



Summer Report

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Vote restores some funding for national seashore

Three years of cuts reversed; special places still at risk

Last summer, visitors to the Cape Cod National Seashore could see the effects of drastic Congressional budget cuts all around them: broken boardwalks, trails closed to visitors, and reduced access to beaches. Yet thankfully, we recently had a victory in our campaign to protect our national seashore when Congress voted to restore some of its funding.

20,000 people took action

Environment Massachusetts staff educated more than 90,000 people across the state about the threats facing the Cape Cod National Seashore through one-on-one conversations, and collected nearly 20,000 petition signatures.

As Congress debated the budget for our national seashore and other national parks receiving funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), we released "Death by a Thousand Cuts," a report detailing the effects of funding cuts to special places across Massachusetts. The report was featured on the front page of the Patriot Ledger and in the Boston Globe.

We worked with five members of our congressional delegation, including Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Ed Markey, to issue statements calling for funding to our national parks to be restored. Congress then voted to reverse the last few years of cuts to the national seashore and our other parks.

Key program could expire in 2015

Yet just as many families are beginning to plan this year's trip to the Cape, we know our national seashore and many other



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▲ This summer, Environment Massachusetts is working to get full and dedicated funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund to protect the Pioneer Valley, Cape Cod and the Berkshires.

special places are not out of the water.

Funding for the LWCF, our nation's most important conservation program, could expire in 2015, a move that would leave amazing places, like the Pioneer Valley, and the Berkshires, with less protection against pollution, logging and overdevelopment. This summer, Environment Massachusetts launched an ambitious grassroots effort to persuade Congress to

fully fund the LWCF and protect the Cape, the Berkshires and the Pioneer Valley.

"We're talking about the best places in Massachusetts," said Ben Hellerstein, field associate. "We knew we had to jump into this fight to protect these places for our children."



Staff

take action

To learn more about our work to protect the Cape and other special places, visit: www.EnvironmentMassachusetts.org.

◀ Our staff delivered 20,000 petitions to members of congress in support of restoring funding for the Cape Cod National Seashore and our other national parks.



Photo: Staff

To our members

It's that time of year again. The sun is shining. The air is finally warm—a welcome relief after a winter like this past one. If you're like me, you're probably planning a beach vacation to Cape Cod or a hike on the Appalachian Trail.

These places represent the best of Massachusetts' natural heritage. But they may not always be there for our kids—at least not the way that we remember them.

Environment Massachusetts knows the importance of these places and is winning victories to protect them. You can read about it in these pages. We've just launched a new campaign to talk to 80,000 people over the summer about funding for our best places. We're also still fighting to keep fracking out of the Pioneer Valley and to repower our state with more solar energy. And we're doing it all with your support.

Thank you,

Ben Hellerstein
Field Associate

Recent action

Green Future Fund: A new way to honor supporters

Environment Massachusetts' new Green Future Fund honors donors who ensure a greener future for Massachusetts by remembering Environment Massachusetts or our sister group, Environment Massachusetts Research & Policy Center, in their estate plans.

Including Environment Massachusetts in your planning costs nothing today, while protecting the places we love and the values we share for the future. With your permission, we'll recognize your gift in our publications, inspiring other members to make their own legacy gifts. Or you may choose to keep your gift private. Either way, any details you choose to provide about your gift will remain confidential. To enroll in the Green Future Fund, or to learn more, call 1-800-841-7299 ext. 312, or email PlannedGiving@EnvironmentMassachusetts.org.

100+ doctors, nurses call for halt on fracking

At a February press conference in front of Massachusetts General Hospital, Environment Massachusetts released letters signed by more than 100 Massachusetts doctors, nurses and other health professionals, calling on state and federal officials to protect the public from fracking.

Our press conference was covered by newspapers and TV and radio stations across the state, adding to the groundswell of public support behind Environment Massachusetts' efforts to keep fracking out of Massachusetts. With the prospect of fracking coming to the Pioneer Valley, we've been working to educate the public about the link between fracking and the documented health problems associated, such as difficulty breathing, nosebleeds, skin rashes, and neurological and gastrointestinal issues.

"We seen the devastation fracking has caused in communities across the country," said Ben Hellerstein, field associate. "And that's exactly why we're working to keep it out of Massachusetts."



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



▲ Environment Massachusetts Field Associate Ben Hellerstein stood with Rep. Denise Provost at Massachusetts General Hospital after collecting petitions from doctors and nurses, calling for an end to fracking. Rep. Provost is one of the authors of a bill to ban fracking in Massachusetts.

staff

A one-two punch in the global warming fight

Massachusetts' clean energy and energy efficiency policies are significantly cutting emissions of carbon dioxide, the leading driver of global warming, according to a new report released by Environment Massachusetts Research & Policy Center.

