



Victory to slash global warming pollution

Massachusetts moves to strengthen pollution reduction program

Earlier this year, the Northeast’s most significant program to reduce global warming pollution, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), came up for review. At the moment when we clearly need to step up our response to the threat of global warming, too many updated versions of RGGI that were put forth severely weakened the program.

So we rallied the support of our members and activists, and we worked to demonstrate to the RGGI commission that the program must be strengthened. A significantly strengthened RGGI was the result, putting us on track to reduce our global warming emissions by 20 percent in the next 10 years.

20 percent less carbon pollution by 2023

RGGI is a key part of Massachusetts’ strategy to reduce pollution from fossil fuels and shift to clean energy. By limiting carbon pollution from power plants, requiring polluters to buy permits to pollute, and investing the revenues in energy efficiency and renewable energy, RGGI has helped Massachusetts meet our environmental and energy challenges while curbing dependence on fossil fuels since 2009. As we cut global warming pollution, we take the wind out of extreme weather events like Superstorm Sandy.

RGGI-funded investments are also benefiting Massachusetts economically, boosting economic growth in the Northeast by



Photo: Staff

▲ Monique Sullivan (c) and Nathan Willcox (behind her), two of our Washington, D.C., staff at this spring’s “Forward on Climate” rally, which called on the president to take more action to curb global warming pollution.

\$1.6 billion. Strengthening RGGI would produce an additional \$8 billion in economic benefits, along with 124,800 additional job-years of employment, according to a recent analysis by Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management.

In January, Massachusetts joined other Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states in dramatically strengthening the Regional

Greenhouse Gas Initiative. The newer, stronger RGGI program will cap global warming pollution from power plants at current levels and then tighten them, requiring cuts of 2.5 percent each year. This is a big victory against global warming pollution, and we look forward to continuing to push the envelope and find ways to tackle global warming.



PHOTO: Jeff Cutler / Flickr.com

take action

Tell the Environmental Protection Agency we must do more to prevent catastrophic global warming at: www.EnvironmentMassachusetts.org.

◀ Waves approaching homes and businesses along Nantasket Beach in Hull



Photo: Staff

To our members

Thanks to your support, our work to make Massachusetts a solar leader just saw a major victory. In May, Gov. Deval Partick announced that we've met our ambitious solar goal four years ahead of schedule, and that he would push to dramatically increase our solar goal for 2020.

Environment Massachusetts has been campaigning hard for this new goal, and your support was crucial to making this a success. We met with the Patrick administration, brought together local clean energy businesses and concerned citizens, and rallied support behind this important goal.

I was particularly proud to bring my infant son to the governor's announcement—after all, he will be inheriting this planet from us! He reminds me why we have to keep fighting for clean energy, and why we have to keep up the fight for a brighter future for our environment. And your support gives me much needed hope in the face of powerful opposition.

Sincerely,

Johanna Neumann
Regional Director

Recent action

Coal-free Massachusetts

Environment Massachusetts helped introduce a bill in the legislature to help the state transition away from polluting coal. The bill will help transition coal workers to jobs in the clean, renewable energy sector that doesn't pollute our environment and never runs out.

Coal-fired power plants are the largest source of mercury and other hazardous air pollutants in Massachusetts. Even at extremely low levels, mercury is a potent neurotoxin.

This is the 21st century. We should be shifting away from dirty, dangerous energy sources like coal and embracing clean, renewable energy to power our lives. Luckily, Massachusetts has the capability to be coal-free by 2020. Using policy tools already in place, the governor can make the final push to get Massachusetts off coal and protect our health, our environment and our planet.

Protecting our coast from plastic pollution

In April, Manchester-by-the-Sea became the latest town in Massachusetts to ban plastic bags, with over a two-thirds majority vote at the second night of the Annual Town Meeting. The ban will go into effect on July 1, and prohibit retail establishments from dispensing plastic checkout bags, encouraging the use of paper, biodegradable, or reusable bags. Manchester now joins Brookline and Nantucket Island as the third Massachusetts community to ban the bag.

"Environment Massachusetts applauds the decision taken by Manchester residents," said Environment Massachusetts Regional Director Johanna Neumann. "We hope the rest of the state will soon follow Manchester's lead to protect our ocean from this destructive trash. Nothing we use for a few minutes should pollute the ocean for hundreds of years."



Toward a greener future

Environment Massachusetts and Environment Massachusetts Research & Policy Center gratefully accept bequests, beneficiary designations of IRAs and life insurance, and gifts of securities to support our work to build a cleaner, greener, healthier future.

For more information, call 1-800-841-7299 or send an email to: PlannedGiving@EnvironmentMassachusetts.org.

Photo: Shutterstock.com



PHOTO: Amanda Boyd / USFWS

▲ Grey seals on Nantucket Island

Preserving the best of Cape Cod

Photo: dr. huxtable / Flickr.com

The Cape Cod National Seashore at risk

The Cape Cod National Seashore has some of our state's most beautiful scenery, from the high dunes at Marconi Beach in Wellfleet to the sunsets at Race Point in Provincetown. And it's no wonder. Since they were made part of the National Park System during John F. Kennedy's presidency, the nearly 40 miles of beach in the National Seashore have enjoyed special protection, as has the Seashore's diverse plant and animal life—including 32 rare or endangered species, like the piping plover.

