From the staff

The states have been called the true “laboratories of democracy,” and here in Washington, we’ve tested and proven that when people come together, we can protect and preserve our air, water and treasured places for generations to come. In the past year, we’ve seen hard-fought, but significant progress on many of the environmental issues that you and I care so much about.

On May 19, at a Rose Garden ceremony, President Obama announced a major new initiative to help break our dependence on oil, with several of Environment Washington’s federal staff members there to witness the event. By 2016, new cars all across America will use less gas and emit 30 percent less pollution. Over the next seven years, this step will save 1.8 billion barrels of oil and cut as much pollution as that emitted by nearly one-third of our nation’s coal-fired power plants.

I’m proud to report that we helped make it possible. In 2005, we worked with Environment Washington members and supporters and state legislators to ensure that Washington enacted global warming emission limits for cars. And over the next four years, we joined forces with the advocates and activists in our sister organizations to champion the same idea across the country, convincing 12 more states and the District of Columbia to follow suit.

We have also won victories in protecting the places in Washington we hold dear. This summer, our canvass delivered more than 1,000 signatures to House Speaker Frank Chopp, urging him to stand up for strong protections for Puget Sound. And online, more than 10,000 people joined Environment Washington in urging our members of Congress to protect all of our nation’s waters, including Puget Sound. Thanks to Environment Washington’s campaign and the support of members like you, Congress is now considering passing the Clean Water Restoration Act to ensure all our waterways are safe and clean.

With no time to waste, we are digging in, working with our allies, and making sure that Washington continues to be the state that is supplying the solutions to the challenges our environment faces. My staff and I will be working every day to make sure that the vision we share of a cleaner, greener and healthier Washington keeps moving closer to a reality.

John Rumpler
Senior Environmental Attorney
Can we build a new economy powered by clean energy? Can we act boldly and quickly enough to reduce our carbon footprint and draw our planet back from the brink of a climate disaster?

Global warming is the challenge of a lifetime, but not because our country lacks the technology or expertise to confront it. The real challenge is building support for the action that’s required, especially given the influence powerful oil and coal interests have on Capitol Hill.

A different climate in Washington
With the election of Barack Obama and the most pro-environment Congress in decades, hopes are high for a clean break from the delay and denial that characterized the Bush administration’s approach to climate policy.

Over the last year, we outlined a vision on energy and climate policy to put our country on the right track: getting 100 percent of our electricity from renewable sources, improving efficiency in our homes and businesses, and cutting global warming pollution by at least 80 percent by 2050. During the presidential transition, our federal global warming program director, Emily Figdor, and our federal director, Anna Aurilio, worked to build support for this vision with the new administration.

Despite setbacks, historic progress in Congress
During the first half of 2009, the House of Representatives debated new legislation to combat global warming.

We focused our energy on building support among citizens and constituencies that could influence the congressional representatives whose votes would be essential to the bill’s passage.

Our staff educated citizens and lawmakers on the consequences of inaction or further delay on global warming solutions. We also mobilized our grassroots activists—our staff gathered more than 1,000 petition signatures during one-on-one conversations with Washingtonians, and thousands of supporters took action on our Web site.

In July, the House voted to pass the energy and climate bill by a narrow seven-vote margin. Nine members of Washington’s congressional delegation voted for this historic legislation.

Although the bill made a number of concessions to oil and coal companies, we continued to support the legislation and worked hard to strengthen and pass it. America can’t wait any longer to get started fighting global warming, and this bill has the potential to transform our energy systems.
Protecting Puget Sound

Puget Sound is a regional treasure. Teeming with wildlife, the Sound is home to eagles and ospreys, orcas and seals, salmon and dungeness crabs. Hiking or kayaking along its shores, one witnesses a coastline of stunning beauty. More than 3.5 million of us call the Puget Sound region home and we depend on its health.

In short, Puget Sound is vital to our quality of life and it is a place we want to preserve for generations to come.

But the Sound and the waterways that feed it are facing a new threat, putting the future health of Puget Sound and all of Washington’s waters in question.

Clean water act weakened
Puget Sound can only be as healthy as the rivers and streams that feed it and the wetlands that help keep it clean.

Unfortunately, in a controversial decision, a bitterly divided Supreme Court exempted small streams and many wetlands from the law and wrote these vital waters right out of the Clean Water Act.

