



Fall Report

O'Malley proposes new rules to clean the Bay

New plan would take Bay in right direction

As Environment Maryland campaigned for a strong restoration plan for the Chesapeake Bay, Gov. Martin O'Malley proposed new rules to reduce pollution from the giant agribusinesses that dot its shores.

The announcement came in the midst of Environment Maryland's summer push to restore the Bay, as organizers fanned out across the state, informing 27,000 Marylanders of our call for tough new rules that crack down on the Bay's worst polluters.

This renewed summertime effort included distributing educational material to thousands, collecting 4,500 petition signatures from concerned Marylanders, and meeting with state lawmakers face-to-face—urging them to reduce pollution from large chicken companies on the Delmarva peninsula.

We need straightforward steps

For years, Environment Maryland has called on state leaders to reduce corporate agribusiness pollution—in part by taking a set of straightforward steps to limit manure pollution from entering nearby streams that run into the Bay.

For instance, farmers should stop putting manure on their fields in the winter when the land can't absorb the excess nutrients. And farmers should place buffer zones along the edges of crop fields to help absorb runoff before it can enter nearby streams.



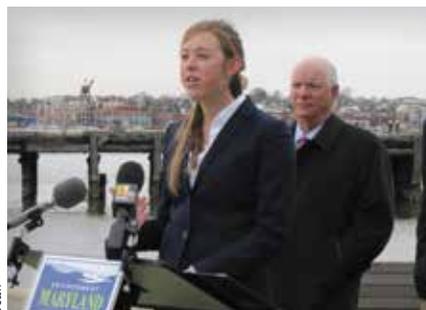
Geoffrey Meyer-van Voorthuisen, Creative Commons

▲ The Chesapeake Bay, where pollution causes a sprawling dead zone every summer.

The governor's proposal, while not perfect, would mark a clear and important improvement in state policies on manure pollution.

And, as another legislative session fast approaches, Environment Maryland staff will continue to mobilize the grassroots support we need to restore and protect the Bay.

"With the help of our members, we'll keep pushing to make the Bay cleanup a success, and help restore its once-thriving ecosystem," said Environment Maryland Clean Water Advocate Megan Cronin.



Staff

more online

Visit our website to learn more about our campaign to restore the Chesapeake Bay and to sign our petition urging state officials to take strong action.

www.EnvironmentMaryland.org



To our members

As you know, summer is when Environment Maryland goes door-to-door to educate tens of thousands of Marylanders about the pressing environmental issues on which we're working.

I'm very proud that our canvassers were able to reach 27,000 Marylanders about our Bay campaign in just a handful of weeks this summer.

My staff and I were also encouraged to see that in the midst of our canvassing, Gov. Martin O'Malley proposed some important agricultural Bay cleanup rules that would be a significant improvement over the status quo.

Looking ahead, we will work with the governor and the General Assembly to craft and pass even stronger rules that will keep pollution out of the Bay.

With your help, we'll make it happen.

Tommy Landers
Director

Recent action

Shining a light on water pollution

More than 40 years after the passage of the Clean Water Act, a new Environment Maryland Research & Policy Center study showed that the state's waterways continue to receive excess levels of pollution from industrial facilities.

Using data collected from the Environmental Protection Agency's Toxic Release Inventory (TRI), our report showed that industrial facilities reported dumping 1.36 million pounds of toxic chemicals into Maryland's waterways in 2010. Moreover, the report, "Wasting Our Waterways: Industrial Toxic Pollution and the Unfulfilled Promise of the Clean Water Act," also showed that 226 million pounds of toxic emissions were discharged into 1,400 different waterways nationwide.

"It's unacceptable that polluters dump more than 1.3 million pounds of toxic chemicals into Maryland's lakes, rivers and streams every year," said Meg Cronin, clean water advocate with Environment Maryland. "We need tough new rules to protect our waters now and for future generations."

11,000 plug-in cars coming to Maryland

As the Obama administration prepared new clean car standards, a new Environment Maryland Research & Policy Center report documented the bright future of electric vehicles in the state.

For over a century, owning a car has meant consuming oil, which fuels global warming and continues our dependence on foreign oil. But our newest report on electric vehicles, "Charging Forward: The Emergence of Electric Vehicles and Their Role in Reducing Oil Consumption," noted that more than 11,500 Marylanders could purchase plug-in vehicles in the next three years.

This would reduce Maryland's global warming pollution by 16,293 tons. And if the cars were powered by renewable energy such as solar, the global warming pollution savings would jump to nearly 50,000 tons.



