



Fall Report

A summer spent working for our open spaces

Grassroots effort defends parks funding

This summer, Environment Washington staff fanned out across the state to talk to Washingtonians from all walks of life about the need to protect our parks and open spaces from funding cuts.

The face-to-face outreach helped mobilize broad grassroots support, as thousands of Washingtonians signed our petition urging our senators to stand up for our parks and open spaces.

In addition, we worked with our national federation of state groups to mobilize small business owners, outdoor enthusiasts, conservationists and historians across the country to take action.

Mount Rainier, Olympics at risk

Places like Mount Rainier National Park and Lake Quinault in the Olympics are some of the most amazing places in the country, and a big part of what makes living in Washington so great. They're where we go to hike, camp and enjoy the outdoors with family and friends. They're treasured destinations and key parts of our natural heritage.

Yet instead of helping protect and preserve these places for future generations, some shortsighted leaders in Congress want to eliminate funding for our most successful open space program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The LWCF is crucial for protecting Washington's parks and natural treasures.

The program could even expire next year, a move that would leave our best



Staff

▲ Environment Washington staff hiking in Olympic National Park

places with less protection against pollution, logging and overdevelopment. These places deserve better. It's up to us to protect them for our kids and future generations.

We can protect our parks

When Congress shut down our national parks last fall, millions of Americans raised their voices and forced our lawmakers to reopen them. It's time to stand up

for the places we love again—before we see more damage done to the most beautiful parts of our state.

Environment Washington is bringing people together to urge our senators to make preserving special places a top priority. By standing up to anti-environment members of Congress, our senators can leave a lasting legacy for Washington.



Staff

more online



To learn more about our work to protect Quinault and other special places, visit:
www.EnvironmentWashington.org.

◀ To get conservation updates from Environment Washington, like us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/EnvironmentWashington



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 our parks and open spaces. 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 Washington: 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!

Thanks for all you do,

Margie Alt
Director

Recent action

206 million pounds of toxic pollution

From Puget Sound to the Great Lakes, industrial facilities dumped more than 206 million pounds of toxic chemicals into America's waterways in 2012, according to a recent Environment Washington Research & Policy Center report.

The report, "Wasting Our Waterways," comes as the Environmental Protection Agency considers a new rule to restore Clean Water Act protections to 2 million miles of critical waterways across the nation—a move bitterly opposed by the lobbyists for corporate agribusiness, including the American Farm Bureau.

"America's waterways should be clean—for swimming, drinking and supporting wildlife," said Ally Fields, federal clean water advocate. "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."

Report: Solar capacity in Washington on the rise

In August, Environment Washington Research & Policy Center released a report, "Lighting the Way," that showed strong solar growth across the nation, including a 4 percent increase in Washington in 2013. The report emphasized the degree to which state and local governments have created effective public policy to help capture the virtually unlimited and pollution-free energy from the sun. Washington's progress on solar has helped fuel a tripling of solar energy nationwide between 2011 and 2013. Our solar progress is attributed to a number of programs, including net-metering and a renewable energy standard. In July, Gov. Jay Inslee's administration announced programs designed to reduce the cost of solar by standardizing and simplifying the permitting process.

"Solar energy is emerging as a go-to energy option here in Washington and across the country," said Jack Sears with Environment Washington. "Thanks to the commitment of Washington's leaders, this pollution-free energy option is poised to play a major role in helping us meet our environmental goals."

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**PUT SOLAR
ON IT**

Lighting the Way

The Top Ten States that Helped Drive America's Solar Energy Boom in 2013

▲ Left: Our "Put Solar On It" graphic. Right: Our recent "Lighting the Way" report, which detailed the top solar states and the factors behind their success.

Electric cars proven to put brakes on pollution

More than 220,000 electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles are on America's roads today, delivering real benefits for our health and our environment, according to a new report released by Environment Washington Research & Policy Center. According to the report, "Driving Cleaner: More Electric Vehicles Mean Less Pollution," annual sales of electric vehicles have increased by 500 percent in just the last two years.

