



Our program report

on the actions you made possible

For a greener Oregon



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 Oregon staff and supporters worked to put the environment first. We organized the public to defend our nation's oldest trees from logging, helped Oregonians 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.



Celeste Meiffren-Swango
State Director

At Environment Oregon, 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@EnvironmentOregon.org

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500,000



PRESERVE OUR FORESTS

We helped deliver 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, Environment Oregon and our coalition partners delivered 45,000 public comments to the Bureau of Land Management's regional headquarters in Portland on behalf of our oldest trees—a significant portion of the more than 500,000 comments submitted by forest defenders nationwide. Through our Save Oregon's Oldest Forests campaign, our staff and supporters played a key role in building to this moment.

In 2022, Environment Oregon and Environment America 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 from logging—and when the Forest Service issued its proposal on Earth Day 2023, our supporters were ready. We helped deliver more than 500,000 messages before the public comment period closed.



(Left and above) Environment Oregon State Director Celeste Meiffren-Swango and staff rally 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.

Billions



CLEAN, GREEN & RENEWABLE ENERGY

With billions going to clean energy, we helped people go green

Over the last year, our staff advocated for legislation and mobilized the public to make the most of the clean energy opportunities available to them.

In June 2023, the Oregon Legislature passed an Environment Oregon-backed bill package to boost clean energy. These policies will help Oregon invest in clean energy, energy efficiency and clean transportation, and they position our state to make the most of the opportunities provided in the Inflation Reduction Act—our nation’s largest-ever investment in clean energy, which we helped win back in 2022.

To help make sure that funding is put to good use, our clean energy team also held a series of webinars to teach attendees how to use the new clean energy tax credits to get solar panels, make their home more energy-efficient, or get an electric vehicle. You can watch the webinars on our website.



You can find our Clean Energy Home Toolkit at: EnvironmentOregon.org/cleanenergyhome.

(Left) 100% Renewable Energy Campaign Senior Director Johanna Neumann releases a report on the benefits of installing solar panels on warehouse rooftops. (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) Tim O'Connor; (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 the fall of 2023, 1 in 4 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) 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.

100% RENEWABLE



Liam Louis, Elle Vignette Photography

In June 2023, Gov. Tina Kotek signed an Environment Oregon-backed bill into law to phase out the sale of new fluorescent light bulbs that contain toxic mercury. LED lightbulbs are twice as energy efficient and are expected to save Oregon residents and businesses \$49 million annually in electricity bills by 2030.

WILDLIFE OVER WASTE



Staff

Oregon cemented our status as a national leader in reducing plastic with the passage of two new bills, which were signed into law in May 2023. The laws will phase out polystyrene foam foodware, packing peanuts and coolers and update the health code to make it easier for restaurants to provide reusable container options.

! SAFE FOR SWIMMING



WGME

“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.



CONSERVATION



Florida Fish and Wildlife via Flickr, CC BY-ND 2.0 DEED

Our wild spaces have been fragmented by roads, fences and other human development, blocking the movement of animals and pushing ecosystems out of balance. In August 2023, Gov. Kotek signed a bill to allocate \$5 million to fund wildlife crossings in Oregon, a key way to knit together separated habitats.



PROTECT THE BOREAL FOREST



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.



GOEV

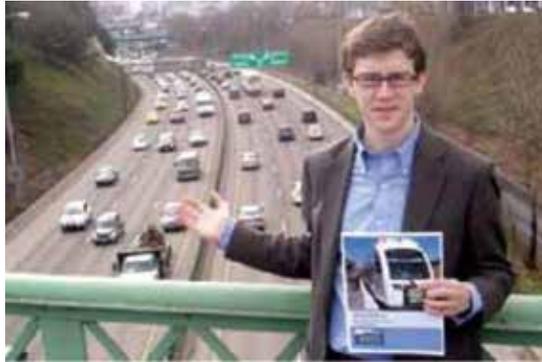


Staff

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.



2007: Regional effort to reduce greenhouse gases launched

Environment Oregon works with Gov. Ted Kulongoski to launch the six-state Western Climate Initiative. The collaboration was created to identify, evaluate, and implement ways to reduce greenhouse gases in the region.

2009: More infrastructure for greener transportation

Environment Oregon helps win a requirement that the Portland Metro region reduce its transportation-related climate pollution, with greater funding for biking infrastructure and public transit.

2012-2014: Environment Oregon leads local plastic bag bans

Between 2012 and 2014, Environment Oregon helps pass bans on single-use plastic bags in various municipalities and counties. Prior to the introduction of these bans, Oregonians were using approximately 1.7 billion plastic bags each year.

2018: Progress made against lead in child care centers

Environment Oregon wins requirements that all child care facilities test their water for lead. We submit a coalition letter along with other prominent environmental and public health groups, as well as



with petitions signed by hundreds of Oregonians urging Oregon's Early Learning Council to strengthen the proposal and protect our children from lead in their water.

2018: Portland Metro's TriMet commits to electrify its bus fleet

Environment Oregon heads a coalition that successfully convinces the state's largest transit agency to commit to a zero-emission bus fleet by 2040. Many Environment Oregon members join us at TriMet budget workshops to advocate for electric buses.

(Left to right) Environment Oregon's Brock Howell shows how investing in public transit helps reduce climate pollution; staff and activists supporting plastic bag bans in Oregon; TriMet bus in downtown Portland. Photo credits: Staff; Staff; Joe A. Kunzler Photo, AvgeekJoe Productions, growlernoise-AT-gmail-DOT-com via Flickr, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 DEED, flickr.com/photos/avgeekjoe/38461820982, creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/



2019: Oregon bans the bag

Oregon becomes the sixth state to ban plastic grocery bags statewide. Leading up to the state ban, city level bans on single-use plastic grocery bags sweep across Oregon thanks in part to Environment Oregon's organizing.

2020: Conservation gets \$900 million annually

After winning the permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in 2019, Environment Oregon 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: Oregon commits to 100% clean electricity by 2040

The commitment makes Oregon tied with New York for the fastest transition to clean power. Environment Oregon had built support for clean energy by distributing educational materials to more than 400,000 Oregonians.

2022: Oregon sets goal to put more EVs on the road

Environment Oregon helps win



policies that incentivize the adoption of zero-emission vehicles. The new rule requires all new cars sold in Oregon be zero-emission vehicles by 2035.

2022: Historic investment in climate action

In 2022, President Biden approves our country's largest-ever investment in clean energy and climate solutions. Environment Oregon and our national partners at Environment America had advocated for expanded tax credits for clean energy, giving people and local and state governments crucial support for a transition to a cleaner future.

(Left to right) Our staff distribute lawn signs calling on Congress to fully fund the LWCF; Environment Oregon State Director Celeste Meiffren-Swango and her daughter celebrate 100% clean energy in Oregon; Celeste (left) and other advocates celebrate historic investments in clean energy and climate action. Photo credits: Suzanne Navarro Photography; Staff; Staff



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To see a full staff list and learn more about our campaigns, visit us online at EnvironmentOregon.org.

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