



Fiscal Year 2021 Program Report
Thanks for making it all possible

From the director

Every day, the news delivers more dire warnings about the state of our natural world.

Fewer than 75 Southern Resident orcas, whose habitat includes Puget Sound, survive. Fewer than 400 Right whales remain in the North Atlantic. Nearly 99 percent of western monarch butterflies have disappeared. Climate change is accelerating this loss of wildlife and threatening human life as well.

It would be naive to downplay the scale of these problems and heartless not to mourn the losses. But it would be irresponsible to conclude that there's nothing we can do—especially when solutions are all around us.

Our country has all of the clean, renewable power we need if we choose to use it. We can accelerate the transition to electric vehicles. U.S. corporations can reduce their use of plastic pollution and their sale of pollinator-killing pesticides. And on and on.

Environment Washington and our national network of 29 state environmental groups made progress on all of these issues and more in the past year. None of these problems are completely solved—not even close. But we keep chipping away, breaking down big problems and making them a little more manageable. Incremental change that leads to concrete results is our stock-in-trade because success, one step at a time, is how we build confidence in—and demand for—the changes that are still to come.

Our action and progress—all of which is made possible by your support—also provide fuel for hope. Not a passive hope, like that of spectators rooting for their team. Our hope is action-oriented, results-oriented, a hope that serves, as an ally once said, “as a hammer that we use in case of emergency to break the glass, sound the alarm and spring into action.”

We're reminded every day about the emergency our natural world faces. And every day, together with you and all of our friends, supporters and allies, we pick up that hammer.

Thanks for making it all possible.



Pamula Clough
Pam Clough
Acting Director



Clean, Green & Renewable Energy

We envision a healthier world powered by clean, renewable energy. With support from Environment Washington's members, our national network bolstered our nation's chances at harnessing our vast renewable energy potential. From our rooftops to our coasts, we keep taking steps toward a future powered by 100% clean energy.

Report: After years of advancement in clean technology, it's clear that 'We Have The Power'

JUNE 16, 2021: It's time for Washington to move beyond fossil fuels, and fortunately, we have the power to realize our clean, renewable energy potential.

That was the finding of the 2021 edition of our national research partner's "We Have The Power" report, released in June. According to the report, Washington has the technical potential to meet all its electricity needs more than 20 times over with wind and solar energy.

"To a visitor from an earlier century, America in 2021 would be unimaginably advanced in all ways but one: We still rely on dirty and dangerous fossil fuels to meet our energy needs," said Susan Rakov, chair of our national research partner's Clean Energy program.

"But it doesn't have to be that way. This report shows that between the sunshine and the wind, we have the potential to run our society on clean energy, today and in the future."

The nation's first major offshore wind farm was approved

JUNE 8, 2021: The United States recently took a major step toward a future powered not by oil and gas, but by the abundant winds off America's shores.

In May, the Biden administration gave final approval to Vineyard Wind, a planned commercial-scale wind farm slated to operate off the coast of Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts. The 800-megawatt wind farm would have the capacity to power 400,000 homes and businesses.

"Today's historic decision to approve Vineyard Wind 1 is a huge step forward in America's marathon to repower itself with clean, renewable energy," said Johanna Neumann, our national network's senior director of the Campaign for 100% Renewable Energy. "It signals to dozens of other projects that it's time to take off. America only has a tiny amount of offshore wind installed to date, but that will soon change now that Vineyard Wind is first out of the blocks."

Offshore wind projects all along the Atlantic Coast are undergoing a similar review process. Their approval could provide clean electricity for millions more homes.



Across the country, our national network advanced pro-solar policies and championed solar roof initiatives.



Clockwise from top: Our staff spoke with Washingtonians about saving our orcas; Environment Washington Campaign Associate Mandy Apa (front row, far left) at a critical plastics bill signing with state representatives and Gov. Jay Inslee (center).

Conservation

Across Washington, our wildlife and wild places need protection. Last year, as orca populations hit new lows and our plastic waste crisis worsened, thousands of supporters like you took part in campaigns to protect wildlife and the places we love.

