

# Annual Report

Recapping our work in fiscal year 2016 for our members





**Anna Aurilio**  
Federal Legislative  
Director



**Rob Sargent**  
Energy Program  
Director



**John Rumpler**  
Senior Attorney

## Our members make the difference

**None of our work would be possible if it were not for the passion, energy and support of concerned citizens across America. Together, we're doing big things.**

*At several points over the last year, I was reminded how rewarding and fulfilling this work can be, thanks to the passion and drive of our members and supporters like you, the hard work of our staff, and the collaboration between our partner groups. Together, we're doing big things.*

*You helped Environment America show our leaders that the Clean Power Plan is essential to reducing emissions and protecting children growing up today.*

*You helped spread the word and build support across the country with Environment America for saving bees and our food supply, and with Environment America Research & Policy Center for leaving dirty energy behind in favor of moving to 100 percent renewable sources that are good for the environment and good for business.*

*You took part in defending our right to clean water after the tragedy in Flint, Mich., and alerted the nation about the many threats to our drinking water across the country. And you helped Environment America protect America's beloved special places by speaking up for our most important conservation programs and advocating for more national monuments to protect places like the Grand Canyon.*

*As you read through this report, remember that while our staff might be in the room when a big environmental victory is won, none of our work would be possible if it were not for the passion, energy and support of millions of concerned citizens. And as critical as this people power was to our victories last year, I can guarantee that this year—with a new president, new Congress, and more challenges to overcome—the same will be true.*

*Thank you for all you've done to make this past year successful, and here's to many more to come.*

*Sincerely,*

Margie Alt  
Executive Director

# Protect Our Coasts

Activists, coastal businesses, and concerned citizens made their voices heard when Environment America helped deliver more than 2 million comments against offshore drilling to the Obama administration last year. And it worked! In March, we won big when the administration announced that the southern Atlantic coast would be off limits to new oil and gas drilling until 2022. Now, we're focused on making this victory permanent and banning offshore drilling in the Gulf and Arctic as well.

## Atlantic coast protected from drilling

Drilling has been absent in the Atlantic for more than 30 years—and for good reason. A BP-like oil spill would be devastating to coastal communities and wildlife.

That's why our national coalition sprung into action after the Obama administration announced plans to open up the Atlantic coast to drilling. We worked to connect community opposition from coastal towns with concerned voices from across the country. Our letter to the administration with more than 1,000 coastal businesses signing on in opposition to drilling was an especially powerful tool, as was the incredible turnout of activists and members like you at the administration's listening sessions up and down the coast.

## We still have work left to do in Arctic, Gulf

But our work to stop offshore drilling and other dirty energy practices has a long way to go. In July, more than 5,600 members of Environment America, Friends of the Earth and National Resource Defense Council called the White House demanding the president stop new offshore drilling plans in the Arctic and the Gulf as well.

The time to stop offshore drilling and other forms of fossil fuel extraction is now. With your support, we can make our coasts and communities cleaner and safer for our families.



*Top: The BP oil spill devastated coastal communities and wildlife in 2010, some of which have still not fully recovered.*

*Bottom: Offshore drilling threatens thousands of marine species, such as the green sea turtle.*



**NO BEES**  
**NO FOOD**

# No Bees, No Food

Last year, millions of activists stood up to protect bees and our food supply. In June, we participated in the Keep the Hives Alive Tour, a coordinated effort to educate citizens across the nation about colony collapse disorder. The tour culminated with a rally at the Environmental Protection Agency, where Environment America and our partners relayed the message from more than 4.5 million petitions from across the United States: Stop the use of bee-killing pesticides.



▲ Citizen outreach staff in several states hosted "Barbecue Without Bees" events last summer to raise awareness of pollinator die-offs, and show how our food supply is largely dependent on bees.



▲ Environment America's Anna Aurilio spoke for more than 4.5 million activists when she told the EPA: If we don't save the bees, our food supply is at risk.



