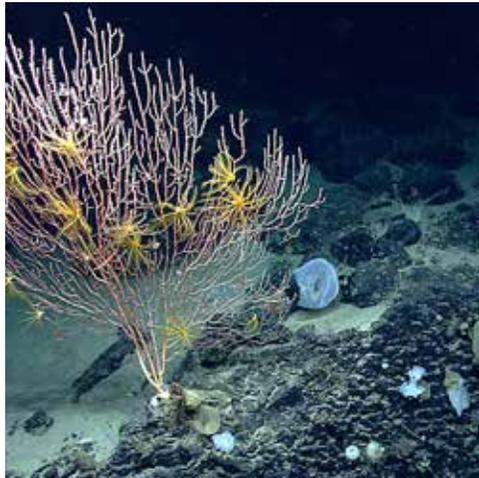
Our supporters helped send 137,000 petition signatures to Amazon, urging the company to stop using single-use plastic packaging in its shipments. In July 2023, the company announced it would phase out its blue-and-white plastic padded envelopes in favor of recyclable alternatives.

## ! SAFE FOR SWIMMING



W/GME

“Safe for Swimming?,” a report from our research partner Environment America Research & Policy Center, found that 55% of tested beaches nationwide experienced at least one day in 2022 in which fecal bacteria reached potentially unsafe levels. Read the full report at our website.



NOAA Ocean Explorer

Off the coast of New England, the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument is a wildlife oasis. Environment Massachusetts has long called for more protections for this place, and in September 2023, the Biden administration released its draft management proposal to do just that.



Harlan Schwartz via Shutterstock

The boreal forest is being cut down in part to make products such as toilet paper. Our supporters sent more than 30,000 petition signatures to Procter & Gamble, maker of paper products including Charmin toilet paper, Puffs tissues and Bounty paper towels, urging it to protect the boreal by going forest-free.



Staff

Our research partner's report, "Renewables on the Rise," found that Americans bought 647,000 plug-in electric vehicles in 2021, a 13-fold increase from 2012. And thanks in part to the inclusion of EV tax credits in the Inflation Reduction Act, we expect to see more and more Americans switch to EVs.

# OUR LEGACY: A GREENER AMERICA

Together, we have a long legacy of victories for clean air, clean water, clean energy and more—including state and local wins that have provided blueprints for action nationwide.



## 2006: We help reduce toxics use

Environment Massachusetts wins an expansion of the Toxics Use Reduction Act. By 2019, toxic chemical use in Massachusetts has dropped from 1.2 billion pounds per year in 1990 to 0.7 billion pounds.

## 2007: Massachusetts joins regional climate pact

Environment Massachusetts helps convince the state to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)—our country's best regional climate program. It cuts power plant pollution while investing in clean energy and saving customers nearly \$400 million on their power bills.

## 2008: State clean car standards are strengthened

Backed by our advocacy and action, Massachusetts establishes stronger emission standards for automobiles. This helps set the groundwork for stronger federal clean car standards.

## 2009: We win historic plan to curb global warming pollution

Environment Massachusetts helps pass groundbreaking legislation to reduce global warming pollution, imposing the strongest cap on global warming pollution in the country. We had lobbied and knocked on more than 200,000 doors to build public support.



## 2010: We stop logging around Quabbin Reservoir

Environment Massachusetts wins a moratorium on logging the forest surrounding and filtering the Quabbin Reservoir—the drinking source water for 2 million Bay Staters. This work helps expand the ban on logging from 40% to 60% of state forests.

## 2012: We help secure national clean car standards

Environment Massachusetts and our national partners at Environment America play a key role in securing new national clean car standards equivalent to 54.5 mpg that will make super-efficient cars the norm by 2025. This win sets automakers

*(Left to right) An Environment Massachusetts canvasser building support for our campaigns; Environment Massachusetts' Ben Wright; our staff meet with President Obama at an event celebrating the new fuel efficiency standards. Photo credits: Staff; Kelly Davidson; The White House*



on a path toward improving fuel efficiency across their fleets and even helps usher electric vehicles into the mainstream.

### 2013: Further action to cap global warming pollution

Environment Massachusetts helps strengthen the regional agreement that caps global warming emissions from power plants and invests in clean energy.

### 2018: Bay Staters put wildlife over plastic waste

With the support of Environment Massachusetts, 81 cities or towns restrict plastic bags and 29 limit the use of polystyrene foam, helping to

reduce plastic pollution at the local level.

### 2020: Conservation gets \$900 million annually

After winning the permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in 2019, Environment Massachusetts and our national network win full funding of \$900 million annually for the LWCF the following year. It's the nation's most effective conservation and recreation law, putting billions of federal dollars into national and local parks, playgrounds and trails across the country over the last 50 years.



### 2021: Clean cars zoom ahead

After our continued research and advocacy for cleaner cars, Gov. Charlie Baker announces that Massachusetts will aim to phase out the sale of new gas-powered cars by 2035, joining California as the second state to pledge to go all-electric.

### 2022: Massachusetts takes major climate action

Environment Massachusetts helps pass a far-reaching climate bill that will help make homes and businesses more energy efficient, put more electric vehicles on the road, and ramp up the amount of electricity we get from the sun and wind.

(Left to right) Environment Massachusetts' Ben Wright (second from left) at an event with Gov. Deval Patrick (front center); our staff distribute lawn signs calling on Congress to fully fund the LWCF; Environment Massachusetts' Ben Hellerstein (front, fourth from right) with staff and coalition partners at the State House. Photo credits: Devin Dobbins; Suzanna Navarro Photography; Liam Louis, Elle Vignette Photography



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## Our staff

To see a full staff list and learn more about our campaigns, visit us online at [EnvironmentMassachusetts.org](http://EnvironmentMassachusetts.org).

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Vice President and Senior Director of State Offices

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**John Rumpler**  
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Director, Public Lands Campaign

**Susan Holmes**  
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**Kelsey Lamp**  
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**Susan Rakov**  
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