



## President urged to protect San Juan Islands

### 1,000 acres at risk of development

The San Juan Islands are a Washington treasure. Yet 1,000 acres of key habitat on the islands, including special places on San Juan, Orcas, and Lopez Island, don't have long-term protection from possible abuse or sale.

This means these parcels of land are at risk of being sold for development, logging and other extractive practices. Over the years, developers have tried to buy off these priceless pieces of land—including beaches, reefs and pristine forests.

President Obama can permanently protect the San Juans by declaring the islands a National Monument—and Environment Washington has been campaigning tirelessly to convince the administration to do just that.

### Citizens don tattoos for San Juans

Sen. Maria Cantwell has been a steadfast ally in our campaign to protect the San Juans. In fact, in her own words, she's done everything but "get a tattoo" for the islands.

This fall, Environment Washington distributed hundreds of specially designed temporary tattoos across the state so that Washingtonians could join Sen. Cantwell in showing their support for the San Juans. The tattoos, which read "I support San Juans National Monument," were sported by citizens from Bellingham to Olympia, many of whom posted photos of the tattoos to the White House's Facebook page.



Photo: flickr user ecstasticist, Creative Commons

▲ *Environment Washington is urging President Obama to permanently protect the San Juan Islands by declaring them a National Monument.*

### Rep. Rick Larsen joins in

The tattoo campaign gained such strong momentum that U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen was inspired to join in, posing for a photo with the tattoo. Rep. Larsen has long been an advocate for protecting the San Juans.

"The San Juan Islands should be preserved not only for residents and visitors

today, but for future generations," said Rep. Larsen. "I know how important this demonstration of grassroots support will be to make the case for a National Monument. I commend Environment Washington for their leadership and look forward to continue working to secure the permanent protection of these special lands."



Photo: Staff

### more online

*Rep. Rick Larsen with Environment Washington's Emma Jorlin.*

*To learn more and take action, visit [www.EnvironmentWashington.org](http://www.EnvironmentWashington.org).*



## To our members

I believe 2013 could be a turning point for our environment. The recent rise in extreme weather—including the tragedy of Hurricane Sandy and the record-breaking drought that scorched the country last year—has made global warming impossible to ignore, and hardened my resolve to shift Washington away from dirty energy and cut our carbon pollution. I know you feel the same way.

Of course, there will be challenges: Anti-environment politicians will continue to cater to the interests of big polluters. But the climate change deniers and the dirty energy lobby are losing their grip on public discourse; they're on the wrong side of science, and the wrong side of history.

Environment Washington will keep fighting the good fight. And with you by our side, we can make 2013 a year to remember.

Sincerely,

Katrina Rosen  
Field Director

## Recent action

### New campaign to help Washington go solar

Environment Washington recently launched a new campaign to help the state go solar. The campaign aims to put solar panels on 150,000 Washington roofs by 2025.

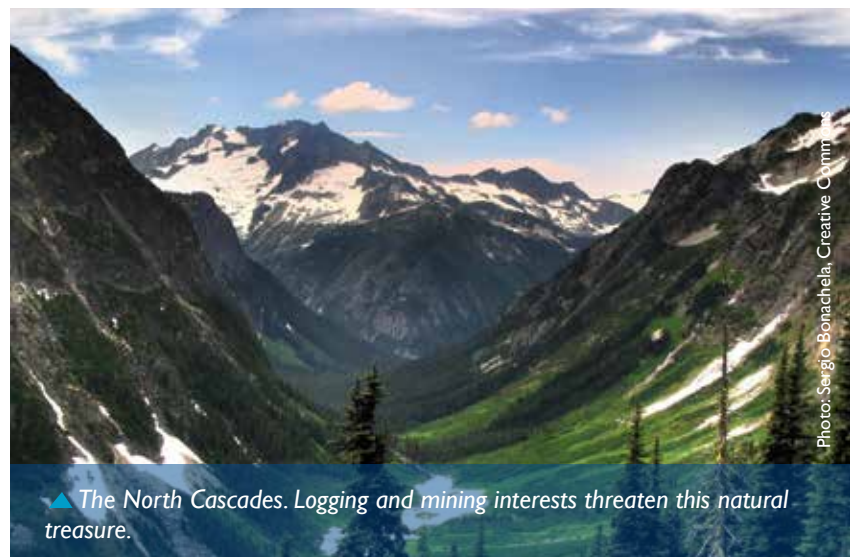
Washington has vast untapped solar potential—enough to put solar power on every roof on your block, on your office, atop your local schools, and on nearby businesses. However, right now, less than 1 percent of Washington's energy comes from the sun. Our leaders need to support the achievable goal of 150,000 new solar roofs in Washington by 2025. Smart solar initiatives by governments around the globe have proven highly effective at creating a strong, long-term market for solar power, yet traditional energy interests are working to keep us hooked on the dirty energy of the past. To overcome the opposition, Environment Washington is building broad public support for solar.

### North Cascades at risk of logging, mining

Surrounded by vast stretches of forest and pristine rivers, the North Cascades are still wild, remote and beautiful. They provide critical habitat for Washington's recovering grizzly bear and wolf populations, and spawning streams for Chinook salmon are found throughout the mountain range.