# Our best pollinators are dying off

In recent years, bees have been disappearing at an unsustainable rate. In fact, beekeepers reported losing more than 40 percent of their hives last year. While this is certainly bad news for the bees, the real danger lies in our inability to match the pollinating power of these creatures—bees help pollinate a majority of the world's food, and more than \$15 billion a year in U.S. crops.

It's simple: No bees, no food. No almonds, fewer strawberries and apples, less coffee... the list goes on. Scientists point to several causes behind bee colony collapse, including climate change, parasites and pesticide use. Environment America's top priority is getting neonicotinoids (neonics)—a type of insecticide that's chemically related to nicotine and has been linked to colony collapse—off the market.

## Millions of you came together to save the bees

Big agricultural companies are using more and more of these neonics. That's why we're raising awareness of the problem and building people power to sway decision-makers to make the right choice: protect the bees and our food supply.

In 2016, we launched a massive effort to speak with millions of Americans about the urgency of banning bee-killing pesticides and provide concerned citizens with ways to get involved. We had canvassers going door-to-door in 18 states, staff on the phone calling members like you, and we coordinated our efforts with scientists, beekeepers, farmers and coalition partners to make sure we could make the biggest difference possible.

## States are taking action, but EPA needs to lead

The good news is that thanks in part to our members' activism, several states have taken action on neonics, including Connecticut, Maryland, Minnesota and Oregon, with others looking to act soon. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has committed to phasing out the use of neonics on the public lands they manage, and Home Depot and BJ's Wholesale Club have taken steps to limit the sale of plants treated with neonics, label the plants, or both. And the EPA has put a temporary moratorium on approving any new uses of the neonics.

But we must do more! We'll continue to update and mobilize our members and supporters to make sure the EPA ultimately takes these bee-killing pesticides off the market altogether. So raise your megaphone—or your cellphone—and help save the bees and our food supply.

## Bees are dying off at an alarming rate

Beekeepers report losing 40% of their hives in 2015. That means less...



Coffee



Strawberries



Almonds



Apples



Alfalfa



Lemons

Scientists point to several causes behind this dramatic decrease, including **neonicotinoids**, or neonics, a class of bee-killing insecticides.



That's why our national team helped deliver more than **4.5 million petitions** last year calling on the Environmental Protection Agency to ban neonics.





100%  
RENEWABLE ENERGY

# All In For 100% Renewable

We can have healthier communities and a better future for our children, but to get there, we need to transform the way we produce and consume energy. That's why Environment America Research & Policy Center is calling for a nationwide commitment to 100 percent renewable power. It's a big, bold goal—one that would make America a world leader in the race toward a cleaner, healthier future—and it's a goal that's 100 percent possible.



▲ In April, Environment America Research & Policy Center and our sister groups in other states released "Shining Cities," which shows how smart local policies are expanding solar in America.



▲ Our citizen outreach staff distributed information about how America can transition to 100 percent renewable energy to more than 1.3 million households.



# 100% renewable is 100% possible

To avoid the worst impacts of climate change, we must avoid burning a majority of the world's fossil fuel reserves and instead transition to 100 percent renewable energy. David Freeman, a longtime utility CEO who joined Environment America Research & Policy Center and Frontier Group for an online presentation and discussion of their report, "We Have the Power" said, "We've been told by the family doctor, the climatologist, that we have to reduce greenhouse gases to near zero in the next 35 years, or we're going to cook."

And why would we wait? We can have a cleaner, healthier planet for children growing up today, and we already have the resources and ability to shift to 100 percent renewable energy right now.

## Almost all new energy capacity is coming from renewables

Solar power has tripled in America in just the last two years—with a new home or business going solar every one and a half minutes. In many states, wind power is now cheaper than gas or coal—in fact, we celebrated our nation's first offshore wind farm off the Rhode Island coast last summer. Even better, 98.6 percent of all new energy capacity brought online in the first quarter of 2016 came from renewable energy.

More than 19 cities, counties and states, and dozens of major companies like Apple, Johnson & Johnson and Google have already made commitments to 100 percent renewable energy. Clean energy is not only good for our communities and our planet, it's also becoming cheaper and therefore, better for business. The bottom line: 100 percent renewable energy is 100 percent possible.