Environment Washington relaunched Save the Orcas campaign

JUNE 16, 2021: Fewer than 75 Southern Resident orcas remain on Earth, and scientists warn their numbers will continue to dwindle without intervention.

Dams on the Lower Snake and Columbia rivers block Chinook salmon, the orcas' main food source, from spawning and returning to the sea, and orcas are starving as a result. On June 16, Environment Washington kicked off its latest campaign to save them. This summer, staff mobilized Washingtonians across the state to call on their lawmakers to breach the dams, restore Chinook salmon populations and save the orcas.

“Restoring the lower Snake River is our very best salmon restoration opportunity anywhere on the West Coast,” said Environment Washington Campaign Associate Mandy Apa.

“Washington’s leaders care deeply about the fate of our salmon and orca populations, and we’ve launched this grassroots campaign to empower Gov. Jay Inslee and Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell to take swift and bold action for orca and salmon recovery throughout the Northwest.”

Nation’s strongest plastic foam ban became law in Washington

JUNE 1, 2021: Each year, 33 billion pounds of plastic enter the marine environment—and our Pacific shoreline isn’t immune.

With Gov. Jay Inslee’s signature on May 17, Washington addressed our plastic pollution crisis by passing the nation’s most comprehensive foam ban into law. The law bans expanded polystyrene foam peanuts, coolers and foodware; requires businesses to provide single-use foodware only upon request; and ensures that plastic bottles and trash bags contain a certain level of post-consumer recycled content. Environment Washington championed the law, connected constituents with their legislators to support the bill, and rallied citizens around “Washingtonians Against Waste,” an online collection of stories from Washingtonians who put wildlife over waste.

“This bill is the work of so many people around the state,” said state Rep. Liz Berry at the bill’s signing. “[Including] Environment Washington, and we have Mandy here. You would not believe how many people they have been able to mobilize on this issue.”



Clockwise from top: In January 2021, our national network's supporters shared their electric vehicle (EV) stories in a series of EV testimonial videos; Our national Destination: Zero Carbon Campaign Director Morgan Folger calls for pro-electric vehicle policies in New Jersey.



Global Warming Solutions

The climate crisis is here, now. For years, Environment Washington has advanced concrete ideas for reducing global warming pollution. This year, we moved forward two critical measures, one that tackles our nation's No. 1 source of global warming pollution and another that moves us closer to a future free of fossil fuels.

Back on course: Biden administration moved to allow states to set stronger vehicle emissions standards

MAY 7, 2021: For nearly 50 years, federal law allowed California to set stronger clean car standards and more than a dozen other states to follow California's lead—until the previous administration tried to revoke their authority.

On April 26, the Biden administration started the process of undoing this action—checking off one of the “First things to fix” called for by Environment Washington in a series of 20 recommendations shared with the Biden team before they took office.

“Thank you President Biden, for taking this first step,” said Morgan Folger, director of our national network's Destination: Zero Carbon campaign. “Now it's time to reaffirm that states can and should lead the way for clean air and cleaner cars.”

Vehicle tailpipes are a major source of climate-changing, health-harming air pollution. A report from our research partners showed that in 2018, 108 million Americans lived in areas that experienced more than 100 days of degraded air quality.

As Congress reached spending deal, climate and energy advocates notched key wins

JAN. 4, 2021: In December, Congress passed a major energy bill that prioritized clean energy over dirty fossil fuel options as part of the omnibus package to fund the federal government.

The measures, passed with bipartisan support, included big boosts in funding for renewable energy and energy efficiency programs; the phase-out of a class of potent greenhouse gasses called hydrofluorocarbons; funding to get the dirtiest diesel vehicles off our roads; money for clean energy research; and much more.

“This energy bill marks an American inflection point between our dirty energy past and our clean energy future,” said Johanna Neumann, senior director of our national Campaign for 100% Renewable Energy. “With the potential to do even more, we look forward to working with Congress in the new year to continue the drive toward a nation powered by clean, renewable energy.”

