



Summer Report

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EPA ruling brings new hope for Chesapeake

Administration moves to close loopholes

This spring, Environment Maryland celebrated a big victory for our rivers, streams and wetlands. After years of urging from the public, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced historic plans to close loopholes in the Clean Water Act that have stripped protections for thousands of waterways in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and elsewhere.

The Chesapeake Bay is one of the most spectacular places in the country. Yet every summer, pollution creates a dead zone in up to a third of the Bay, where almost nothing can survive. But until now, inaction and ineffective measures have made the cleanup of the Bay slow and nearly impossible.

Maryland's clean water at risk

Although agriculture is the Bay's largest source of this pollution, big agribusiness lobbyists have fought tooth and nail to delay any regulations around agricultural runoff to the Bay. And recently, they won on the state level: Maryland's elected officials intervened to delay the implementation of new regulations that would truly help restore protections to the Bay.

Fortunately, the EPA gave us an opportunity to make real progress on restoring protections to the Bay on the federal level. That's why Environment Maryland has worked nonstop to organize support from local officials, farmers, small businesses and thousands of citizens to call on the EPA to implement the strongest plan possible to protect the Bay and all of Maryland's vital waterways.



Staff

▲ Federal Clean Water Advocate Ally Fields and Environment Maryland's Field Organizer, Talya Tavor met with Congressman Chris Van Hollen to talk about protecting the Bay

But our work doesn't end here. Recently, the EPA opened the rule for public comments, and the nation's worst polluters have lined up to stop it in its tracks.

The loopholes that some special interests are trying to uphold have had significant consequences for Maryland's waterways—17,000 waterways are vulnerable

to contamination, putting the drinking water for nearly 4 million Marylanders at risk.

There's a lot at stake, but we'll continue to build the support we need to defend the EPA and win by getting the strongest rule possible over the finish line.



Pete McGowan/USFWS

more online

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

◀ Pelican and baby chick on the Chesapeake Bay



Staff

To our members

I hope this note finds you well and gearing up for a summer of fishing or canoeing trips with friends and family, whether in the Chesapeake Bay or in a local waterway closer to your home. After a winter like this past one, there's nothing like feeling the warmth of the sun on your face or being out in the fresh air enjoying the cool breeze.

For years, experiences like these are part of what Environment Maryland has been fighting for, and we're winning victories to protect them. With the news that the Environmental Protection Agency is moving to close loopholes in the Clean Water Act, we're determined to bring the strongest rules possible across the finish line—and none of it would be possible without your support.

Thanks for all you do,

Joanna Diamond
Director

Recent action

Green Future Fund: A new way to honor supporters

Environment Maryland's new Green Future Fund honors donors who ensure a greener future for Maryland by remembering Environment Maryland or our sister group, Environment Maryland Research & Policy Center, in their estate plans.

Including Environment Maryland in your planning costs nothing today, while protecting the places we love and the values we share for the future. With your permission, we'll recognize your gift in our publications, inspiring other members to make their own legacy gifts. Or you may choose to keep your gift private. Either way, any details you choose to provide about your gift will remain confidential. To enroll in the Green Future Fund, or to learn more, call 1-800-841-7299 ext. 312, or email PlannedGiving@EnvironmentMaryland.org.

Report gives voice to victims of fracking

As Maryland decision-makers continued to consider whether to allow fracking in our state, Environment Maryland released a new report "Shalefield Stories," in partnership with Friends of the Harmed to shed light on real experiences faced by victims of fracking across the country.

We know there is simply no way to frack on our public lands in a way that is safe for our health and protects our state's natural heritage for future generations. As drilling companies line up in Annapolis to try to get the rights to frack in Maryland, it is vital for the public to hear directly from people living on the front lines of fracking.

That's why we're working to convince Gov. Martin O'Malley that opening Maryland's doors to fracking would only bring harm to Maryland's environment for years to come. Our report earned media attention and got the attention of legislators, coalition partners, and community members alike, building momentum on our side to keep Maryland safe from dirty drilling.



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



▲ Terry Greenwood, a small farmer in Daisytown, Pa., has sick and dying cattle on his farm from two drill wells on his property.

Shalefield Stories

Budget cuts threaten Maryland's best places

As Congress approached another deadline on the federal budget, Environment Maryland released “Death by a Thousand Cuts,” a report that exposed the challenges facing special places like the George Washington Memorial Parkway and Antietam Battlefield as a result of mounting funding cuts to the National Park Service.

