



# Winter Report

## Another step toward protecting all waters

### EPA moves to close Clean Water Act loopholes

This fall, in a move to better protect all of America's waterways—from the Chesapeake Bay to the Great Lakes—the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) took the first big step to fix loopholes in the Clean Water Act.

Whether it's the Potomac River or the stream in your backyard, we should be able to let our kids splash in the water, or go swimming or fishing without worry of pollution. That's why Environment America has been working to close polluter-created loopholes in the Clean Water Act.

The EPA's rulemaking would restore protection to more than half of America's streams and more than 20 million acres of wetlands. It is the biggest step the Obama administration has taken to protect all of America's waterways.

"We knew it would take all of us to go up against these big polluters," said Clean Water Advocate Ally Fields. "But with one in three Americans' drinking water at risk, the amount of public support we've seen has been inspiring."

#### More than 150,000 call on EPA

In the years leading up to the announcement, Environment America staff had nearly 1 million face-to-face conversations about the need to restore Clean Water Act protections to all our waterways.

After the EPA announced the rulemaking, Environment America organizers worked to get farmers, local elected offi-



Lone Wolf Photos/Creative Commons

▲ Great Blue Heron on the Chesapeake Bay

cials, and neighbors to call on the EPA to see this rule through.

More than 150,000 people weighed in asking the EPA to protect all our waterways, as did more than 200 farmers and 400 local elected officials.

In addition to more than 150,000 people weighing in during the public comment

period, Fields testified on behalf of Environment America members in support of fixing the Clean Water Act at an EPA-held hearing in December.

Environment America staff also held news events across the country to release newly compiled data on the levels of pollution in local waterways.



KC PHOTO

### in the news

◀ Environment America's Anna Aurilio was named one of the top lobbyists in D.C. by *The Hill*: "[Anna] executes a mix of inside persuasion and outside grassroots pressure at the scrappy green group."



Staff

## To our members

There's something about being near water that calms the nerves and soothes the soul. For me it's the sound and smell of the Atlantic Ocean, reminding me of where I grew up. But, be it a placid lake, the stream in your backyard, or a waterfall like Virginia's Great Falls—there's nothing like the feeling that you get when you sit on the edge of a waterway you love.

I bet that feeling is why we've seen such overwhelming support for our work to fix the Clean Water Act. Right now, more than 60 percent of our country's streams are unprotected from polluters—the same streams that provide more than 117 million Americans' drinking water.

The industries that pollute our waters are better-funded and better-connected. But we're skilled, scrappy, and there are more of us! Together, we can fix the Clean Water Act so our families and their families can grow up enjoying the same waters we love.

Sincerely,

Margie Alt  
Executive Director

## Recent action

### Public urges Congress to renew park funding

Our national parks and public lands are more popular than ever, with millions of Americans planning vacations to these places year-round. Yet, not only did some in Congress force these parks to close during the government shutdown, they also played chicken with park funding this winter.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), our country's premier preservation program, was set to expire on Jan. 15. Environment America released "Death by a Thousand Cuts," an Environment America Research & Policy Center report that outlines the toll underfunding has had on our parks. Thousands of Environment America activists and others called and emailed their members of Congress to protect parks and the funding that keeps them open and vibrant.

### Wind energy quadruples in just five years

Thanks in part to the work of Environment America's members, volunteers, staff and allies, wind power quadrupled in our country in the last five years. Now, we produce enough wind energy to power the equivalent of Georgia's electricity use for a year.

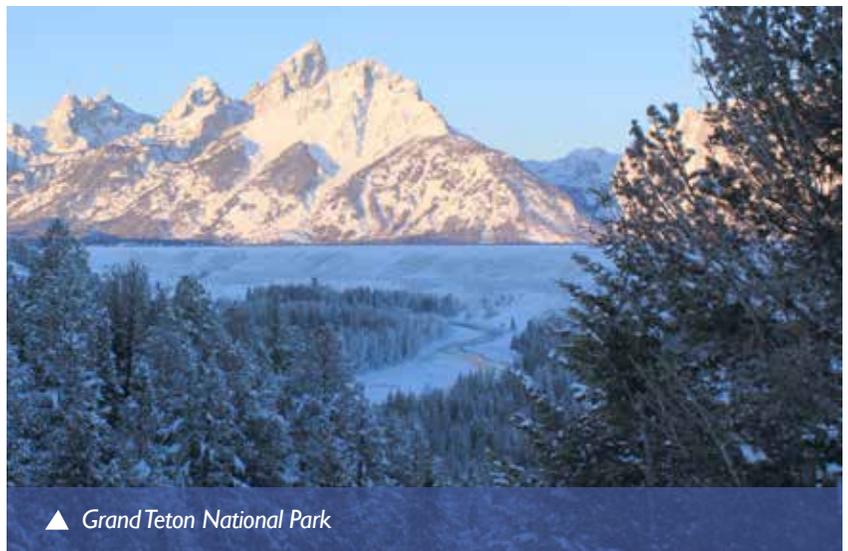
This winter, Environment America released a report on our progress so far, and made recommendations for keeping up the pace in the coming five years. If we succeed at that, and if we begin to develop our massive potential for offshore wind, by 2018 we would avoid 157 million metric tons of carbon pollution annually—as much carbon as Georgia, Michigan or New York produced in 2011—while saving enough water to meet the needs of 2.1 million people.