The bill was signed into law on Dec. 27.

This energy bill marks an American inflection point between our dirty energy past and our clean energy future.

*Johanna Neumann
Senior Director, Campaign for
100% Renewable Energy*



Clockwise from top: Environment Washington Advocate Pam Clough joined the family of Bruce Speight in early 2020 to testify in support of a bill to reduce lead poisoning. Clean Water for America Campaign Director John Rumpler, before giving testimony to Congress on funding needed to replace lead pipes and stop sewage overflows in February 2020.



Clean Water & Air

Keeping on the path to cleaner air and water requires constant vigilance—including making sure that we reinstate bedrock environmental protections that we lost under the Trump administration. Below, you'll find a report on our national network's campaign to restore our nation's strongest clean water protections and an update on our work to keep lead out of our water.

Endangered streams, wetlands moved closer to regaining federal protection

JUNE 25, 2021: Polluters have been quick to take advantage of the Dirty Water Rule, which weakened protections for our nation's waterways. But these protections could be on their way back.

On June 9, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it would take steps toward repealing and replacing the Trump administration's "Navigable Waters Protection Rule." This rule stripped Clean Water Act protections from thousands of streams and wetlands, and allowed companies to win rulings stating that no protections applied to more than 750 waterways.

"Repealing and replacing the Dirty Water Rule is a vital step for America's rivers, lakes and bays—and for the drinking water of millions of Americans," said John Rumpler, senior attorney and clean water program director for our national research partner, Environment America Research & Policy Center.

Environment America Research & Policy Center now calls on the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to strengthen waterway protections.

Bruce Speight Act passed into law

MAY 3, 2021: When it comes to protecting schoolchildren from lead in their drinking water, Washington used to get an "F," according to an Environment Washington analysis.

That's why we celebrated when our state took an important first step toward getting the lead out of school drinking water with the passage of the Bruce Speight Act on May 3. The act limits the amount of lead in drinking water to 5 parts per billion and honors the work of Bruce, who served as our state director until his passing in 2019. While Environment Washington worked to champion stronger standards, the bill still adds to Bruce's legacy.

"Even at low levels, lead is especially damaging to children—impairing how they learn, grow and behave," said Environment Washington Advocate Pam Clough. "This act takes important steps to reduce this problem, but the work is far from over."

Pam added, "It's especially heartening to see this bill's passage, in large part because of Bruce's work."

Member Spotlight:

Theresa Gallant



None of the work we do would be possible without the support of our members. In this report, we wanted to highlight the story of one of those members, in her own words.

I grew up on a farm near the confluence of the Snake and Columbia rivers in Eastern Washington. Farm life makes you very aware of nature and its beauty, the value and responsibility of caring for the land, and the critical importance of water for humans, crops and animals. Today, living in the city, I still love spending time outdoors, and I enjoy hiking, skiing and biking. Advocacy work has been important to me since I was young, and I support Environment Washington because their concern for the protection of our lands and oceans deeply resonates with me. I encourage everyone to care for our environment because every aspect of our lives depends upon it, and we are the ones responsible for its care and preservation.

Our staff (partial list)

Pam Clough
Acting Director

Amanda Apa
Associate

Lisa Frank
Executive Director, Washington
Legislative Office

Allison Cairo
Vice President and National
Field Director

John Rumpler
Senior Director, Clean Water for
America Campaign and Senior
Attorney

Johanna Neumann
Senior Director, Campaign for
100% Renewable Energy

Steve Blackledge
Senior Director, Conservation
Campaign

Bronte Payne
Director, Go Solar Campaign

Kelsey Lamp
Director, Campaign to Protect
Our Oceans

Emma Searson
Director, Campaign for 100%
Renewable Energy

Morgan Folger
Director, Destination: Zero
Carbon Campaign

Doug Casler
Director of Outreach and Civic
Engagement

Amy Floyd
Senior Director, Grants

Ruthie Seroussi
Development Director

Lillie Wright
Donor Development Associate