



Fall Report

A summer spent fighting for clean water

Grassroots efforts make critical progress

Late this spring, the Environmental Protection Agency proposed a rule to close loopholes in the Clean Water Act that have left more than half of Oregon's streams, and the drinking water sources for nearly 1.8 million Oregonians, at risk of pollution and development for more than a decade.

From the Rogue to the Columbia, and all of the rivers and streams in between, our waterways are a big part of what makes living in Oregon so great. Oregonians should be able to enjoy our local waterways knowing they're protected from irresponsible development and unchecked pollution. That's why this summer, we worked to get the EPA's rule across the finish line and protect our rivers.

100,000 doors, 20,000 public comments
 This summer, Environment Oregon staff and volunteers knocked on more than 100,000 doors across the state, educating Oregonians about the need to protect our waterways and support the EPA's pending rulemaking to restore Clean Water Act protections. We ran our outreach offices from Portland, Bend, and Eugene and collected more than 20,000 public comments supporting strong protections for our waterways. In addition to these handwritten comments, hundreds of Oregonians put a face to the names by taking "photo-petitions" to send to the EPA.

Office visit from elected officials
 In August, Rep. Earl Blumenauer and state Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer stopped



Staff

▲ This summer, Environment Oregon staff worked to close loopholes in the Clean Water Act and protect our rivers.

by our office to highlight the work we're doing to protect Oregon's rivers and tell us about their environmental priorities for the coming year.

1.3 million pounds of toxic pollution
 In addition to our outreach work, we released a new Environment Oregon

Research & Policy Center Report, "Wasting our Waterways," showing that industrial facilities dumped nearly 1.3 million pounds of toxic chemicals into Oregon's waterways in 2012, making Oregon's waterways the 33rd worst in the nation. The report was covered in more than 15 media outlets, ranging from Astoria to Bend.



Staff

from the front lines

◀ Rep. Earl Blumenauer briefed our Portland citizen outreach team.

To learn more about our campaign to close loopholes in the Clean Water Act and protect Oregon's rivers, visit www.EnvironmentOregon.org.

To our members

As the weather turns wet again and I find myself spending more time inside with a cup of coffee, I've had the chance to reflect on the summer and on the incredible passion of the young and enthusiastic canvassers that worked with us across the state.

I see a bit of myself in many of them—when I was a college student, all I wanted to do was protect the environment that I loved. For so many of these young people, this summer opened their eyes to a very real and tangible way to make positive change for the environment.

It's a source of pride for me to see this come full circle, as we recently welcomed a new campaign organizer, Charlotte Bromley, to our staff. Charlotte first got her start with Environment Oregon as a canvasser in our Portland office in 2010 while attending college.

Together, I know we're ready to face challenges head-on.

Sincerely,



Rikki Seguin, Conservation Advocate

Recent action

One in five Oregonians living plastic bag-free

In May, Ashland became the fourth Oregon city to ban plastic bags, bringing the number of bag-free cities to four: Ashland, Corvallis, Eugene and Portland. The victory in Ashland came after months of hard work from Environment Oregon members and local activists. Plastic bag bans in these four Oregon cities are estimated to keep nearly 272 million plastic bags out of the waste stream annually, meaning huge payoffs for our rivers, oceans and wildlife.

“The growing support for plastic bag bans is evident, with cities from Portland to Ashland passing local bans on plastic bags,” said Rikki Seguin, advocate with Environment Oregon. “We look forward to working with additional cities that wish to stand up for the health of our waterways by banning plastic bags.”

Now, Environment Oregon members from Medford, to Bend, to Astoria are working hard to ban bags in their own communities.

Portland: 15th top solar city in the nation

Efforts to engage different communities in solar energy, through programs like Solarize Portland and Solar Forward, have helped the City of Roses become one of the top 20 major cities for the amount of solar installed, according to a new Environment Oregon Research & Policy Center report, “Shining Cities.” The report provides a first-of-its-kind comparative look at the growth of solar in major American cities like Los Angeles and Phoenix.

“As a pollution-free energy source with no fuel costs, solar energy is an important part of the city's overall strategy to protect the climate and reduce carbon emissions,” said Portland Mayor Charlie Hales. Environment Oregon's Charlie Fisher was joined by city officials and the Hacienda Community Development Corporation to release the report.

Environment Oregon continues to push toward a bold solar vision of 10 percent solar, or a quarter of a million solar roofs, by 2025. A growing coalition of 30 mayors and city councilors across the state continue to back this solar vision.



