



# Winter Report

## Renewing our push for offshore wind

### Key legislation positioned for victory in 2012

Last year, Environment Maryland pushed a bill promoting offshore wind power to the top of the legislative agenda in Annapolis. In the end, state leaders defeated the legislation by a narrow margin—but we built a strong coalition that leaves us better positioned for victory in 2012.

Our allies include labor unions, businesses, faith leaders, public health experts, and thousands of Environment Maryland members and supporters who want Maryland to harness the power of offshore wind and reverse our state’s dangerous dependence on fossil fuels that cloud our air with toxins and contribute to global warming.

### Progress since the 2011 session

The bill, supported vigorously by Environment Maryland, would have given companies incentives to build 120 wind turbines 10 miles off the coast of Ocean City, where the wind could power approximately 135,000 Maryland homes with clean, homegrown energy that never runs out.

As last year’s legislative session came to a close, many state leaders in Annapolis voiced concern about not hearing enough support from their constituents—and others worried Marylanders did not have interest in the project. So, in the months running up to the 2012 legislation session, we hit the ground running.

This winter, Environment Maryland has helped to organize a half-dozen town hall meetings throughout the state, focusing on districts whose legislators remain on



▲ Offshore wind could repower Maryland with energy that doesn’t pollute and never runs out.

the fence. We’ve also begun reaching out to the many Maryland businesses that stand to gain patronage from the construction of turbines. And, of course, we’ve continued to work closely with Gov. Martin O’Malley.

### The promise of offshore wind

Environment Maryland remains committed to offshore wind power because

of its tremendous potential—especially for Maryland. “The southwest has solar, the Midwest has land-based wind, and Maryland and other East Coast states have offshore wind,” said Tommy Landers, campaign director for Environment Maryland. “It’s time for Maryland to start tapping the power of offshore wind, to bring clean, renewable energy to our homes and businesses.”



### action

◀ Environment Maryland Campaign Director Tommy Landers speaks at a Baltimore meeting on offshore wind.

Take action online at:  
[www.EnvironmentMaryland.org/action](http://www.EnvironmentMaryland.org/action)



## To our members

As my staff and I continue to work with our leaders in Annapolis, I'm grateful that we're in a state where we can make progress for the environment on a regular basis.

In Washington, the House of Representatives has staged attack after attack against the most basic environmental protections and tried to hamstring the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as they attempt to clean up dirty, dangerous pollution from power plants and other sources.

While I'm grateful that Maryland has avoided these anti-environmental trends, I know we still have our work cut out for us. As we prepare for 2012, we look forward to working with our relatively pro-environment General Assembly and winning concrete solutions for the problems facing the Chesapeake Bay, our air and our climate.

Tommy Landers  
Campaign Director

## Recent action

### Obama's 54.5-mpg proposal moves forward

This summer, the Obama administration announced a plan to require cars and trucks to meet a 54.5 miles per gallon standard by 2025. In November, the administration opened a public comment period on the proposed standards—the first step toward making them a reality.

The standards mark the biggest step America has ever taken to fight global warming—and benefits would also be felt closer to home. American families would have used 1.38 million fewer gallons of oil and spent \$489 million (\$15.31 per family) less at the pump over the Thanksgiving holiday if today's vehicles met the 54.5-mpg standard, according to an Environment Maryland report.

Unfortunately, with the National Auto Dealers Association lobbying to weaken the new standards, and some of their allies in Congress vowing to block it altogether, this victory is not yet a done deal. Our staff and members are urging the Obama administration to seize this important opportunity to get America off oil and help prevent global warming.

### Baltimore now the East Coast's smoggiest city

This fall, during a Baltimore press conference, Environment Maryland released "Danger in the Air," a new report that identifies Baltimore as the East Coast's smoggiest metropolitan area. We also recruited a public health professional and an asthma patient to join us and speak to the negative effects of smog, which triggers asthma attacks and exacerbates respiratory illnesses.

Under the federal Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency is required to set a national standard, based on the latest science, to address smog pollution. Unfortunately, the current standard remains at a level that the EPA's board of independent scientists has determined to be inadequate. Environment Maryland will continue pushing for science-based standards to protect Marylanders' health from smog pollution.

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▲ Environment Maryland's Ewa Krason releases our report, "Danger in the Air."



# Cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay

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## New action for the Bay

As the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency works with Maryland and nearby states to restore the Chesapeake Bay, Environment Maryland is continuing our work to ensure the promise of this new effort is achieved—not squandered.