The report, "Moving America Forward," shows that Massachusetts' state-level energy efficiency policies, together with federal efficiency standards for lighting and appliances, reduced carbon pollution by at least 1.31 million metric tons in 2012—an amount comparable to the annual emissions from more than 270,000 cars. Massachusetts has been ranked the top state in the nation for energy efficiency by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy in each of the last three years.

Strongest energy efficiency policies

"Massachusetts is helping lead the way in the fight against global warming, with some of the strongest energy efficiency and renewable energy policies in the nation," said Ben Hellerstein, field associate with Environment Massachusetts. "We're making significant progress in cutting our carbon emissions, and we hope to see more and more states—and the federal government—continue to follow our lead."

Scientists say extreme weather events like Hurricane Sandy and Winter Storm Nemo are likely to become more frequent and severe if we don't take action soon to curb emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases driving global warming. Coal- and gas-fired power plants are America's largest sources of the carbon pollution, accounting for more than 40 percent of carbon emissions nationwide.

Leading the way for carbon limits

In 2001, Massachusetts became the first state in the nation to adopt enforceable limits on carbon dioxide pollution from power plants. These limits set the stage for the creation of the Regional

Greenhouse Gas Initiative, an agreement between Massachusetts and eight other Northeastern states to cut global warming emissions.

The next major step

Environment Massachusetts pointed to the Environmental Protection Agency's plan to move forward with limits on carbon pollution from power plants as the next major step to fight global warming and shift to clean energy. The Obama administration has announced a timeline for moving forward with limits on carbon pollution from power plants, and the first set of standards governing emissions from new plants was proposed in September of last year.

"Massachusetts has long been a leader in the fight against global warming," said Hellerstein "We're excited to see the Obama administration move forward with national limits on carbon pollution from power plants. We urge state leaders to keep raising the bar, so that Massachusetts can continue to lead the way on clean energy and energy efficiency. These are the actions that will deliver a one-two punch in the fight against global warming."



Moving America Forward
State and Federal Leadership Is Producing Results
in the Fight against Global Warming

research

To read the full report visit,
www.EnvironmentMassachusettsCenter.org

A call for lawmakers to expand rooftop solar

With solar energy on the rise in Massachusetts, Environment Massachusetts, Vote Solar, Boston Community Capital, and the Mass-Energy Consumers Alliance joined a broad coalition of stakeholders at a public hearing this spring to support the continued growth of solar in Massachusetts and encourage the expansion of the state's successful net metering program.

Net metering gives renewable energy customers full, fair credit on their utility bills for the excess clean power they deliver to the grid. Massachusetts law places a cap on net metering participation, after which utilities are no longer required to offer this important right to new non-residential solar energy customers. Schools and local governments are already hitting their cap, with private businesses not far behind. Environment Massachusetts urged the Legislature to pass a bill that would raise the cap on net metering participation, and to reject legislation that would undercut the program.

"Massachusetts' tremendous success is the result of a strong policies and a dynamic partnership between local and state government, committed to working with citizens and businesses to realize the environmental and economic benefits of solar," said Ben Hellerstein, field associate. "If we preserve and improve our already successful solar programs, we can maintain our status as a national solar leader."

For more information on our efforts to help Massachusetts go solar, visit: www.EnvironmentMassachusetts.org



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Environment Massachusetts

Our mission

We all want clean air, clean water and open spaces. 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 spaces. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

New EPA rule good news for Connecticut River

This spring, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed a rule to close loopholes in the Clean Water Act that leave more than 52 percent of our streams, as well as iconic rivers like the Connecticut and the Charles vulnerable to pollution. This rule making comes after a decade of uncertainty over the jurisdiction of the Clean Water Act, following polluter-led Supreme Court challenges in 2001 and 2006. The rule, which could be finalized as soon as later this year, would restore Clean Water Act protections to many of the streams and wetlands that feed and filter our most iconic waterways.

Environment Massachusetts and its affiliates across the country have had more than 1 million face-to-face conversations with people across the country about the need to close the loopholes in the Clean Water Act.

“With the drinking water for 4.9 million Bay Staters at risk, we’re thrilled to see the EPA moving forward to protect our waterways,” said Ben Hellerstein, field associate. “Whether walking along the Charles River, kayaking down the Connecticut, or just drinking the water that comes from our tap, we need our waterways to be clean and protected.”

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more inside

Doctors, nurses call for halt on fracking; Expanding rooftop solar; Protecting the Berkshires, Pioneer Valley and Cape Cod from funding cuts, and more.

 [Connecticut River](#)