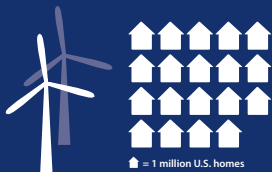
## Educating 1.3 million clean energy activists

Environment America Research & Policy Center spent last year helping to distribute this information to more than 1.3 million households across America. Transitioning to 100 percent renewable energy will mean taking on some of the most powerful corporations in the world, and to win, we're going to need a whole lot of well-informed people behind us.

It's time to sweep past the big energy interests—from Big Oil and gas companies like ExxonMobil and Chevron to utilities like Duke Energy and Pacific Gas & Electric, from climate deniers in Congress to the Koch brothers—that are not only standing in the way, but using their financial might and political clout to roll back renewable energy's progress.

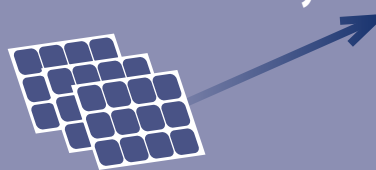
That's where you, our members and supporters, come in. The more people who join our call for 100 percent renewable power, the more local, state, national and corporate leaders will step up and take action. Visit our website to learn more and join the call: [www.EnvironmentAmericaCenter.org](http://www.EnvironmentAmericaCenter.org)

### Wind power is growing fast in America.



The United States now has more than 70 gigawatts of generating capacity from wind power, enough to power about **19 million homes**.

### Solar energy is booming across the country.



Between 1954 and 2016, the United States installed **one million solar projects**. Solar is growing so fast now that we'll **double that number in only two years**.

**100%  
renewable  
energy  
is 100%  
possible**





# Global Warming Solutions

Across the country, you've shared with us the effects you've felt from global warming—from record-breaking wildfires to increasingly severe storms. Last fall, your support helped Environment America convince President Obama to finalize the Clean Power Plan, which sets the first-ever limits on carbon pollution from power plants. With your help, we're showing our leaders that the Clean Power Plan is essential to reducing emissions and protecting children growing up today.



▲ Margie Alt, executive director of Environment America, and Anna Aurilio, director of Environment America's Global Warming Solutions program, take part in a Google Hangout interview at the Paris climate talks.



▲ Our staff in Pennsylvania held a rally at the Environmental Protection Agency where attendees sang global-warming-themed Christmas carols to show support for climate action.



# After Paris climate talks, U.S. can lead the way with Clean Power Plan

World leaders agreed last December to reduce carbon emissions under the Paris Agreement, and the Clean Power Plan gave our country the leverage needed to win this historic deal. In February, however, the Supreme Court delivered a major blow to climate action, announcing it will put the Clean Power Plan on hold while it hears lawsuits from polluters and their allies who want to kill the plan.

With your help, Environment America is building public support to show our leaders that the Clean Power Plan is essential to reducing our carbon emissions, protecting children growing up today, and showing the rest of the world that we are serious about tackling this growing threat.

## We're moving forward with clean energy

Despite the judicial stay on the Clean Power Plan, the voice from our members and supporters is clear: America needs to switch to clean, renewable energy sources.

Last summer, the Environmental Protection Agency released proposed details for its Clean Energy Incentive Program, which provides a great opportunity for states to advance solar, wind and energy efficiency, and implement programs to save money and reduce pollution in low-income communities.

And then shortly after, President Obama, Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau unveiled their climate agreement at the North American Leadership Summit in June, pledging that their countries would achieve 50 percent clean energy by 2025 and reduce methane emissions at least 40 percent by the same year.

## Saving the planet and our communities

Your support also won a victory in November 2015 when President Obama rejected the construction of the Keystone XL pipeline—a pipeline designed to transport tar sands from Canada across the United States. Together, Environment America and our members fought alongside our allies for years against this project, which State Department officials estimated would produce 26 million metric tons of carbon pollution each year—the equivalent of 5.7 million cars.