Here in Washington, the EPA estimates that as many as 54 percent of our brooks and streams—and countless acres of wetlands—are at risk from unregulated pollution. Already, 37 facilities discharge pollution into these waters, which serve as a drinking water source for nearly 1.7 million Washingtonians.

An opportunity to protect all our waters
Fortunately, there is a simple solution to this problem. We just need the Clean Water Act to work the way it did for 35 years—protecting every river, stream and marsh in the nation. And now, we have a bill pending in Congress that would do just that.

The Clean Water Restoration Act of 2009 is currently before the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. However, powerful interests—including developers and corporate agribusiness—adamantly oppose the bill. For these reasons, we’ve made it a top priority to pass the Clean Water Restoration Act this session.

This summer, more than 10,000 people joined Environment Washington in urging our members of Congress to pass the Clean Water Restoration Act, including Puget Sound. In October, we held a press conference to release our new report, “Wasting Our Waterways: Toxic Industrial Pollution and the Unfulfilled Promise of the Clean Water Act,” generating attention...
on the industrial dumping that is polluting the Sound and our state's waterways.

And we’re not alone. All across the country—whether they are concerned about the Great Lakes or the Everglades—our sister organizations in the Environment America network have joined this national effort for clean water.

**Building on past victories**

With the support of members, we’re making progress on some of the key challenges facing the Sound.

In 2007, Environment Washington helped persuade lawmakers in Olympia to phase out deca-BDE—a toxic chemical accumulating in the Sound's orcas.

In 2008, the Puget Sound Partnership incorporated several of our recommendations for reducing pollution in the Sound. And earlier this year, we worked with the Obama administration to secure funding to prevent runoff pollution.

Today—with the support of members like you—our advocacy and research in Washington, and Washington, D.C., can bring another victory for the Sound this year.
The state of Washington has a bright energy future. With vast solar and wind potential, as well as the necessary technology and skilled workforce to support a clean energy economy, Washington can and should cash in on clean energy. This past year, Environment Washington fought to repower Washington with renewable energy, obtaining significant victories at both the state and national level.

Leading the way with Efficiency First
Washington’s buildings are responsible for over 30 percent of the state’s total global warming emissions. But with our skilled workforce and new advancements in technology, it does not have to be this way.

This past year, Environment Washington worked to reduce the drain that our buildings place on our pockets and our energy sources. Increasing the energy efficiency of our existing buildings, while developing energy efficient new buildings, is the cheapest, cleanest, and fastest way to cut global warming emissions, boost our economy, and preserve our national security.

Environment Washington is committed to passing science-based policies to reduce our state’s emissions. Recognizing the potential for a commonsense solution, Environment Washington endorsed and helped pass the Efficiency First initiative.

Testifying on the bills ability to transition Washington to a clean energy economy, Environment Washington made sure legislators heard our voice in support of Efficiency First. Environment Washington also organized a presence at citizens lobby day, helping to show key decision makers that their constituents want this initiative passed.

Amid budget cuts and a contentious session, the state Legislature approved a measure to dramatically improve energy efficiency in buildings across the state. The bill, SB 5854, raised standards for new construction and improved energy efficiency in existing public buildings. Environment Washington was one of the original supporters of SB 5854, and was on-hand to testify in the Legislature on its behalf. Passing this initiative was a win-win for both energy consumers and Washington’s environment.

The bill made Washington the first state in the country to meet the Architecture 2030 Challenge—a standard for all new buildings and major renovations to be carbon-neutral by 2030. Efficiency First also established energy use scores—similar to miles-per-gallon ratings for cars—to be disclosed to potential buyers before buildings are sold. Our transition to a clean energy economy has just begun.
**Repower America**

As a nation, our dependence on fossil fuels is wreaking havoc on our environment. With a new president committed to tackling our energy challenges, now is the time to pass national clean energy legislation.

We made a victorious step in the right direction by passing the American Clean Energy and Security's Act through the House this past June, but our work is not done. Congress must draft an ambitious bill, with strict national caps on global warming emissions, increased energy efficiency standards, complete energy independence and increased use of clean energy sources.

It won't be easy. Big Oil has hired more than 2,000 lobbyists to maintain the status quo. Environment Washington is up for the challenge and fighting to make these necessary changes a reality.