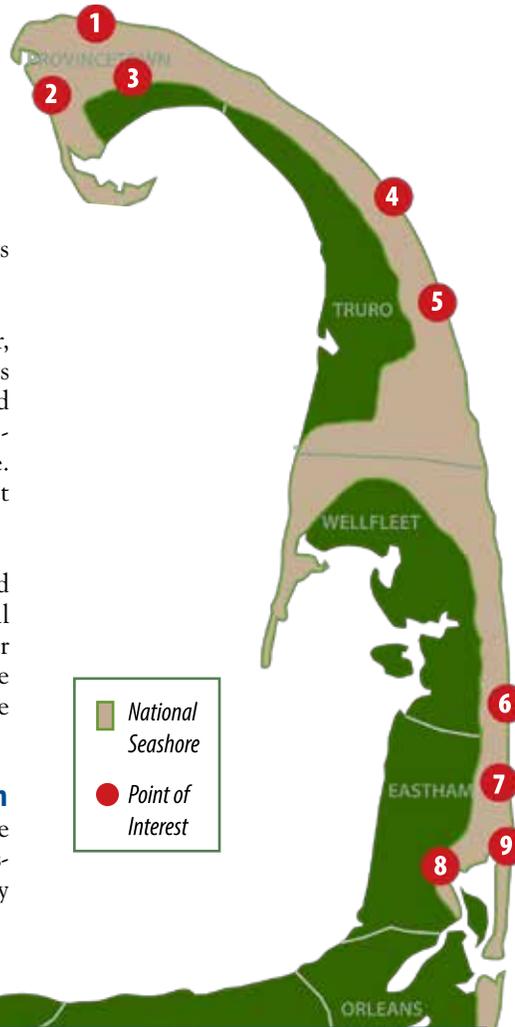
Yet, in recent years Congress has slashed funding by more than 10 percent for our National Seashore and all our national parks, and now House leaders want to cut even more. Unless we stop these cuts, we'll have less access to the beaches, fewer rangers to guide and help visitors, and less protection for wildlife.

The National Seashore deserves better, especially after this past year's storms did so much damage to our beaches and dunes. Fifty years ago, people came together to create the National Seashore. It's up to us to protect it for the next generation.

With House leaders pushing more and more cuts to funding for the National Seashore and all of our parks, it's up to our senators to stand up for the Cape—before we see more damage done to one of the most beautiful places in our state.

An opportunity for Sen. Elizabeth Warren

Sen. Warren can be a champion for Cape Cod National Seashore—and all of Massachusetts's treasured natural places—by standing strong for parks funding.



more online

Read more about our efforts to preserve the Cape Cod National Seashore online at: www.EnvironmentMassachusetts.org

Points of Interest: 1) Race Point Beach; 2) Herring Cove Beach; 3) Province Lands Visitor Center; 4) Head of the Meadow Beach; 5) Highland Light; 6) Marconi Beach; 7) Nauset Light; 8) Salt Pond Visitor Center; 9) Coast Guard Beach



PHOTO: Brian Gudzevich / Flickr.com

Keep fracking out of Massachusetts

The dangerous gas drilling practice known as fracking has leveled forests, polluted air, poisoned drinking water and sickened families in every state where it has occurred, so why on earth would we allow it here?

Now drilling companies may be setting their sights on Massachusetts. Gas deposits were recently discovered in Western Massachusetts' Pioneer Valley, which means some of the best farmland in the country and the scenic Connecticut River could be at risk.

In state after state, fracking has polluted water and made families sick from toxic chemical exposure.

In Colorado, 340 drilling leaks and spills have contaminated groundwater in the past five years.

In Dimock, Pa., three spills in less than a week dumped 8,000 gallons of fracking fluid components into Stevens Creek and a nearby wetland.

And in Wyoming, fracking has led to smog levels that are worse than in Los Angeles—with shortness of breath, watery eyes and nosebleeds among just a few of the consequences.

The last thing we need are oil and gas companies to bulldoze their way into our state, inject chemical-laden water deep into the ground, and create millions of gallons of toxic wastewater.

That's why Environment Massachusetts is working hard to win a ban on fracking in our state, protecting our landscapes, air, water and health from dangerous drilling forever.

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

Environment Massachusetts

Address service requested

NON-PROFIT
ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BROCKTON, MA
PERMIT NO. 430



Summer Report

VOLUME 7 | NO. 2 | 2013

PHOTO: Matthew Green / Flickr.com

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.

A major milestone for solar

After our major victory to expand Massachusetts's most successful solar program last summer, Environment Massachusetts went to work to convince Gov. Deval Patrick to solidify Massachusetts's role as a true national solar leader by dramatically expanding our solar goals. In May, Gov. Patrick announced his intention to do just that, expanding our solar goal to 1600 megawatts (MW) installed by 2020.

Environment Massachusetts helped 18,000 citizens contact the governor and urge him to increase his solar goal.

Massachusetts still gets 90 percent of our energy from dirty and dangerous energy sources, but the governor's new goal of 1600 MW is the equivalent amount of electricity produced at New England's largest coal-fired power plant.

"When Gov. Patrick set his solar goal six years ago, many thought it was just aspirational. In fact, it was inspirational," said Johanna Neumann, regional director with Environment Massachusetts. "Our success to date should give state leaders the confidence that we can take solar to the next level."



PHOTO: Staff

news

Gov. Deval Patrick announced that Massachusetts met his goal of getting 250 megawatts of solar capacity installed in Massachusetts by 2017—four years ahead of schedule.