



Fall Report

A summer spent fighting for clean water

Closing polluter loopholes with grassroots action

Late this spring, the Environmental Protection Agency proposed a rule to close loopholes in the Clean Water Act that have left more than 10,000 miles of streams that feed the Chesapeake Bay and the drinking water for nearly 4 million Marylanders at risk for more than a decade.

This summer, on the heels of the EPA's announcement, Environment Maryland launched a grassroots campaign to build the public support necessary to get the rule across the finish line.

Over the course of several months, our staff talked to thousands of people across the state, collected hundreds of public comments to the EPA, and built a coalition of small business owners, local elected officials, and farmers.

One million pounds of chemicals

Shortly after the EPA's announcement, big polluters ramped up their efforts to block the rule, lobbying in Congress, spreading misinformation, and threatening "legal warfare."

But we debunked their claims when we released the report, "Wasting Our Waterways," which found that 1,084,388 pounds of toxic chemicals were dumped in Maryland's waterways in 2012 alone.

"America's waterways shouldn't be a polluter's dumping ground," said Ally Fields, our federal clean water advocate. "If we want our waterways to be clean for future generations to enjoy, we must restore Clean Water Act protections now."



Staff

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▲ Councilman Walter Ficklin spoke at the "Wasting Our Waterways" report release, alongside Delegate Michael G. Summers, and Sen. Ben Cardin's representative Ryan Middleton.

Businesses, farmers joined us

And when polluters launched a misinformation campaign targeting farmers and lobbied in Congress saying the rule would negatively impact small businesses, we hit the streets, and together with our national federation, gathered the signatures of 300 small business owners and collected com-

ments from more than 200 farmers to call on the EPA to restore protections.

The fight is far from over, but we're closing in on the finish line. With the public comment period coming to a close soon, we're ramping up our efforts to show Congress the widespread support for clean water.



Pete McGowan/USFWS

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To learn more about our campaign to protect the Chesapeake Bay, visit: www.EnvironmentMaryland.org

◀ [Osprey on the Chesapeake Bay](#)



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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 the Chesapeake Bay. 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 Maryland: 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!

Sincerely,

Joanna Diamond
Director

Recent action

EPA announces first ever limits on power plants

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

On the heels of the announcement, Environment Maryland launched a global warming campaign with its affiliates in 23 states to help Americans connect the dots between the consequences of global warming and the meaningful impact of the Clean Power Plan.

"This is a huge deal," said Environment Maryland Director Joanna Diamond. "But it's not a done deal. Polluters are spending millions to oppose the EPA, so we're ramping up to ensure that people understand the threats posed by global warming and the huge opportunity the Clean Power Plan presents for a cleaner environment, more efficient economy, and healthier families."

Electric cars put the brakes on pollution

More than 190,000 electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles are on America's roads today, delivering benefits for our health and our environment, according to our new report, "Driving Cleaner."

This spring, Maryland and seven other states unveiled an action plan to put more than 3 million electric cars on the road within a dozen years. The partnership has led to a plan and commitment to build infrastructure and develop the markets needed for zero-emission vehicles.

"Governor Martin O'Malley and the leaders of the seven partner states deserve tremendous credit for taking this step to promote clean, electric cars that will reduce pollution," said Travis Madsen, global warming solutions program manager for Environment Maryland. "These strong policies have made a tremendous impact on the advances of electric cars."

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▲ Environment Maryland staff get ready to canvass on the Restore Chesapeake Bay campaign.

Industrial toxics released in Maryland's waterways

The Chesapeake Bay and all of Maryland's waterways are some of our most treasured places to spend time with our families, and are vital to our economy and health.

But in 2012, industrial facilities dumped more than one million pounds of toxic chemicals into Maryland's waterways, according to our report, "Wasting Our Waterways."

Environment Maryland Field Associate Talya Tavor was joined by Dan Smith of the Anacostia Watershed Society, State Delegate Michael G. Summers, Council Member Walter Ficklin, and Sen. Ben Cardin's representative, Ryan Middleton, to release the report and call attention to the urgent need to protect Maryland's waters.

Chesapeake Bay threatened

More than 20 million pounds of chemicals were released into watersheds in the Mid-Atlantic region, with 3.2 million pounds dumped into the Chesapeake Bay area.

The impact? Each summer, nitrate pollution in the Chesapeake causes an oxygen-deprived "dead-zone" that covers up to one-third of the Bay, and can cause serious problems for infants if found in drinking water.

Other chemicals discharged, such as dioxins, are known to be cancer-causing, harmful to reproductive health, and can potentially cause developmental problems. Mercury released into water can affect the way children learn, grow and behave.

Preventing water pollution

The continued discharge of millions of pounds of toxic chemicals to our rivers and streams clearly demonstrates the need for stronger action to protect our water and health. But the biggest polluters are spending millions to dismantle our key environmental laws.

"Looking at the data, you can see why polluters might oppose any efforts to protect our waters," said Joanna Diamond, Environment Maryland director. "That's why we're working with farmers, small businesses, and hundreds of Marylanders to make sure our voices are heard for clean water. The future of the waters we love hangs in the balance."

In 2010, we joined with other environmental advocates to pass regulations to limit nutrient pollution in the Chesapeake Bay. But much work remains to reduce pollution to Maryland's waterways overall, including curbing agricultural runoff pollution.

We're calling on the EPA to prevent pollution by requiring industries to reduce their use of toxic chemicals and restore and strengthen Clean Water Act protections for all of Maryland's waterways.

"Maryland's waterways should be clean—for swimming, drinking, and supporting wildlife," said Diamond. "But too often, our waters have become a dumping ground for polluters. The first step to curb this tide of toxic pollution is to restore Clean Water Act protections to all our waterways."



research 

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

THREATENING OUR HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Industrial facilities dumped **206 million pounds** of toxic chemicals into American waterways in 2012.



According to the EPA, industrial pollution has left more than **17,000 miles of rivers** and about **210,000 acres of lakes, ponds or reservoirs** unable to support drinking, swimming, fishing or other uses.



Toxic chemicals dumped into waterways have the potential to seriously and adversely impact human health, from **developmental harm to cancer.**



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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.

Keeping Maryland safe from gas drilling

Fracking has spread rapidly across the country, leaving a trail of environmental destruction and sickened communities in its wake. And now, the industry is looking to set up shop in Maryland, putting our health and environment at risk.

We're mobilizing people across the state to help stop drilling before it begins. We've gone door-to-door to educate thousands of residents about the effects of gas drilling, and hundreds of people have called on Gov. Martin O'Malley to close Maryland's doors to fracking.

"All anyone who doubts the damage of fracking has to do is look next door to the nightmare unfolding in Pennsylvania. We have known this truth for some time," said Joanna Diamond, director of Environment Maryland. "We urge our decision-makers to take action so we can swiftly close the door on dirty drilling."



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Tell Gov. O'Malley to shut Maryland's doors on fracking at:
www.EnvironmentMaryland.org

◀ Fracking pipeline in Pennsylvania