



Summer Report

Photo: Damian Dauterich/Bigstock

Victory for Maryland offshore wind

Maryland clean energy bill becomes law

After more than three years of campaigning, Environment Maryland and our allies achieved a landmark victory to promote clean energy and tackle global warming. Our staff helped pass legislation allowing Maryland to tap into the tremendous energy resource of wind blowing up and down our Atlantic coast.

This victory was made possible with the ongoing support and action of Environment Maryland's members, and concerned citizens across the state. Working together through email actions, phone calls, letters to local newspapers, and rallies at the state capitol, the drumbeat of public support elevated offshore wind power as a critical issue in Annapolis.

As the fossil fuel industry fought tooth-and-nail against this legislation, Environment Maryland worked with Gov. Martin O'Malley and our other allies to demonstrate the many reasons offshore wind power is the right choice for our environment, public health, and our economy. We helped recruit a growing coalition of Marylanders, including business owners, faith leaders, and many more.

At the same time, Environment Maryland published several research reports that made the case that offshore wind power was a smart move both for our environment and our economy. Our studies showed how offshore wind power can help alleviate the many threats Maryland faces due to global warming,



Photo: Staff

▲ Environment Maryland Director Tommy Landers (third from left) attended the offshore wind bill signing along with Gov. O'Malley, his staff, and other advocates.

and offers numerous economic benefits to our state.

And now, Maryland has passed into law a true commitment to offshore wind power. As the state works with experts, businesses and wind developers to actu-

ally put the state's first offshore wind farm in place, Environment Maryland will monitor all the necessary steps along the way. And we will go back to Annapolis to make sure our lawmakers continue to make Maryland a clean energy leader.



Photo: Ian Dyball/Bigstock

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Years of hard work paid off for Maryland's environment and clean energy future.

Learn more on our website:
www.EnvironmentMaryland.org



Photo: Staff

To our members

Thank you for all of your support over the years—it's paying off in dividends. This year, our voices and our passion achieved a landmark offshore wind power victory for Maryland. I'm confident that future generations will see this as a watershed moment in our march towards clean energy.

At the same time the fight continues. For example, in the same session that legislators passed the offshore wind bill, they also failed to pass legislation to protect Maryland from fracking, and weakened clean water protections for the Bay.

We definitely have much to celebrate with the wind victory. And as we look ahead, I look forward to continuing to work together with you to protect Maryland's environment and public health.

Sincerely,

Tommy Landers
Director

Recent action

New study links extreme weather, climate change

“On the heels of 2012's extreme weather, Environment Maryland released its newest report this spring on weather-related disasters. This study documented how global warming could lead to extreme weather events becoming even more common or more severe in future years.

The report found that every county in Maryland has been hit by at least one weather-related disaster in the last six years. Superstorm Sandy, which tragically led to the loss of 72 lives and racked up more than \$70 billion in damages in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic, was cited as just one example in the report.

“Given that global warming will likely fuel even more extreme weather, we need to cut dangerous carbon pollution now,” said Tommy Landers, Environment Maryland director.

U.S. Senate vote could increase reliance on fossil fuels

The U.S. Senate took a number of budget votes this spring that will have important repercussions on our environment in Maryland and across the country.

Unfortunately, one of those votes was in support of the proposed Keystone XL tar sands pipeline, which would deepen our dependence on dirty tar sands oil from Canada. Full production of all the oil from tar sands would add 240 billion tons of carbon dioxide into our atmosphere, severely hampering our efforts to tackle global warming.

“We are deeply disappointed in their vote, and urge them to oppose any future measures which threaten American's health or our environment,” said Tommy Landers, director of Environment Maryland.



Toward a greener future

Environment Maryland and Environment Maryland 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@EnvironmentMaryland.org.

Photo: Critical Area Commission



Photo: Shannon Ramos

▲ The Keystone Pipeline will make it more difficult to tackle global warming.

Defending the Chesapeake Bay

A move to weaken protections for the Bay

The Chesapeake Bay is the most treasured part of Maryland's natural heritage. But each summer, pollution causes enormous "dead zones" where nothing can survive.

