



Fall Report

A fight for Massachusetts' natural heritage

Campaign defends Cape Cod, Berkshires, Pioneer Valley

This summer, Environment Massachusetts canvassed the state to ensure critical conservation funding protects our best natural places. Our staff knocked on thousands of doors across Massachusetts to raise support for what's at stake, should our country's most successful parks and open space program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), be eliminated.

20,800 joined our call to action

Over the course of three months, we collected more than 20,800 petitions calling on our senators to fight for full and dedicated funding for our parks.

"Holding the line for Massachusetts' natural heritage is a key part of our mission," said Ben Hellerstein, campaign director. "That's why standing by as shortsighted members of Congress attempt to zero out funding for the LWCF simply wasn't an option."

A 50-year old fund to be eliminated

Places like Cape Cod, the Berkshires, and the Pioneer Valley are a big part of what makes living in Massachusetts great. They're where we go to spend time with friends and family and to hike, camp, swim, and see wildlife. They're treasured destinations and key parts of our natural heritage.

Yet if some in Congress get their way, the program could evaporate all together, leaving outdoor places we love in Massachusetts and across the country with



Cape Cod Cyclist/Creative Commons

▲ Old Silver Beach, Cape Cod

less protection against overdevelopment, pollution, mining, and drilling.

Iconic places on the chopping block

Mount Tom, the Appalachian Trail, the Cape Cod National Seashore, the Boston Harbor Islands, Silvio O. Conte National Wildlife Refuge and the Salem Maritime National Historic Site are all supported and protected by the LWCF.

"We're talking about our most iconic places being at risk," said Hellerstein. "We knew the only way we could stand up for these places was to bring people together to urge our senators and representatives to make preserving special places a top priority. By standing up to anti-environment members of Congress, we'll ensure future generations have the chance to enjoy the landmark places that define our state."



Staff

take action



Learn more about our work to defend Massachusetts' natural heritage online at: www.EnvironmentMassachusetts.org.

◀ Environment Massachusetts' Ben Hellerstein with U.S. Rep. Bill Keating, who stood up to protect the Cape Cod National Seashore.



To our members

This past summer was a whirlwind. Our citizen outreach staff talked to people across the state and collected thousands of petition signatures to protect our parks and open spaces. We've made so much progress, and we owe that success to members like you.

Now, as fall gets underway, it's important to remember another important aspect of the movement for a cleaner, greener Massachusetts: electing leaders who will do the right thing for our environment. Elections can have huge implications, and if our elected officials are willing to stand up for clean air, clean water and our open spaces, we stand a far better chance of winning lasting improvements.

So, if you haven't already, I encourage you to make plans to vote, and to bring family and friends with you to the polls. It's our environment and our future—let's get out there and vote!

Thanks for being there,

Johanna Neumann
Regional Director

Recent action

First offshore wind farm gets financial backing

In July, the Department of Energy announced a major step toward developing wind energy off the Atlantic Coast. Joined by Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick, Sen. Edward J. Markey, and Rep. Bill Keating, Sec. Ernest Moniz announced a conditional loan guarantee of \$150 million for the Cape Wind project to become America's first commercial-scale offshore wind farm.

"There is tremendous potential for producing clean, pollution-free wind energy off of our coasts," said Rob Sargent, energy program director with Environment Massachusetts. "We are thrilled that the Obama administration has announced another critical step forward in making this vision a reality for America. As states like Massachusetts transition away from dirty energy, offshore wind energy is the Atlantic Coast's largest pollution-free resource. We applaud the Obama administration for their leadership in ensuring that responsibly-sited offshore wind becomes a reality as soon as possible."

Massachusetts ranked 8th in nation for installed solar

An August report by Environment Massachusetts Research & Policy Center ranks Massachusetts 6th in the nation for total solar capacity and 8th for solar installed per capita through 2013.

The report, "Lighting the Way," emphasizes that it is not availability of sunlight that makes states solar leaders, but the degree to which state and local governments have created effective public policy to help capture the virtually unlimited and pollution-free energy from the sun. Solar in the Bay State has grown 140-fold since 2007, thanks to the strong backing of the Patrick administration, state legislators, and local officials. In May, Gov. Patrick adopted a new rule to quadruple solar energy by 2020.

"Here in Massachusetts, we've all recognized that the environmental and economic benefits of solar, and strong policies, including the solar carve-out, net metering and community solar or virtual net metering, will help us transition to a cleaner future," said Sargent.

