To our members

“We held the line when it came to defending state environmental protections. Our advocacy, for example, helped stop deep cuts in the budgets for the parks and forests so many of us rely on to get away from it all.”

Thanks to your support, we’re proud to report we made tangible progress for Massachusetts’ environment this year.

We won a moratorium on logging in the forest that surrounds and filters the Quabbin Reservoir, the source of drinking water for 2 million Bay Staters. Now we need to make protection permanent.

This winter, we launched a new effort to restore and strengthen protections for the rest of our waterways, from the wide rivers out in Western Mass. to the beaches of the North Shore. The Environmental Protection Agency has announced plans to update clean water standards in such a way that will reduce sewage pollution—and restore protections that were called into question by controversial Supreme Court rulings for all of our waters. We’re working through the summer to make sure we show EPA leaders they have the support they need to take strong action to protect our waters from pollution.

Cape Wind finally won the approval of the Obama administration, and should be delivering clean, renewable power to Massachusetts by 2013. This year, we launched an effort to make it easier for Massachusetts families and businesses to save energy and money on their utility bills, delivering on the promise of the Green Communities Act we helped pass in 2009.

And, on the last day of 2010, former Massachusetts Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Ian Bowles set into statute a target of reducing global warming pollution 25 percent below 1990 levels by 2020. After the Global Warming Solutions Act passed in 2008, Environment Massachusetts staff worked to ensure that our standards would be as strong as possible. I am proud to report that they are. Now we move on to the implementation phase of our groundbreaking environmental legislation.

We continued to hold the line on environmental protections: Our advocacy helped stop deep budget cuts for the parks and forests that we use to get out of town with friends and family. Finally, we joined our sister groups in calling for a moratorium on new drilling in the wake of the Gulf oil spill, which we are happy to report President Obama approved in December.

When the to-do list for the environment looks like a tall order, our continued victories remind me that—with you at our side—a cleaner, greener, more sustainable future is always within our grasp.

And as we work toward that future, your support makes all of our progress possible. Thank you.

Ben Wright
Advocate, Environment Massachusetts
Go solar Massachusetts

Massachusetts is at the forefront of solar policy in the country, but we can do better. Pioneering programs like Massachusetts’ net-metering laws and Solar Renewable Energy Credits market are paving the way for new solar development across the commonwealth. This year, our staff have been able to take part in unveilings of several projects around Boston, and we’re excited to see many more in the coming months.

More solar rooftops statewide

Every hour, the sun radiates more energy onto the Earth’s surface than the entire human population uses in a year. But what about Massachusetts, where the weather changes more often than the Red Sox change shortstops? It turns out that our state has greater solar potential than Germany, the world's second most advanced country when it comes to installed solar energy systems. In 2010, we helped Massachusetts take steps to harness some of this incredible potential to power our lives with clean, renewable energy.

The solar investments spurred on by the landmark Global Warming Solutions Act, which passed with Environment Massachusetts support in 2008, and the solar programs made possible by the Green Communities Act, which also passed with our support in 2008, are starting to bear fruit.

• A net-metering program is allowing homeowners who install solar energy systems to sell any excess power they generate back to their local utility company, helping to make solar more affordable.

• Under the Solar Renewable Energy Credits program, homeowners can earn incentives to offset the cost of solar installation.

• As a result, from Georges Island, to East Boston, to Kenmore Square, solar installations are already generating electricity on rooftops all over the region.

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Top: Environment Massachusetts Advocate Ben Wright speaks with Brendan Neagle at a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Chelsea. Bottom: The number of solar jobs in Massachusetts increased by 23 percent last year.
For decades, more than 2 million Massachusetts residents have been able to count on clean, healthy drinking water from the Quabbin Reservoir. The forest land surrounding the Quabbin—set aside years ago thanks to the foresight of the state—filters out pollutants and helps maintain some of the purest drinking water in the country. By protecting this land, we’ll ensure safe and pure drinking water that Bay Staters can depend on for generations to come.
Protecting the drinking water supply for 2 million people

The forest land surrounding the Quabbin Reservoir acts as a natural filter—such a good filter, in fact, that the city of Boston has saved hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars by not having to build a treatment system to serve the same purpose. That’s why, when we learned that the land around the Quabbin was being criss-crossed by logging trucks and chainsaws, and razed by clearcuts, we sprang into action. Thanks to a spirited campaign by our staff, our members, and our allies, we won a moratorium on logging in the Quabbin watershed, and a victory for our drinking water.

Grassroots action halts clear-cuts

As summer 2010 began, only 40 percent of our state forest lands were protected from logging. And despite bans on even ball-playing and bike riding around the Quabbin, logging was not prohibited. By July, the state expanded its ban on logging to 60 percent of state forests, including the forests surrounding the Quabbin Reservoir. Here’s what happened:

• In the spring, Environment Massachusetts Advocate Ben Wright met with Patrick administration officials, and urged them to declare the Quabbin and other sensitive lands around water supplies off-limits to logging.

