



Fall Report

Defending the Chesapeake Bay

State and federal officials give green light to pollute

The Chesapeake Bay is easily Maryland's most beloved place. Sadly, the summer season marks the toughest time of year for the Bay. Even as families from across the state made their way to this precious waterway—to hike, swim, camp and fish—summertime is also when the Bay is struck with “dead zones,” areas where almost nothing can survive.

This summer was made even worse for the Bay because of outrageous decisions by politicians in Annapolis and Washington, D.C., that mean continued—and potentially increased—pollution into the Chesapeake Bay.

Despite receiving more than 35,000 public comments that urged the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to protect the Chesapeake Bay—and all of America's majestic waterways—from agribusiness pollution, the agency announced in June that they would not be issuing much-needed regulations to clean up pollution from the nation's factory farms.

To add insult to injury, the Maryland Legislature in Annapolis passed a new law this spring that will allow some factory farms to be exempt from any new clean water rules for 10 years.

“Waste from factory farms, laden with nitrogen, phosphorous, hormones and pathogens, contaminates our water and threatens our health,” said Talya Tavor, field organizer with Environment Mary-



Matt Tillet/Creative Commons

▲ Osprey along the Chesapeake Bay at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge

land. “Our politicians and environmental regulators know what's at stake and what needs to be done to protect our waterways. We need stronger protections for the Chesapeake Bay—not weaker laws and foot dragging.”

Fighting back for the Bay

That's why this summer, Environment Maryland staff pounded the pavement,

visiting communities and talking to thousands of Marylanders about the need to reduce agribusiness pollution from entering the Bay. We built the public pressure we'll need to convince our lawmakers to do better by the Bay. Our staff also met with dozens of Washington and Annapolis lawmakers. Only if we keep up the public pressure can we convince our leaders to do what's right for the Bay.



Curt Ellis

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To learn more about our work to restore the Chesapeake Bay, and to take action, please visit: www.EnvironmentMaryland.org.

◀ Citizen outreach staff discuss their strategy to educate Marylanders and help them take action to restore the Chesapeake Bay.

To our members

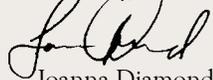
Once again, our canvassers pounded the pavement to alert thousands of Marylanders about the threats to the Bay.

Nothing can replace the hard, grassroots work of informing and engaging Marylanders. Our mission is to channel your passion and concerns into action in Annapolis and Washington, D.C. Your involvement allows us to stand up to polluters and do what's right for the Bay.

At the same time, this was a historic summer in our fight to tackle climate change. Both President Obama and Gov. Martin O'Malley put forward plans to clamp down on dangerous carbon pollution. And thanks to our long-term campaign to push for clean energy, Maryland now ranks 12th in the country in per capita production of solar power.

Of course, our work to defend Maryland's environment is far from over. Thank you again for joining our campaigns to protect our state's great natural heritage.

Sincerely,



Joanna Diamond
Campaign Director

Recent action

New fracking rules fail America's natural heritage

This summer, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposed new rules that will leave many parts of America's great natural heritage and public lands vulnerable to the dangerous drilling practice known as "fracking." The move comes even as the oil and gas industry seeks to expand drilling in Maryland near treasured places and drinking water sources for millions of Americans.

"We needed Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell to protect our natural heritage and environment from dirty drilling. Unfortunately, this summer she didn't do it," said John Rumpler, senior attorney for Environment Maryland.

With fracking posing such a staggering array of threats to our environment and health, Environment Maryland is now working to convince President Obama to step in and protect our natural heritage—and our drinking water—from dirty drilling.

Critical park funding stalls in Washington

This summer while Marylanders enjoyed some of our most iconic parks, Congress moved to eviscerate the cornerstone program that's helped create many of the state's most important outdoor treasures.

The program is called the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), and while most Marylanders haven't heard of this program by name, over the last 40 years the LWCF has provided more than \$200 million in funding to Maryland's state and national parks. It helped protect Antietam; preserve our natural heritage at parks from Assateague Island to Blackwater; and maintain trails and keep recreational areas open at places like the Greenbelt Park.

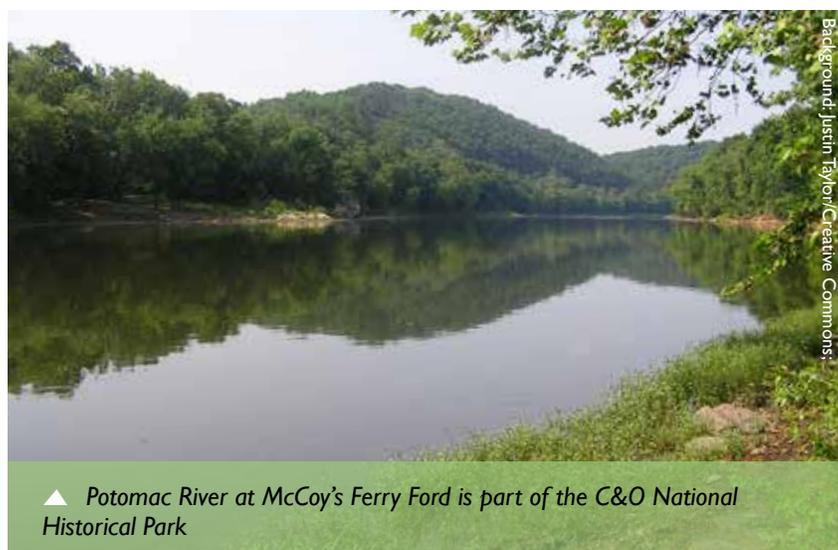
Environment Maryland is working with the state's environmental champions in Congress to fully fund the LWCF and make sure it has sustainable funding for decades to come.