Given the broad support to restore and protect the Bay after decades of pollution, Marylanders would hope that our politicians in Annapolis would be doing everything in their power to tackle the worst sources of pollution for the Bay.

That's why it was so disappointing that state politicians passed a bill this spring that will exempt some polluters from complying with any new clean water laws for at least a decade.

Environment Maryland worked with 22 other civic and environmental organizations in an attempt to defeat this anti-environmental proposal. Unfortunately, a majority of legislators in Annapolis ended up putting a new law into effect that could end up exempting many of the worst kinds of Bay polluters—factory farms—from any new cleanup requirements for a whopping ten years.

Factory farms remain one of the largest sources of pollution in the Bay. The vast amount of manure from factory farms is often mismanaged, becoming a leading contributor to the Bay's dead zones.

Standing up for the Bay

In our attempts to defeat this short sighted proposal, Environment Maryland strategized with our strongest legislative champions to ensure that they were doing everything in their power to defeat this clean water rollback. We engaged our members and activists across the state to speak out to their elected officials in opposition to this rollback. And we worked closely with the media to reach the broader public, helping to convince the Baltimore Sun to editorialize against the legislation. Unfortunately, this was not enough to stand up to the lobbyists for Big Ag and their allies in Annapolis.

This pro-polluter proposal was signed into law by Gov. O'Malley this spring.

A plan to move ahead for the Bay

Moving forward, Environment Maryland is more resolved than ever to double down and fight for the Bay's recovery.

To start our efforts off on the right foot, Environment Maryland is launching a statewide door-to-door campaign this summer to educate tens of thousands of Marylanders about this recent rollback and how to make progress in its wake. Our staff, members, and volunteers will be generating dozens of letters to the editor, recruiting thousands of Marylanders to sign our petition to defend the Bay, and bringing concerned citizens to meet directly with our best legislative champions to build a caucus of legislators who will truly stand up for the restoration of our Bay.

If we can convince our best allies to stand with us and hold the biggest polluters accountable, we're confident that we can implement a new, much-needed cleanup plan, restoring and protecting the Bay once and for all.



Photo: Farm Sanctuary

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Factory farms in Maryland are trying to get out of doing their part to clean up the Bay.

*Learn more and take action online:
www.EnvironmentMaryland.org*



Photo: public domain

Protecting Maryland's special places

Environment Maryland is working to protect treasured places like the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, Catocin Mountain Park, and the C&O Canal National Historical Park.

We're working with our state partners to fully fund a critical federal program called the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which was first proposed by President John F. Kennedy. The program protects and expands parks, wildlife refuges, forests and recreation areas across the country without costing taxpayers a dime.

Unfortunately, the Fund is often raided by Congress for unrelated purposes, and if we do nothing, the current Fund is set to run out. Our senators need to commit to permanently maintaining the Fund.

"This critical funding program has helped preserve special places all across the state, like Greenbelt Park, for instance, where I personally spent a lot of time as a kid hiking and enjoying nature. The Land and Water Conservation Fund is one of the best tools we have to protect our parks from overdevelopment and pollution, and it's time we fully fund it," said Tommy Landers, director of 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.

Protecting Maryland from dangerous drilling

The dirty and dangerous practice of drilling for oil and gas, often referred to as "fracking," has left a trail of leveled forests, polluted water, poisoned air and sickened families in every state where it's occurring, Pennsylvania being the nearest example.

So this spring, Environment Maryland advocated for three pieces of legislation in Annapolis that would have protected Marylanders from the dirty and dangerous practice of fracking. Our staff briefed legislators, brought media attention to these proposals, and recruited activists in support of keeping Maryland protected from fracking.

Unfortunately, the state senate committee killed these three bills during the 2013 legislative session. Looking ahead, Environment Maryland staff will continue making the case to protect the state from fracking and demonstrate the damage that fracking is already causing across the country.



Photo: shutterluder/Bigstock

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◀ A massive gas well fracking site in Pennsylvania—we can't allow this sort of destruction to begin in Maryland.

Learn more and take action on our website:
www.EnvironmentMaryland.org