Now, with strong implementation of President Obama's Clean Power Plan and the development of more renewable energy, electric vehicles are set to deliver even greater benefits for the environment.

18 million tons of pollution prevented
The report shows that electric vehicles could prevent more than 18 million metric tons of climate-changing carbon pollution annually in the United States by 2025. That's the equivalent of saving more than 2 billion gallons of gasoline per year, or eliminating tailpipe pollution from 3.8 million of today's cars and trucks.

The cleaner alternative

Electric cars are cleaner than vehicles that run on oil, even when charged with coal-fired power, according to the report. That's because electric motors are much more efficient than the internal combustion engine. And as our electricity system incorporates more wind, solar and other forms of zero-emission energy, electric cars will only get cleaner. Ultimately, an electric vehicle charged completely with wind or solar power can operate with little to no impact on public health or contribution to global warming.

"Transportation accounts for nearly half of our greenhouse gas emissions, so getting more electric vehicles on the road is important for Washington state," said Charles Knutson, senior policy advisor for Gov. Jay Inslee. "The

governor recently issued an executive order to extend our high-speed charging network, maintain and expand electric vehicle incentives and further electrify our public fleets."

There is much more that our leaders can do to accelerate the market for electric vehicles and make them a viable and attractive choice for more drivers.

The report recommends the following:

- Governments at all levels should make it easier for people to own and drive electric vehicles.
- We should limit carbon pollution from transportation.
- America should generate at least 25 percent of its electricity from clean, renewable sources of energy by 2025.
- And finally, the Environmental Protection Agency should help clean up the electricity system by finalizing the recently announced Clean Power Plan, and states should support and implement them.

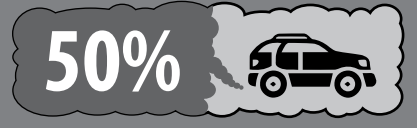


Driving Cleaner
More Electric Vehicles Mean Less Pollution

research

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

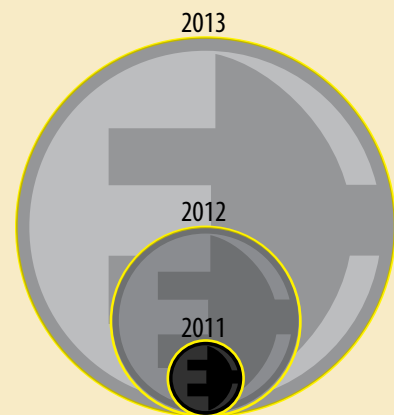
Transportation accounts for nearly half of greenhouse gas emissions.



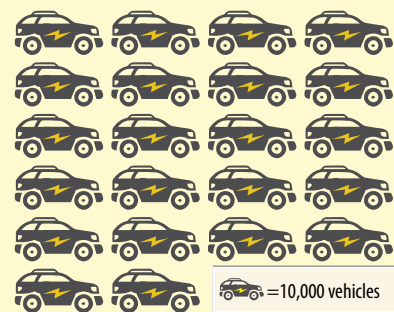
The time has come for America to:

CHARGE AHEAD

In the last two years, annual sales of electric vehicles have increased by **500%**.



Today, there are more than **220,000** electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles on U.S. roads.



SOURCE: Driving Cleaner: More Electric Vehicles Mean Less Pollution

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Environment Washington

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 Washington. We focus exclusively on protecting Washington'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.

EPA proposes first-ever limits on power plants

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

Not surprisingly, this proposed plan is no easy win. King Coal, Big Oil, and the rest of the dirty power industry have vehemently opposed this idea for years.

To overcome their influence, together with our national federation, we've launched a "Global Warming Solutions" campaign to reach more than 1 million Americans about the local impacts of global warming and the benefits the Clean Power Plan will have for our children's future.



epa.gov

Administrator Gina McCarthy
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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Take action and join our fight against global warming at:
www.EnvironmentWashington.org

◀ EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy announced the Clean Power Plan, an historic step to limit pollution from power plants.