



# Fall Report

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## Defending Massachusetts' rivers and beaches

### Another summer of beach closings

From Truro Beach out on Cape Cod, to Nahant north of Boston, all the way up the North Shore, beachgoers faced closings and advisories due to unsafe bacteria levels all summer—not to mention the hot days in July when few people wanted to jump in the Charles River. But while we faced beach closings and rivers too polluted for swimming, polluters and their allies in Congress fought hard to dismantle the law that has helped clean and protect our rivers, lakes and streams for 39 years: The Clean Water Act.

For the past several years, Environment Massachusetts has been working with our national federation, Environment America, to restore the Clean Water Act's ability to protect all of our waters. This year, the EPA acted. In April, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson announced a plan to close loopholes created by the courts that are allowing polluters to pave and dump into the small waters that feed our lakes and rivers. The agency is also gearing up to cut sewage pollution by setting national standards.

#### Legal warfare

Polluting industries have already sprung into action. Corporate agribusiness and mining companies have urged their friends in Congress to stop the EPA from closing the clean water loophole—Exxon-Mobil even threatened “legal warfare.”

Unfortunately, polluters' allies in both parties in Congress launched an unprecedented attack on the Clean Water Act. By mid-July, the House of Representatives had passed three separate measures



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▲ Singing Beach, Manchester-by-the-Sea

attacking the EPA's authority to protect our water.

We saw this coming, and had already begun building a campaign to defend the EPA's clean water initiatives. From the coast, into Western Massachusetts along the Connecticut River and our smaller streams and ponds, our field organizers spoke face to face with thousands of Bay Staters about the attacks on clean water. Citizens wrote

to their local newspapers and sent comments to Washington, D.C., urging the EPA to stand strong for clean water.

Our beaches and lakes provide some of the best summer memories as we head into fall and winter. As we work to protect our waters, we'll be sure to remind officials in Washington that Bay Staters care deeply about our rivers, beaches and other waters, and want to see them protected.



### take action

◀ Federal Clean Water Advocate Piper Crowell (right) delivers thousands of citizen comments to Nancy Stoner (left) from the EPA's Office of Water. Go online to tell Congress to let the EPA do its job protecting our waters:

[EnvironmentMassachusetts.org/action](http://EnvironmentMassachusetts.org/action)



## To our members

Summer in Massachusetts means going to Crane Beach in Ipswich or heading down the Cape to the national seashore. Or maybe you prefer to enjoy a hike in the Berkshires or the Fells.

But as big polluters and their allies in Congress continue to attack environmental safeguards protecting our air and water, I am more determined than ever to demonstrate that the people of Massachusetts care deeply about keeping our rivers and beaches clean.

This summer, Environment Massachusetts spoke with nearly one in 10 households in the Commonwealth about protecting our rivers and beaches, and I am proud to report that, along with our coalition partners across the country, we were able to deliver more than 150,000 public comments to the EPA supporting the Clean Water Act.

Moving into the fall, we will turn our focus to promoting solar energy at the state level and permanently protecting the Quabbin Reservoir.

Sincerely,

Ben Wright, Advocate

## Recent action

### States lead the way on global warming

There is a way forward in the global warming fight—and it starts in the states.

Our efforts to solve global warming have hit a dead end in Washington, D.C. The oil and coal lobbies successfully blocked congressional action to tackle global warming for another year. Congressional leaders claim that global warming is a hoax.

However, here in Massachusetts, we know a thing or two about climate leadership—the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2008 established us as a leader in policies to reduce our carbon pollution and move to clean energy. Following suit, state and local governments across the country have been passing clean energy policies that are projected to cut more than 500 million tons of global warming pollution per year by 2020, nearly 10 percent of our nation's current emissions. And our research shows we have the potential to go even further. In September, Advocate Ben Wright unveiled a study showing that states can cut carbon pollution by 20 percent by 2020 by adopting clean energy and transportation policies.

### Going the distance for 55 mpg cars

In July, an ExxonMobil pipeline spilled more than 42,000 gallons of oil into the pristine Yellowstone River. Now, according to one nearby resident, “You go down to where the oil is, and you don’t hear anything anymore. No birds, no toads, no crickets, nothing.”

In the wake of the latest spill, Environment Massachusetts is joining a national effort to get America off of oil—by making our cars more fuel-efficient, building strong public transportation systems, and investing in electric vehicles. We’re already making progress. We’ve already mobilized more than 10,000 people across the country. With strong advocacy here in Massachusetts and federally, this past summer we helped convince the Obama administration to increase federal fuel economy standards to 54.5 miles per gallon.



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## How do you want to be remembered?

You can be remembered as someone who cared enough to keep up the fight for a cleaner, greener, healthier future by making a bequest to Environment Massachusetts.

For information, call: 1-800-841-7299, or email [PlannedGiving@EnvironmentMassachusetts.org](mailto:PlannedGiving@EnvironmentMassachusetts.org).



www.whitehouse.gov

▲ Our federal global warming director, Nathan Willcox, thanks President Obama for his leadership on the new 54.5 mpg fuel standard.