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▲ Environment Oregon's Charlie Fisher releases “Shining Cities,” highlighting Portland as a top solar city nationally



More electric vehicles mean less pollution

More than 220,000 electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles are on America's roads today, delivering real benefits for our health and our environment. In June, we released a new Environment Oregon Research & Policy Center report entitled "Driving Cleaner: More Electric Vehicles Mean Less Pollution." According to the report, in just the last two years, annual sales of electric vehicles (EVs) have increased by 500 percent.

"It's time to charge ahead," said Rikki Seguin, advocate with Environment Oregon. "Electric vehicles are one of the most important tools we have to break our dependence on oil, clean up our air, improve our health and protect our climate."

The report showed that electric vehicles could prevent more than 213,000 metric tons of climate-changing carbon pollution annually in Oregon by 2025. That's the equivalent of saving nearly 24 million gallons of gasoline per year, or eliminating tailpipe pollution from 45,000 of today's cars and trucks.

Standing with the experts

When we released our new findings at Portland State University's Electric Avenue, we were joined by several leading electric vehicle experts: Oregon Chief Electric Vehicle Officer Ashley Horvat and representatives from Oregon Electric Vehicle Association, Drive Oregon, and Plug In America. Several EV owners also came to the event with their electric vehicles.

Next steps

With advanced new cars—whether a plug-in hybrid model like the Chevy Volt or a fully electric model like the Tesla Model-S—Oregonians can travel increasingly longer distances on electricity alone.

"We need more electric vehicles on the road," said Seguin. "So we're calling on our leaders to get in the driver's seat and

make electric cars as convenient, affordable and widespread as cars currently powered by oil."

Thanks in part to smart policies adopted by states like Oregon, EVs are becoming more available than ever before. However, there is much more that we can do to accelerate the market for electric vehicles. The report recommends the following:

- Oregon should follow through on the ambitious electric vehicle deployment goals set through the Zero Emission Vehicle program.
- Governments at all levels should make it easier for people to own and drive electric vehicles by ensuring convenient access to charging stations.
- The United States should generate at least 25 percent of its electricity from clean, renewable sources of energy by 2025, ensuring our cars are powered with the cleanest energy.



report

In June, Environment Oregon Research & Policy Center released a report on clean vehicles, "Driving Cleaner."

To read the full report, visit: www.EnvironmentOregonCenter.org

Staff

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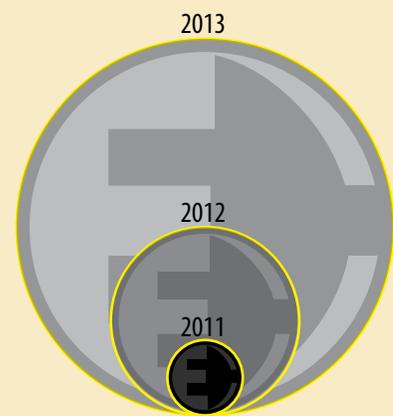
Transportation accounts for nearly half of greenhouse gas emissions.



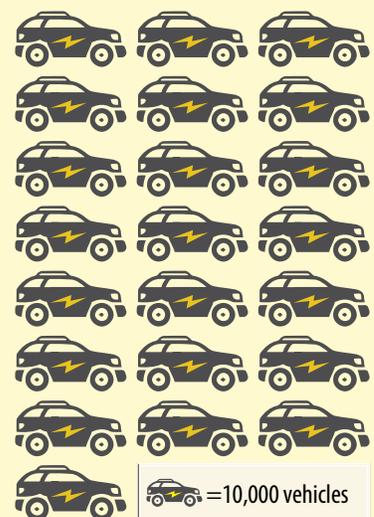
The time has come for America to:

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 Oregon

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 Oregon. We focus exclusively on protecting Oregon's 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.

EPA proposes first-ever limits on power plants

In June, the Environmental Protection Agency proposed a Clean Power Plan that sets targets for states to reduce carbon and tackle global warming by investing in renewable energy and energy efficiency, cleaning up existing power plants, and switching to cleaner fuels.

Not surprisingly, this proposed plan is no easy win. Big Oil, coal and the rest of the dirty power industry have vehemently opposed this idea for years.

To overcome their influence, together with our national federation, we've launched a campaign to reach more than 1 million Americans about the local impacts of global warming and the benefits the Clean Power Plan will have for our children's future.



epa.gov

more online

Take action and join our fight against global warming at: www.EnvironmentOregon.org

◀ EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy announced the Clean Power Plan, an historic step to limit pollution from power plants.