Anna Aurilio, director of our Global Warming Solutions program said, “These victories belong to all the Americans who have been fighting for years for their water and air, their communities, and their kids’ futures, and are crucial steps toward tackling the climate crisis with a 100 percent clean, renewable energy future.”

**The effects of global warming threaten our communities today and our children's futures tomorrow.**



**Environment America is demanding climate action now, including limits on carbon pollution from power plants and strong renewable energy policies.**



# Clean Water For America

Last year, we were all shocked to learn about the contamination of drinking water in Flint, Mich. Unfortunately, clean water is threatened in communities across the country. One of the biggest threats to clean water in the United States is pollution from massive factory farms. Environment America and Environment America Research & Policy Center are working to defend the Clean Water Rule and call out agribusiness pollution so we can ensure all Americans have safe water to drink.

## Clean water for one in three Americans

Environment America won a massive victory for clean water in 2015 when you helped win protections for the drinking water sources of one in three Americans under the Clean Water Rule. Sadly, polluters are challenging the rule, delaying important action to protect our communities.

Thanks to the support of our members and supporters we've been able to fend off these attacks in Congress, but unfortunately, the rule is on hold due to polluter attacks in the courts.

## Factory farms are top water polluters

In June, Environment America Research & Policy Center revealed America's Next Top Polluters in our report, "Corporate Agribusiness and the Fouling of America's Waterways." For both measurements we analyzed, Tyson Foods came out on top—with more than 55 million tons of manure in its supply chain and direct dumping of 104 million pounds of toxic pollutants into waterways from 2010 to 2014.

Pollution from agribusiness is responsible for some of America's most intractable water quality problems, the contamination of countless streams and lakes, and poses serious threats to our drinking water. We're spreading the word across the country and organizing concerned citizens like you to call on Tyson and other agribusinesses to limit their pollution.



*Top: Environment America worked throughout 2016 to defend the Clean Water Rule our members helped win in 2015.*

*Bottom: Environment America Research & Policy Center's report details how pollution from agribusiness is responsible for some of America's most intractable water quality problems.*





# Conservation America

On the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service last year, President Obama created the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument to protect more than 87,000 acres in Maine. Yet sensitive landscapes surrounding many of our national parks still remain unprotected and face threats from mining, drilling and logging companies. It's happening just six miles from the Grand Canyon, and perhaps even near your favorite outdoor places right here in America.

## Kids growing up deserve protected parks

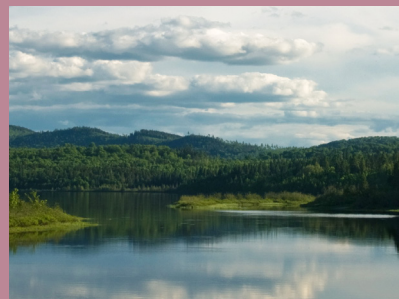
America's outdoors are part of what makes this country special, and in today's world, we often need reminders of the awesome power of nature. Families can take vacations in our great outdoors that open children's eyes to the wonders of the wild, and wildlife thrives in the open space.

That's why, with your support, Environment America helped restore the Land and Water Conservation Fund in late 2015, which for 50 years has protected natural treasures in every state. It's also why we called on the president to establish several new national monuments, from the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks to the San Juan Islands. And it's why we launched a coalition effort to protect the best of America: the Grand Canyon.

## Protecting the Grand Canyon from mining

With you by our side, Environment America and our national federation called on the president to designate the Greater Grand Canyon Heritage National Monument. This designation would protect 1.7 million acres around the Grand Canyon from uranium mining and other threats. This land includes the habitat for unique species of wildlife, the drinking water sources for millions of people downstream, and land that is sacred to several Tribal Nations.

With your support and action, we can protect the Grand Canyon for generations to come and set a precedent for protecting special places across the country from reckless threats.



*Top: Last year we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, which manages parks like the North Maine Woods.*

*Bottom: Uranium mining threatens the greater Grand Canyon ecosystem, including the drinking water sources for millions of people downstream and unique species of wildlife like the Bighorn sheep.*



Membership Services Office  
1543 Wazee St., Ste. 430  
Denver, CO 80202  
(303) 534-1783

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