# Quabbin up for clear-cuts again

Last summer, tens of thousands of Bay Staters joined our campaign to protect the Quabbin Reservoir from clear-cut logging. We won a temporary moratorium on logging in the watershed, which acts as a priceless natural filter for the water on which more than 2 million people throughout the Commonwealth rely. Environment Massachusetts is firmly committed to protecting the Quabbin Reservoir, and the protected forests around the Quabbin, from all threats.

Soon, time will be up—and logging trucks may once again start roaring through the pristine forests that are so essential to safe drinking water that we’re not even allowed to walk our dogs in them. We’re calling on Gov. Deval Patrick’s administration to make the logging ban permanent and protect watersheds throughout the Commonwealth by placing them off-limits to logging.

## A beautiful, natural place

The Department of Conservation and Recreation, which is charged with maintaining and protecting the land around the Quabbin Reservoir, states the many interesting and even breathtaking facts about the Quabbin Reservoir. A flyer posted on refrigerators in Brookline touts the cleanliness of the tap water for drinking, with a diagram of how the water gets to the faucet from the pristine waters of the Quabbin. But those waters will only remain clear and pure if the forest surrounding them is protected.

According to the DCR, the Quabbin’s water covers 39 square miles, and when full, holds 412 billion gallons of water. Another fun fact: “Anything that could pollute the water supply system, such as litter or refuse of any sort, is prohibited.” We found out last year that while ball-playing and dog-walking are both prohibited because of their potential to dirty the pristine waters of the Quabbin, diesel-spewing logging trucks are just fine.

In fact, they crisscrossed the Quabbin forest at the DCR’s invitation, clear-cutting patches of the forest just like they would in a commercial logging area.

## Pushing for a permanent ban

The governor has convened a “Science and Technical Advisory Committee” to make a decision about the Quabbin’s future. And this fall, we will be pushing to make sure that the governor hears from you, our members, as well as from city and town officials from the 41 communities whose water is supplied by the Quabbin. This fall, we have the opportunity to let Gov. Patrick know that our drinking water is not worth the risk posed by logging or any other development.

Together, we can permanently protect the Quabbin from all threats and let Gov. Patrick know that logging around our largest source of drinking water is not worth the risk.



## take action



### Quabbin Reservoir

You can stand up for the Quabbin—and the drinking water for millions of Bay Staters—by calling Gov. Patrick today and telling him you support a permanent ban on logging in the watershed: (617) 725-4005



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## Local food, healthy farms

*From the first pint of strawberries in June, to the last crisp red apple of a New England fall, the abundance of a farmers market is unrivaled. But fresh food that’s been grown close to home shouldn’t only be found on a special trip to the market. Farmers markets and consumer-supported agriculture are popping up all over the state, but much more remains to be done to expand Bay Staters’ access to fresh, local food.*

*Unfortunately, the U.S. House recently voted to eliminate a program that supports small, sustainable farms. At the same time, they’re continuing to send billions of dollars to the factory farms that pollute our lakes with runoff and pollute our air by trucking food to all corners of the country. That’s why, along with our national federation, Environment America, Environment Massachusetts is working to make sure local farms can provide their own communities with safe, fresh, delicious food.*

*The “Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food” program at the USDA helps promote farmers markets, and also includes a program to help small farmers build appropriately sized processing and storage facilities. The relatively small cost of funding such programs could pay huge dividends in the future, helping local farmers grow through feeding their own communities.*

*Go online to learn more about our local food, healthy farms campaign, and to call on Sens. Scott Brown and John Kerry to restore programs that help local farmers.*

44 Winter St., Ste. 401  
Boston, MA 02108  
(617) 747-4400

# Environment Massachusetts

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### Environment Massachusetts

#### Our mission

We all want clean air, clean water and open space. 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 Massachusetts. We focus exclusively on protecting Massachusetts' air, water and open space. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

## 617,000 against mercury pollution

This year the Environmental Protection Agency took major steps to cut toxic air pollution from power plants, despite intense opposition from industrial polluters and their allies in Congress. We led the charge of organizers and volunteers who spread the word, and with our coalition gathered more than 617,000 public comments in favor of strong protections from mercury pollution.

In March, the EPA proposed the first-ever nationwide limits on mercury pollution from power plants. The new rule would cut mercury emissions by 91 percent—a huge victory, given mercury's effects on how kids think, learn and behave. In July, the EPA finalized a rule to protect communities from dangerous smog pollution, which could prevent as many as 34,000 premature deaths annually by 2014.

Polluters and their allies in the Senate fought back with proposals to block the EPA, and unfortunately, Massachusetts' own Sen. Scott Brown voted with polluters and against our health. Our staff and activists helped defeat the measures. But with new attacks coming every month, our staff is building support for the next fight and holding our leaders accountable.



Annie Mackin Photography

#### Mercury rally

◀ On July 19, Environment Massachusetts Advocate Ben Wright (right) delivered more than 617,000 petition signatures to New England's EPA Administrator Curt Spalding (center) in favor of stronger mercury protection.