"Wind energy is yielding huge benefits for our environment, our health, and our increasingly scarce water supplies," said Environment America Energy Program Director Rob Sargent. "Wind energy can play a critical role in the nation's commitment to reducing carbon pollution from power plants, but we need to take action now."

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▲ Grand Teton National Park

Steve Hanchett/Shutterstock.com

# America's dirtiest power plants revealed

A week and a half before the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed new limits on carbon pollution from new power plants, an Environment America Research & Policy Center report shined a light on America's largest contributors to carbon pollution.

The report, "America's Dirtiest Power Plants," illustrates the scale of carbon pollution from our power sector. It ranks each state for its power plant pollution, and lists the country's 100 biggest carbon polluters.

## Texas, Ohio, Florida the worst

Scientists predict that extreme weather events will become more frequent and severe for future generations unless we cut the dangerous carbon pollution fueling the problem.

Environment America Research & Policy Center research shows that:

- America's power plants are the country's single largest source of carbon pollution—responsible for 40 percent of emissions nationwide;
- Texas, Ohio and Florida lead the nation for most carbon pollution from power plants; and
- If the 50 dirtiest U.S. power plants were their own country, they would be the seventh largest emitter of carbon pollution in the world.

## Communities take on power plants

The week of the report's release, Environment America and its state affiliates held 44 news events across the country.

One event was in Rhode Island where we were joined by Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, who was then nearing the last of his 50 climate speeches in 50 weeks calling for congressional action on global warming. Overall, the report earned coverage in more than 190 media outlets.

Across the country, our members, mayors, allies in Congress, scientists, small business owners, faith leaders, and professors joined us to call on the EPA to limit carbon pollution from the country's worst polluters.

Thanks to Environment America staff, hundreds of people turned out to participate in EPA listening sessions to speak their piece about the dangers of power plant pollution.

Leading up to the EPA's announcement, Americans had submitted more than 3.2 million public comments in support of a rule to limit carbon from power plants—a record for public comments submitted on any environmental standard.

"America's dirtiest power plants are the elephant in the room when it comes to global warming," said Julian Boggs, global warming program director with Environment America Research & Policy Center. "If we want a cleaner, safer future for our kids, we can't afford to ignore power plants' oversized contribution to global warming."



Ceaphas Stubbs

## staff in action

Across the country, Environment America held 44 events to release our report, "America's Dirtiest Power Plants."

▲ Environment New Jersey's Dan DeRosa (speaking) and Doug O'Malley release the report in Hackensack, N.J.

## CO2 emissions from the nation's five most polluting power plants

**21.3 million metric tons** of CO2 emissions  
 Scherer, Georgia Power Co.  
 Fuel source: Coal



**20.7 million metric tons** of CO2 emissions  
 James H. Miller, Jr., Alabama Power Co.  
 Fuel source: Coal



**18.8 million metric tons** of CO2 emissions  
 Martin Lake, Luminant Generation Co., LLC  
 Fuel source: Coal



**18.5 million metric tons** of CO2 emissions  
 Labadie, Union Electric Co.  
 Fuel source: Coal



**17.5 million metric tons** of CO2 emissions  
 W.A. Parish, NRG Texas Power, LLC  
 Fuel source: Coal



## TOTAL OUTPUT FROM THE NATION'S FIVE MOST POLLUTING POWER PLANTS

**20.2 MILLION**  
 Emissions equivalent in passenger vehicles  
 (that's 97.1 million metric tons of CO2 emissions)



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### Environment America

#### 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 Environment America. We focus exclusively on protecting 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.

### Fracking by the Numbers

The Environment America Research & Policy Center report, "Fracking by the Numbers," is the first to measure the damaging footprint of fracking to date—including 280 billion gallons of toxic wastewater generated in 2012 alone.

**450,000 TONS**  
*of air pollution produced in one year.*

**360,000 ACRES**  
*of land degraded since 2005.*

**280 BILLION  
GALLONS**



*produced in 2012.*

**250 BILLION  
GALLONS**  
*of water  
contaminated since 2005.*

**100  
MILLION  
METRIC  
TONS**  
*of global warming  
pollution produced  
since 2005.*

Source: "Fracking by the Numbers," Environment America Research & Policy Center, Oct. 2013.