The greatest source of pollution in the Bay is runoff from urban and suburban developments, from farmland and golf courses to enormous chicken factories. To finally win real change for the Chesapeake Bay, Gov. Martin O'Malley must implement his EPA-approved cleanup plan in its entirety—and enforce policies that address runoff pollution from all sources, even as industry lobbyists urge him to back down.

## After passage of fertilizer bill, more action needed

Earlier this year, Environment Maryland helped pass a law to reduce pollution from urban grassy areas, including golf courses and residential lawns. The law reduces the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus in commercial fertilizers, two key contributors to the annual dead zones that consume up to one third of the Bay every summer.

That is an encouraging step in the right direction. But we need more action to turn tide for the Chesapeake Bay.

This fall, together with our regional partners Environment America and Environment Virginia, we took matters into our own hands by organizing an urban cleanup at the Anacostia River, to help remove some of the debris that would eventually end up in the Bay.

Environment Maryland has also been researching and promoting policies to make sure that local governments have the necessary resources to manage pollution.

## Cracking down on polluters

Unfortunately, before we can truly restore the Bay, we need giant poultry com-

panies like Perdue and Tyson to change the way they operate—and assume responsibility for the manure generated by their chickens, which number in the hundreds of millions every year.

So in recent months, we've defended efforts by Waterkeeper Alliance and the University of Maryland Environmental Law Clinic to hold Perdue accountable for water pollution created by its chickens. We've also been closely involved in negotiations with the governor about proposed rules to clean up agricultural pollution.

The rules include straightforward, reasonable steps to minimize pollution, like planting vegetative buffer zones, and keeping animals away from streams. So far, the governor has been openly supportive of these proposals. Now, we need to help shepherd strong rules through the rulemaking process so we can keep animal manure from polluting the Bay.

Environment Maryland staff will be in Annapolis, pushing the governor to stand strong in the face of industry opposition—and enforce the rules we need to start making real progress for the Bay.



Farm Sanctuary

## more online



*Environment Maryland is pushing state lawmakers to enact new rules to curb runoff from factory farms.*

Read more online:

[www.EnvironmentMaryland.org](http://www.EnvironmentMaryland.org)



CIES Bay Program

## Interview: Rep. John Sarbanes

*What opportunities do you see this year in Congress to make progress on the environment?*

Our nation is facing a multitude of environmental problems, and it's disappointing that these issues have become so partisan. However, I do believe that we have managed to keep more local issues, like Chesapeake Bay restoration, non-partisan among our regional colleagues.

*What do you think it will take to restore the Bay to health?*

We need federal resources, a regulatory framework that reduces pollution and is based on science, and an active citizenry that acts as stewards of the Bay watershed. There are 17 million people who live in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. If each individual were to contribute to clean-up efforts, even in small ways, together we would yield significant results.

*How can the federal government help jumpstart Maryland's clean energy economy?*

One important area where we can sharpen focus is improving energy efficiency through various federal incentives. For example, last year the Department of Energy awarded \$20 million in Maryland for low-income housing energy retrofits. Programs like these are helping make Maryland a leader in energy efficiency and laying the groundwork for a green economy and lower energy bills.

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# Environment Maryland

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## Environment Maryland

### 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 Maryland. We focus exclusively on protecting Maryland'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.

## Update: Bringing sustainable food to schools

Sustainable farming can provide our families with fresh, local food with none of the chemicals or fertilizers that harm the Chesapeake Bay and the rest of our waterways. So this fall, Environment Maryland continued its push to expand our state's Farm to School Program, which would provide a boon to small farmers and bring fresh fruits and vegetables to public schools across the state.

In the fall Environment Maryland educated thousands of citizens about the many advantages of expanding—and patronizing—small farms. We've also built a coalition of allied organizations, small farmers, and Marylanders from all walks of life to push Gov. Martin O'Malley to expand the Farms to School Program and develop a system for distributing local food to communities across Maryland.

"We need to remember the environmental price of the food we buy," said Megan Cronin, water program associate for Environment Maryland. "The O'Malley administration should support the sustainable operations that will preserve our waterways, not poison them."



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### more online

Visit our website to find out more:  
[www.EnvironmentMaryland.org](http://www.EnvironmentMaryland.org)

◀ Farmshare pickup at Calliope Farm near Salisbury, MD.