At risk: our natural heritage

Our nation's parks have been called, “America's best idea,” and represent the rugged and resilient spirit of our natural heritage. Visitors to parks, like Assateague Island Park, enjoy hiking, canoeing, historic education, or just taking in their beauty. Unfortunately, the National Park Service budget has faced reductions consistently for several years.

Assateague Island Park, which saw a budget reduction of \$250,000 this past year, provides critical habitat for wildlife, like the wild ponies that roam the island's picturesque beaches and marshlands. Historic Antietam Battlefield was forced to cut its educational living-history program by half, and Harper's Ferry National Park's budget was reduced by more than \$330,000.

Funding cuts have put vital preservation for these places at risk for too long: Park closures during last fall's government shutdown capped off the third straight year in which Congress cut funding to the National Park Service operating budget.

An opportunity to restore funding

This spring, President Obama took decisive action to protect our public lands when he fully funded the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), America's premier land conservation program, in his budget. This action came on the heels of the president's 2014 State of the Union promise: “I'll use my authority to protect more of our pristine federal lands for future generations.”

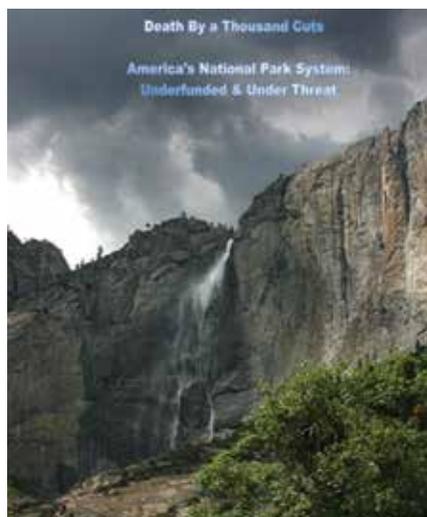
Key program to expire

Yet, LWCF funding is set to expire altogether in 2015, a move that would leave amazing places like Antietam, Assateague Island, and Harper's Ferry vulnerable to maintenance backlogs, pollution and deterioration.

Maryland has 96,000 acres of park land, which more than 6.5 million people visited in 2012, bringing in valuable economic benefits to the state.

“Let's give our parks a fresh start in 2014,” said Joanna Diamond, director for Environment Maryland. “If we continue on this path, our grandchildren could be forced to explore parking lots and fracking wells instead of river valleys.”

We urge Maryland lawmakers to continue standing up for places like Assateague Island Park and Harper's Ferry National Historic Park by ensuring they're provided the full funding they desperately need during the upcoming budget negotiations. Maryland park lovers are counting on it.



research



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

Growing wind energy in Maryland

Maryland has the potential to reap huge environmental benefits from the development of offshore wind.

Offshore wind in Maryland could reduce global warming pollution ...

EQUIVALENT TO
THE AMOUNT OF
CARBON PRODUCED BY
39,569 CARS



Offshore wind
could generate
enough energy
TO POWER
135,000 HOMES.

But Maryland's recent offshore wind policy will soon be threatened when the main federal incentives for wind—the investment tax credit (ITC) and the production tax credit (PTC)—expire. Now is the time to show our elected officials that we need to defend Maryland's clean energy policies and move forward in bringing homegrown, clean energy to Maryland.

To read our new report,
“Wind Energy for a Cleaner America,”
visit: www.EnvironmentMaryland.org/reports



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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.

Maryland moves forward with clean energy

Too much of our energy comes from dirty sources that harm our environment—but it doesn't have to be that way. We can harness pollution-free, homegrown energy from the wind and the sun. It's clean, local, and never runs out.

That's why we're working with the Maryland Climate Coalition to move forward our new campaign, Cleaner Power, Brighter Maryland. We're working with partners across the state to get cities, businesses, and Marylanders committed to a 40 percent renewable energy goal by 2025, and ensure citizens across the state can reap the benefits of clean, local energy.

We are surrounded by clean energy options here in Maryland. We have quadrupled the amount of solar in Maryland and reduced its price by 80 percent. Maryland ranks 12th in the nation for solar activity. By using energy more efficiently and tapping our vast renewable energy resources, we can move to 100 percent clean energy that doesn't pollute and never runs out.

Eugene Suslo / Shutterstock



more inside

New protections for the Chesapeake Bay; Maryland's special places at risk; Report gives voice to victims of fracking; and more.

◀ *Offshore wind in the United Kingdom, now possible in Maryland*