▲ Electric vehicle designated parking space.

New report: Extreme weather tied to global warming

This summer's extreme heat waves and damaging storms were a painful reminder of the effects global warming is already having on Maryland and the rest of the country.

Scientists predict that global warming will lead to more intense precipitation events—exactly what we've seen in Maryland recently. To highlight this issue, the Environment Maryland Research & Policy Center released its newest report, called "When It Rains, It Pours," which looks at how precipitation has become more intense in Maryland and across the country in recent years.

The increase in heavy rain and snow storms is fueled by increased evaporation and the ability of a warmer atmosphere to hold more moisture.

Our report reveals that intense rainstorms and snowstorms have already become more frequent and severe. Since 1948, extreme downpours in the Mid-Atlantic region are now happening 55 percent more often—and they are producing a third more total precipitation. And in Maryland, the strongest rain and snow storms have gotten 14 percent stronger since 1948 as well.

With scientists predicting even greater increases in extreme precipitation in the years ahead, the United States and the world must take action to reduce pollution that contributes to global warming.

"How serious this problem gets is largely within our control—but only if we act boldly to reduce the pollution that fuels global warming," said Environment Maryland Director Tommy Landers at the press conference to release this report.

Pushing for global warming solutions

To tackle the profound threat posed by global warming, Environment Maryland is aggressively pushing for concrete policy actions that will address climate change

and help us avoid the worst effects, from dangerous storms to oppressive heat waves.

To that end, the Environment Maryland Research and Policy Center released a new study in July focusing on a multistate clean air program in which the participating states have cut per capita carbon dioxide emissions 20 percent faster than the rest of the nation—even as the region's gross product per capita grew 87 percent faster than the rest of the U.S.

With our findings in mind, Environment Maryland has helped lead the charge for cleaner alternatives and organized broad support for offshore wind in the Atlantic Ocean, which could power as many as 1 million Maryland homes with clean, renewable energy.

Together with over 200 organizations, advocates and businesses, Environment Maryland delivered a letter to the Obama administration, pressing for quick action to build offshore turbines.



research

Charging Forward

The Emergence of Electric Vehicles and Their Role in Reducing Oil Consumption

Read the full report online at EnvironmentMarylandCenter.org

Green Future Fund

A new way to honor supporters

Environment Maryland is proud to announce the establishment of our Green Future Fund.

The Green Future Fund will honor a special group of our donors: those who are ensuring a greener future by remembering Environment Maryland or our sister group, Environment Maryland Research & Policy Center, in their wills, life insurance policies or retirement accounts.

These legacy donors are helping to ensure that Environment Maryland will continue to flourish—protecting the places we love and the values we share—for years to come. "We appreciate all of our supporters," said Environment Maryland's Tommy Landers. "And I feel a special gratitude toward those members who have the vision and generosity to plan a gift that will protect our state's environment beyond their own lifetimes."

Establishing a legacy gift also offers donors a few advantages. Some supporters wish they could give more, but can't right now. Including Environment Maryland in your estate plan costs nothing today, while ensuring support for our mission in the future. Legacy gifts may also offer tax benefits. Your professional advisor can help you determine any tax advantage.

As a Green Future Fund donor, with your permission, we'll recognize your gift in our annual report and other publications, helping to inspire other members to make their own legacy gifts. Of course, you may also choose to give anonymously. Either way, any specific details you choose to provide about your gift will remain confidential.

If you'd like to become a member of the Green Future Fund, or if you just have questions, call our planned giving coordinator, Marilyn Tesaro, at 1-800-841-7299 or email PlannedGiving@EnvironmentMaryland.org.

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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.

Blackwater Nat'l. Wildlife Refuge at risk

If you're among the thousands of Marylanders who travel to the Bay's Eastern Shore and spend time at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge every summer, you might have visited for some fishing, biking, crabbing and hiking.

Blackwater is a crucial wildlife area for preserving the Chesapeake Bay. It provides critical habitat for migratory birds and threatened species like the Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon.

Unfortunately, the wildlife refuge is surrounded by parcels of privately-owned land and is at risk for development. With enough pressure from developers, these lands could be sold to the highest bidder. And this summer, some members of Congress moved to dismantle one of the most critical programs—the Land and Water Conservation Fund—that helps protect America's greatest outdoor places like Blackwater. We mobilized hundreds of our email activists to help prevent this dangerous move in Congress.



more online

◀ *Osprey at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge.*

Visit our website to learn more about Environment Maryland's preservation priorities:
www.EnvironmentMaryland.org