This summer, we talked with thousands of people on the street and at their doorsteps about Washington's ability to rebuild our economy and protect the environment with clean energy. This fall, we delivered signatures to our state senators from thousands of Washingtonians in support of a national transition to clean energy. And we mobilized citizens to write their local newspapers, resulting in published letters in papers across the state.

With your support, we'll continue to fight for solutions that refuel our economy, protect the environment, and transition us to clean, homegrown energy.

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**Not As Clean As We Think**

You can read our new reports online: www.EnvironmentWashington.org/reports.

When the rain takes a break and the clouds roll back, it’s not difficult to see across Washington's landscape for miles upon miles. But those clear skies can be deceiving.

This fall, Environment Washington released two reports to keep attention on our state's reliance on fossil fuels and contribution to global warming.

Washington is among the top 10 states for largest percentage increase in fossil fuel carbon dioxide emissions between 2004 and 2007, according to one new report, “Too Much Pollution.” With an increase of nearly 7 percent—primarily coming from our state's industrial and transportation sectors—we’re fifth in the nation. On top of that, Washington continues to rely on an old, coal-fired clunker for some of its electricity. The TransAlta power plant in Centralia is the dirtiest power plant in Washington based on carbon dioxide pollution for 2007, according to our newest report, “America's Biggest Polluters.”

The Centralia plant was built in 1972 and produces the same amount of global warming pollution in one year as more than 1.8 million of today’s cars. Power plants currently do not have to meet any global warming pollution standard.

This spring, Environment Washington is working for increased investment in clean energy and is urging our senators to pass an energy bill that requires old power plants to meet modern standards for global warming emissions. We are also calling on Gov. Gregoire to clean up TransAlta.

You can read our new reports online: www.EnvironmentWashington.org/reports.
A time-out for our last wild forests

Every last acre of our national forests should be protected and preserved—for the beauty and enjoyment they offer to all of us, the clean air and the clean water they supply to our communities, and the home they provide to a rich array of wildlife.

In recent years, the battle over the fate of much of our national forests was waged around the Roadless Rule—the largest conservation initiative in American history.

This rule extended protection to nearly 60 million acres of roadless, and therefore still wild, forests—from Colville National Forest to the Idaho Panhandle, including more than 2 million acres here in Washington.

President Clinton enacted the rule, but President Bush suspended it and then repealed it, opening the door for mining and timber companies to destroy sections of roadless forests.

Since 2001, Environment Washington has worked as part of a broad coalition to restore the Roadless Rule.

During the presidential campaign, then-candidate Obama promised to restore it. Yet soon after President Obama’s inauguration, we learned that something was amiss.

Despite the president’s support for the Roadless Rule, Bush-era officials within the Forest Service were still approving plans for logging, mining and other destructive activities in roadless forests across the nation, including the Olympic and Mount Baker-Snoqualmie national forests.

In April, we documented our findings in our report, “Quietly Paving Paradise,” and urged Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack to call a time-out on new road-building plans.

A temporary reprieve for our wild forests

Six weeks later, on May 28, Secretary Vilsack announced a temporary halt on permits for destructive activities within the national forests.

His sweeping directive protects millions of acres of the most pristine forests in America. Still, there is much work to be done. The halt is only temporary.

And while Secretary Vilsack’s order ostensibly covered 8.5 million acres of Alaska’s Tongass National Forest, the largest temperate rainforest in the world, officials subsequently authorized some extractive activity.

And so, this summer we revived our efforts at getting Congress to permanently protect our national forests.
Along with our coalition partners, we generated enough support to gain the attention of Congress.


In the coming year, we’ll keep a spotlight on the issue and pressure on decision makers to ensure that the respite is turned into permanent protection.
The charts below represent the combined financial information for Environment Washington and Environment Washington Research & Policy Center for the fiscal year 2009.

**FY09 Expenses**
- Program 88%
- Fundraising 11%
- Administrative 1%

**FY09 Program Expenses**
- Preserving Puget Sound 45%
- Renewable Energy 24%
- Global Warming 17%
- Clean Water and Ocean Conservation 14%

**Growing a Greener Washington**

Environment Washington gratefully accepts bequests and gifts of securities to support our work. Your gift will assure that we can continue to protect Washington’s air, water and open spaces for future generations. For more information, call 1-800-841-7299 or e-mail PlannedGiving@EnvironmentWashington.org.