Unfortunately, huge stretches of critical wilderness habitat outside of North Cascades National Park boundaries are vulnerable to clear-cutting and large-scale destructive mining. These activities would fragment the park, destroy wildlife habitat, and increase poisonous runoff into streams where salmon spawn.

Environment Washington is building a strong coalition of Washingtonians from across the state to overcome the influence of the logging and mining industries and protect the North Cascades.



▲ The North Cascades. Logging and mining interests threaten this natural treasure.

Photo: Sergio Bonachela, Creative Commons



# Washington wind power cuts carbon pollution

Photo: Amit Patel, Creative Commons

In December, Environment Washington released a report documenting the benefits of wind power in cutting global warming pollution and shifting us away from dirty, dangerous fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas.

## As if 689,000 cars stopped polluting

The report, “Wind Power for a Cleaner America: Reducing Global Warming Pollution, Cutting Air Pollution, and Saving Water,” shows that Washington’s current power generation from wind energy displaces as much global warming pollution as taking 689,000 cars off the road per year. The Environment Washington report also shows that wind power saves enough water to meet the needs of 35,900 Washingtonians.

The report touts wind energy’s environmental benefits for Washington to date, as well as the benefits Washington will see in the future if wind power continues to grow.

“Wind power is already replacing the dirty and dangerous energy sources of the past and creating a cleaner, healthier future for Washingtonians,” said Courtney Abrams, federal clean energy advocate for Environment Washington.

## 6th in the country for wind

Washington is currently ranked 6th in the country in wind production, and we have huge untapped potential. If wind development continues at a pace comparable to that of recent years through 2016, Washington would reduce global warming pollution by the equivalent of taking an additional 513,000 cars off the road, and save enough water to meet the needs of an additional 26,800 Washingtonians.

Nationwide, wind energy now displaces about 68 million tons of global warming pollution each year—as much as is produced by 13 million cars. If construction of new wind energy projects continues from 2013 to 2016 at a pace comparable to that of recent years, the United States

could reduce global warming pollution by an additional 56 million metric tons in 2016—equivalent to the amount produced by 11 million passenger vehicles. These projects would also save enough water to meet the annual water needs of 600,000 people.

## Victory on wind tax credits

The report also highlighted the fact that today’s wind energy in Washington is delivering results for public health, by avoiding 3,850 tons of nitrogen oxide emissions and 600 tons of sulfur dioxide emissions, important contributors to ozone soot and smog pollution.

Despite the benefits of wind power and widespread public support for federal policies to promote renewable energy, fossil fuel interests and their allies in Congress have vigorously opposed programs that promote wind production. But in January, President Obama and Congress agreed to extend wind power tax credits as part of the deal reached to avert the fiscal cliff.

“We must invest wisely in a future with cleaner air and fewer extreme weather events. And wind power will be a major part of that,” said Abrams.



Photo: Terrance Emerson

To read our report, “Wind Power for a Cleaner America,” visit us online at:

[EnvironmentWashington.org/reports](http://EnvironmentWashington.org/reports).



Photo: Mike Adventures of Pam & Frank

## Electric cars offer alternative to oil

Prompted by state action that we helped make happen, the U.S. is making enormous strides toward cars and trucks that use less gas and pollute less. Now it’s time to take the next step and once again, we can lead the way. We’re working to pass the Washington Clean Cars program, which will help get the state off oil for good.

Washington has the ability to put over 30,000 electric vehicles on the road over the next 12 years, but we can only do that with leadership from Olympia. The oil industry and auto manufacturers are fighting this program, preventing us from moving to a clean transportation system. By speaking out, we can overcome this opposition and get thousands of clean cars on the road by 2025.

The Washington Clean Cars Program would cut 200,000 barrels of oil and fight global warming. On our current energy grid, this would cut over 55,000 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions, and if we charged these cars with renewable energy, like solar, we could cut even more: close to 140,000 metric tons of global warming pollution. The result will be cleaner air, a safer climate, and a more prosperous economy for Washington families.

For reports, news releases and more, visit us at [EnvironmentWashington.org](http://EnvironmentWashington.org).

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# Environment Washington

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Photo: iStock

## 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.

## Report: Communities cut down on plastic

Last year, the fight to protect Puget Sound wildlife from plastic bags gained strong momentum. In 2012, we helped ban the bag in Bainbridge Island, Port Townsend and Issaquah. In addition, we saw bag bans that we helped win take effect in Seattle and Bellingham—keeping hundreds of millions of plastic bags out of our environment and away from Puget Sound each year.

And according to a December report by Environment Washington Research & Policy Center, these bans are working. The report, "Cutting Down on Plastic," brings together data from Seattle and Bellingham, looking at how consumers and businesses responded to the bag ban. Over half of the people we spoke to said the bag ban has encouraged them to bring their own bags to the store. Businesses have also seen the difference. Over 95% of grocery stores said they've seen increases in the number of reusable bags. Our staff is continuing to work in places like Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, Anacortes and Thurston County to ban plastic bags and protect Puget Sound wildlife.



Photo: Garrett Coakle

◀ Disposable plastic bags threaten Puget Sound wildlife. So far, Environment Washington has helped ban plastic bags in seven Washington cities and, ultimately, we're pushing for a statewide ban.

Visit [www.EnvironmentWashington.org](http://www.EnvironmentWashington.org) to learn more.