• In May, our canvassers and online organizers reached out to people all over the commonwealth, from Wollaston to Winchendon, gathering thousands of signatures calling for better protection. Activists wrote letters to the editor, and staff met with state leaders.

• In May, a water main carrying water from the Quabbin burst and Boston residents were advised to boil their water for days. Millions learned firsthand what can happen when we take our water for granted, and we mobilized more support for protecting the Quabbin.

• In July, the Patrick administration agreed to suspend logging, pending scientific review and a public comment period, at least through 2011.

The next step: A permanent ban

Our summer campaign was a success. When the summer began, only 40 percent of state-owned forest lands were protected from logging; now that number is 60 percent. But while this time-out on logging is an important first step toward ensuring the safety of our drinking water, it’s only a time-out. In 2011, we’re continuing to push for a permanent ban on logging around the Quabbin, so we can ensure that our drinking water remains some of the most naturally pure in the country for generations to come.
Harnessing the wind

Anyone who has felt the sails of her or his boat fill as it cuts through the waves of Boston Harbor, or chased a runaway hat down the beach, knows that the wind is a powerful energy resource. The wind that blows across the open ocean and whips over our mountain ridges can generate the electricity we use to power our homes and businesses—we just need to harness it. In 2010, Massachusetts took a giant step toward that goal.
A major victory for Cape Wind, more challenges to come

Massachusetts has long been a nationwide leader on clean energy. We’ve taken the initiative by passing the landmark Global Warming Solutions Act, and mandated that 15 percent of our energy come from clean, renewable sources by 2020. While turning those visionary policies into real renewable energy generation projects has meant going into battle with special interests and their allies in the state Legislature, we won some big victories in 2011.

Clean power for 3/4 of Cape Cod homes
We moved a big step closer in April to Environment Massachusetts’ goal of repowering 1 million Massachusetts homes with energy from the wind by 2020: The Obama administration granted its final approval to Cape Wind, the 468-Megawatt project that will power more than three-quarters of the homes on Cape Cod and the Islands with clean, renewable energy that won’t run out and won’t pollute.

- Over the past few years, we’ve raised public awareness and support, worked with lawmakers, and led rallies to show that Bay Staters want to take advantage of the wind that blows off our shores.

- In late 2010, we joined the National Wildlife Federation, Mass Audubon and the Conservation Law Foundation in releasing a report on the opportunities for offshore wind development up and down the East Coast. Among the advantages of building off New England’s shores: strong and consistent wind, shallow water, and storms that generally fall within capacity for standard turbines to withstand.

Senate approves onshore wind bill
As we make steady progress toward building an offshore wind farm that will power hundreds of thousands of homes, we have a long way to go onshore. Right now, it is actually easier to get permission to build a coal-fired power plant than a wind turbine in Massachusetts—a shocking example of our short-sighted dependence on dirty energy.

- The next step is to pass the Wind Energy Siting Reform Act, which will help put wind projects on equal footing with fossil fuel plants in the early stages of siting and construction.

- While the bill had the support of a broad coalition of environmental and municipal groups, was approved by the Massachusetts Senate in January 2010, and received hundreds of individual comments in support from Bay Staters, it died in the Massachusetts House of Representatives. We’ll try again in 2011.

Top: Gov. Deval Patrick at Deer Island wastewater treatment facility, which now uses self-generated renewable energy for 1/4 of its power. Bottom: Tourists visiting an offshore wind farm in Denmark.
Energy efficiency

The cheapest, cleanest, fastest way to save energy and reduce our carbon footprint is to use energy more efficiently. Yet more than 40 percent of the energy we use still literally flies out our drafty windows, doors, attics, walls and chimneys. This year, Environment Massachusetts launched a new initiative to help our families and communities get on the path toward more energy-efficient homes and businesses, one step at a time.
Environment Massachusetts opens an online Energy Efficiency Headquarters

There are plenty of government agencies, utility programs, nonprofit organizations and others ready to help Massachusetts families save energy. Yet with so many rebates, discounts, financing deals and other incentives, it’s hard to know where to start. That’s why Environment Massachusetts, with support from the Mass Energy Consumers Alliance, created our online Energy Efficiency Headquarters.

**Guide explains energy-saving options**
The online guide is designed to help people cut through the clutter and pick what works for them.

- Step one is to visit the Environment Massachusetts website, where you can click through to our Energy Efficiency Headquarters.

- On the site, you can sign up for a free energy audit, the results of which will give you a detailed blueprint of potential energy-saving investments for your home.

- The site also offers step-by-step links to the credits, rebates and other incentives that can reduce upfront costs and accelerate the return on your energy-efficiency investment.

**More than 100 sign up for home energy audits**
Environment Massachusetts Advocate Ben Wright has promoted the program in district meetings in Andover, Pittsfield and other communities, as well as through emails to our online supporters list.