The climate is changing – are your investments?



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Solar Power: Maryland part of the “Dazzling Dozen”

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This summer, the Environment Maryland Research & Policy Center released its latest environmental research report, “Lighting the Way: What We Can Learn from America’s Top 12 Solar States.” This new study highlights the solar energy boom across the state and nation—Maryland’s solar capacity grew by 68 percent last year alone.

“The sky’s the limit on solar energy,” said Joanna Diamond, campaign director for Environment Maryland Research & Policy Center. “Maryland’s progress to date should make us confident that we can do much more. Our message today is clear: If you want your state to be a leader in pollution-free solar energy, set big goals and get good policies on the books.”

The challenge we now face is ensuring that this climate plan is implemented, as well as urging the White House to drop support for fracking and other forms of energy that exacerbate global warming.

“Building our state’s solar market is a top priority in Maryland. Our renewable-energy portfolio standard and energy-consumption reduction goals are among the most aggressive in the country,” said Gov. O’Malley. “Today, we have over 1,525 times more solar on our state’s grid—as well as 2,000 more solar installation jobs—than in 2007. Together, we can create a more sustainable future for generations to come.”

Crucial step for our clean energy future

The “Dazzling Dozen,” the top 12 states for solar power, account for only 28 percent of the U.S. population but make up 85 percent of the nation’s installed solar energy. It is no coincidence that among the twelve states, nearly all of them had implemented far-reaching and groundbreaking policies to promote clean energy, solar power production and creative financing to support solar projects in their respective states.

Environment Maryland’s report shows that solar photovoltaics produce 96 percent less global warming pollution than coal-fired power plants and 91 percent less pollution than natural gas-fired power plants over their life cycle. Additionally, the American solar industry currently employs more than 119,000 people with local, clean energy jobs.

“Maryland has taken important steps to promote solar energy, and it is gratifying that we are in the forefront of state action. While obstacles remain, I am hopeful that we can expand upon these first steps, reach our full solar potential and reduce our reliance on climate-altering fossil fuels,” said Maryland Sen. Paul Pinsky.

Ranked based on cumulative solar energy per capita, the “Dazzling Dozen” consists respectively of Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii, New Jersey, New Mexico, California, Delaware, Colorado, Vermont, Massachusetts, North Carolina and Maryland.



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To learn more about our work to make Maryland a national leader in solar energy and read the full report, “Lighting the Way,” visit:

www.EnvironmentMaryland.org

Gov. Martin O’Malley announces state action on global warming

Environment Maryland applauded Gov. O’Malley as he released a comprehensive plan to reduce global warming pollution in Maryland by at least 25 percent by 2020.

The release of this plan is a critical milestone in the state’s march toward climate pollution reductions, and Environment Maryland has played an essential leadership role in these efforts for years.

In 2006, one of Environment Maryland’s proudest victories was helping to secure the passage of the Healthy Air Act. This law added Maryland to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), the nation’s first regional program to reduce global warming pollution from power plants.

Environment Maryland also helped win other key measures like the Clean Cars Act of 2007 and the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions Act of 2009, which set the stage for the plan released this summer by Gov. O’Malley.

“Of course we have our work cut out for us in the coming years, but this plan shows that Maryland is ready to do what it takes to address the very real threat of climate change to our families, our health and our way of life,” said Joanna Diamond, Environment Maryland’s campaign director.

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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.

Historic plan to tackle global warming

On June 25, President Obama announced a historic plan to tackle climate change by setting limits on global warming pollution from power plants, advancing energy efficiency and increasing the nation's commitment to renewable energy.

"All of us who have felt the effects of global warming and worried about what's in store for our kids can take comfort in knowing that President Obama has put the nation on a path toward a cleaner, healthier and safer future," said Julian Boggs, Environment Maryland's federal global warming program director.

"President Obama has acknowledged that we have a moral obligation to tackle global warming and mapped out a plan for cleaning up the pollution that leads to global warming," said Boggs. "This plan is just one important step in a multi-year effort."



Daniel Borman/Creative Commons

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Working to restore the Chesapeake Bay, keeping our parks safe from fracking, and the benefits of solar power.

◀ *President Obama speaks to a group of students about the need for alternative energies.*