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▲ Solar panels on the Chelmsford Public Library

A groundbreaking step to tackle global warming

Historic limits proposed for dirty power plants

June 2 will go down as a day to remember in the fight to tackle global warming. The Environmental Protection Agency finally proposed the first-ever, federal limits on carbon pollution from power plants.

Unbelievably, until now, there have been no federal limits on the amount of carbon that power plants are permitted to spew into the atmosphere, despite the fact that these culprits are the largest single source of global warming pollution.

Environment Massachusetts enthusiastically applauded the proposal, which would reduce carbon pollution from power plants by 30 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. Once finalized, this will be the largest step the U.S. has taken to combat global warming.

“This announcement is exactly what we’ve been waiting for,” said Ben Hellerstein, campaign director with Environment Massachusetts. “This is America’s chance to lead and our best opportunity to give our children a legacy we can be proud of.”

More storms, precipitation

The National Climate Assessment, released in May, recognized the current impacts of a warming planet and the urgent need for action: “Climate change, once considered an issue for a distant future, has moved firmly into the present.”

Here in Massachusetts, increased precipitation and more frequent storms have devastated communities and threatened public safety.

“This proposal is a huge win for Massachusetts,” said Hellerstein. “It means a safer future to come.”

This step forward is in large part a testament to the millions of Americans, more than 600 local elected officials, and hundreds of small businesses who have

already demanded the cutting of carbon pollution. But we’ve still got work to do.

‘Climate Defenders’ pledge more action

Following the announcement, Environment America, our national affiliate, launched a nationwide “Global Warming Solutions” campaign. Active in 24 states, the \$2.4 million campaign has helped Americans across the country connect the dots between the consequences of global warming and the meaningful impact of the Clean Power Plan.

In July, our national staff across the country testified in front of the EPA in hearings on their plan. Not surprisingly, the dirty energy industry showed up to stack these events and spew misinformation. But we were there too, standing up for the urgent need to act on climate.

“This is a huge deal, but it’s not a done deal yet,” said Hellerstein. “The fossil fuel lobby and other polluters are spending millions to oppose the EPA’s common-sense action. That’s where Environment Massachusetts comes in—to ensure this critically important step is taken. Our kids’ future depends on it.”



EPA.gov

take action

To support limits on pollution from dirty power plants, visit www.EnvironmentMassachusetts.org

▲ EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy announces Clean Power Plan

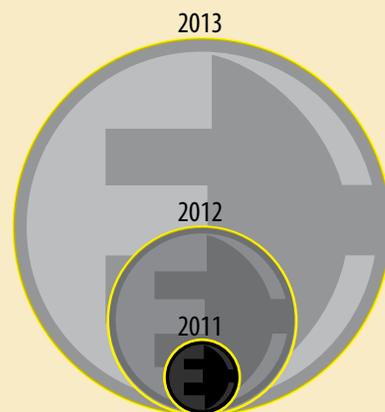
Transportation accounts for nearly half of greenhouse gas emissions.



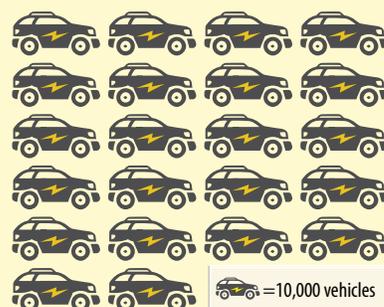
The time has come for America to:

CHARGE AHEAD

In the last two years, annual sales of electric vehicles have increased by **500%**.



Today, there are more than **220,000** electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles on U.S. roads.



SOURCE: Driving Cleaner: More Electric Vehicles Mean Less Pollution

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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.

New study uncovers toxics dumped in our water

Industrial facilities dumped 5,555 pounds of toxic chemicals into Massachusetts' waterways in 2012, according to a report released in June by the Environment Massachusetts Research & Policy Center.

The "Wasting Our Waterways" report comes as the Environmental Protection Agency considers a rule to restore Clean Water Act protections to thousands of waterways across the nation. As a result of court cases brought by polluters, 4,279 miles of streams in Massachusetts and just under 5 million Bay-Staters' drinking water are now at risk. And polluters are actively fighting tooth-and-nail to keep the loopholes working in their favor.

"Too often, our waters have become a dumping ground for polluters," said Ben Hellerstein, campaign director. "The first step to curb this tide of toxic pollution is to restore Clean Water Act protections to all our waterways."



~Scipio~/Flickr

more online

Learn more about our work to restore Clean Water Act protections to Massachusetts' waters at:
www.EnvironmentMassachusetts.org

◀ Charles River