- So far, more than 100 people have signed up for the free energy audits.

- Many of Massachusetts’ varied energy efficiency programs are available thanks to Environment Massachusetts’ work to pass the Green Communities Act, and our work with the Patrick administration and municipalities to fund state and local energy efficiency programs through the federal stimulus plan.
Clean rivers, clean beaches

Massachusetts is defined by water—bound by our coast to the east, criss-crossed by dozens of rivers and streams, and dotted by some 3,000 lakes and ponds, all of which play a role in our history, our culture and our lives. After decades of industrial pollution and sewage discharges, our waters are bouncing back. Yet the price of clean water is, to paraphrase Thomas Jefferson, eternal vigilance. In 2010, we made progress toward stronger protections for our rivers, streams and beaches.
Restoring protection to our waters: Clearing up the Clean Water Act

Recent Supreme Court decisions have weakened the Clean Water Act and called into question whether more than half of our state's streams—including waters that feed rivers like the Charles and the Connecticut—are even protected anymore. Without these safeguards, polluters can dump waste with impunity, and our rivers and lakes pay the price. In 2010, we worked to restore protections to all of our waters.

**EPA moves to close the loophole**

For more than a year, big polluters and their cronies in Congress blocked legislation to restore the Clean Water Act. We made progress in the U.S. House, only to be turned back. With action at a standstill on Capitol Hill, Environment Massachusetts joined our national federation in pushing the Environmental Protection Agency to step in and restore full protections to the streams and wetlands that feed our rivers, lakes and ocean.

- 52 percent of Massachusetts' streams and wetlands could now be open to unlimited dumping by big polluters.
- In early 2011, we delivered more than 10,000 comments from all over the country to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson (shown on previous page), telling her why Americans love our waterways and want them protected. Jackson has moved to take administrative action, and clear up the confusion in the Clean Water Act where Congress will not.

**Action taken to reduce sewage pollution**

The EPA also announced its intention to take action aimed at reducing sewage and other forms of stormwater pollution in our rivers and other waters—pollution that can lead to beach closings when bacteria-laden water reaches the coast.

- In 2010, Environment Massachusetts worked to document the effects of stormwater and runoff pollution in the media and through meetings with our congressional delegation.
- Moving into 2011, Environment Massachusetts will encourage Administrator Lisa Jackson to set stronger standards to reduce sewage pollution and dumping.
- Environment Massachusetts campaign staff will talk to more than 200,000 Massachusetts residents from Pittsfield to Provincetown to demonstrate the Bay State's support for clean water.
There should be no place in the air we breathe for pollution and toxic chemicals that can trigger a wide range of health effects, from asthma attacks to heart attacks, from learning disorders to birth defects. In the 40 years since the Clean Air Act took effect, we’ve made remarkable progress, though not without more than a few fights along the way. Yet under pressure from oil companies, the coal industry and others, some members of Congress sought in 2010 to weaken the Clean Air Act and block the EPA from doing its job.

Defending the Clean Air Act

In 2010, oil, coal and other polluting industries ramped up their efforts to persuade Congress to block the EPA from limiting harmful pollutants in our air. Unfortunately, while most of our congressional delegation stood firm in defense of the Clean Air Act, when the issue came to a vote last spring, Sen. Scott Brown sided with the polluters.

- After Sen. Brown was sworn into office in February, Environment Massachusetts and our coalition partners mobilized 10,000 supporters to call the senator and 20,000 supporters to email him in support of strong EPA action to limit air pollution, including the pollution that causes global warming.

- In July, Environment Massachusetts organized a fly-in of business, faith and student leaders to meet directly with Senator Brown’s staff.

- After the November 2010 election, Congress intensified and expanded its attacks on the Clean Air Act, aiming to block the EPA from updating standards designed to reduce mercury and other pollutants from power plants. We’re still urging all of our state’s congressional delegation—especially Sen. Brown, whose vote carries extra weight as a moderate Republican—to reject any attempt to block the EPA from protecting our health and our environment against harmful air pollution.
Environment Massachusetts supporters

Citizen support is the cornerstone of Environment Massachusetts. Thousands of Massachusetts citizens supported Environment Massachusetts and the Environment Massachusetts Research & Policy Center by making membership contributions in 2010. The members listed below were particularly generous in backing the organizations’ research and advocacy. Names that appear in italics denote Monthly Supporters. These members provide stability to the organizations’ resources through our monthly giving program.

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Financial information

The charts below represent the combined financial information for Environment Massachusetts and Environment Massachusetts Research & Policy Center for the Fiscal Year 2010.

FY10 Income
- Citizen Members 68%
- Foundation Grants 32%

FY10 Expenses
- Program 75%
- Fundraising 17%
- Administration 8%

FY10 Program Expenses
- Repower Massachusetts 44%
- Protect the Quabbin 43%
- Clean Water 7%
- Global Warming Solutions 3%
- Our Health, Our Environment 3%

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