



ENVIRONMENT WASHINGTON Your Fall Report

In our DNA

We relaunched Environment Washington’s door-to-door canvassing offices in June, with a full set of health precautions in place to keep our staff and members of the public safe.

Our staff are visiting neighborhoods across our state to build support for saving our orcas.

I’m excited to share our plans with you and let you know how you can add your voice to this grassroots movement.

Canvassing is in our DNA

Canvassing—going door-to-door—has been a core part of our work at Environment Washington since the beginning. We canvass to educate the public about the problems facing our environment, build grassroots support for solutions and raise money to fund our campaigns.

Many of our senior staff got their start working on the canvass or helped direct one of our canvassing offices early in their careers. This is my first summer canvass, and when we relaunched our office just a couple of months ago, the office was practically empty—with nothing on the walls and no canvassers in sight.

Within just a few weeks we’ve recruited a team of staff to work with us and are recruiting tens of thousands of people to join our campaign to save the orcas.

One of the biggest reasons we’re excited to relaunch our canvass offices is to recruit the next generation of young people to join the environmental movement. We’re helping college students and recent graduates develop a passion for social change, and



Our staff are building grassroots support across Washington for saving our orcas, one conversation at a time.

maybe even launch a career working to protect our air, our water, and our climate.

How we’ll save the orcas

Three summers ago, the world watched as Tahlequah—a 20-year-old orca mother—carried her dead calf for 17 days and across 1,000 miles. She’s a member of the Southern Resident orca pod which spends several months of the summer and fall

Continued on page 3 ►

Photo credits: Staff; Top photo: Chris Anson via Shutterstock.

Thanks
for making it
all possible

59,000 supporters, 40 lawmakers tell Whole Foods to put 'planet over plastic'

A massive environmental crisis requires a massive call to action.

That's why our national research partners at Environment America Research & Policy Center, along with our friends at U.S. PIRG Education Fund and the Student PIRGs, delivered a letter to Whole Foods on May 6, 2021—signed by nearly 60,000 supporters,

With Gov. Jay Inslee's signature on May 17, Washington addressed our plastic pollution crisis by passing the nation's most comprehensive plastic 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."

Environment Washington will continue raising citizens' voices to win more environmental protections.

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

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

That was the finding of the "We Have The Power" report, released in June by our national research partner, Environment America Research & Policy Center. According to the report, America has the technical potential to meet all its electricity needs many 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 Environment America Research & Policy Center'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."

Get more updates on our work online at <http://environmentwashington.org>.

Staff



Our network's Oceans Associate Reinio Hyyppa joined supporters and legislators, including our state Sen. Mona Das to discuss plastic waste.

including 40 state lawmakers—calling on the grocer to phase out single-use plastic packaging in its stores. Once an environmental leader that stopped providing plastic bags to its customers at checkout in 2008, Whole Foods recently earned an "F" for its plastic policies in a report by environmental group As You Sow.

"Nothing we use for just a few minutes should pollute our rivers and oceans for hundreds of years," said Kelsey Lamp, Protect Our Oceans campaign director for Environment America Research & Policy Center, our national research partners. "That's why the companies that rely on single-use plastic to package their products must adopt more sustainable packaging options or eliminate single-use plastic packaging altogether."

"Change is possible, and Whole Foods should lead the way to a future where we put the planet over plastic."

Nation's strongest plastic foam ban becomes law in Washington

Each year, 33 billion pounds of plastic enter the marine environment—and our Pacific shoreline isn't immune.



Toward a greener future

Support our work to build a cleaner, greener, healthier future by including a gift to Environment Washington or Environment Washington Research & Policy Center in your will, trust or retirement accounts.

For more information call 1-800-841-7299 or send an email to: PlannedGiving@EnvironmentWashington.org



Tory Kallman via Shutterstock

Page 1 story continued: In our DNA

each year in Puget Sound—and her maternal tour of grief underscored their tragic status.

The Southern Resident orcas are critically endangered. This summer, another Southern Resident orca, K21, or Cappuccino, passed away after being spotted in ill health with a collapsed dorsal fin in Puget Sound. Just 74 Southern Resident orcas remain today.

Why are orcas dying? Vessel noise and water pollution in Puget Sound play a role, but primarily, scientists point to the disappearance of Chinook salmon—the orcas’ main food source.

To save the orcas, we need to save their food source. If we don’t act fast to boost Chinook salmon populations, we could lose our orcas forever. The single biggest opportunity we have to restore key salmon populations is to remove the four LowerSnake River dams.

We need Washington’s leaders—especially

U.S. Sens. Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray—to throw their support behind Lower Snake River dam removal to save our orcas, but they aren’t going to do it without public support.

That’s why we’re going door-to-door talking to thousands of Washingtonians about our campaign and building the public support we’re going to need to show our senators that they need to do everything they can to save this incredible species.

By Manda Apa, Environment Washington associate

Environment Washington canvassers have dedicated their summers to saving our orcas.



Staff



Kimball Nelson

Thank you for supporting our work to take on the vast environmental challenges we face and to create a greener, healthier, more sustainable world. In these pages, you’ll find the stories of the advocacy you made possible.

Your action and support allow us to keep working for a better world. Thank you.

Pam Clough
Acting Director

505 Broadway Ave. E #129
Seattle, WA 98102
(206) 568-2850

Environment Washington

NON-PROFIT
ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BROCKTON, MA
PERMIT NO. 430



Your Fall Report

VOLUME 14 | NO. 1 | 2021

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, Inc., a project of Environment America, Inc. We focus 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.

Over 47,000 supporters tell Amazon: Stop selling bee-killing pesticides

To save the bees, our staff have asked the world's largest online retailer to stop selling the pesticides that kill them. And we're not alone.

In March, Environment Washington and our national network kicked off our campaign to convince Amazon to take neonicotinoid pesticides (or "neonics")—the substances linked to a troubling decline in bee populations—off its (virtual) shelves.

By August, campaigners with our network had collected more than 47,000 petition signatures online and in 10 communities across the country.

"We need to reduce the use of this pesticide that's contributing to the collapse of our most important pollinators," said Malia Libby, our national Save the Bees campaign associate. "Amazon should join other retailers in doing the right thing and taking it off its shelves."

Our ask is far from unprecedented: The Home Depot and Lowe's have already pledged to phase out the use of neonics on their live plants, and Lowe's has committed to taking the pesticides off its shelves altogether.

Our national network's summer canvassers talked to tens of thousands of people across the country about our campaign to get Amazon to stop the sale of bee-killing pesticides.



Krzysztofiewolny via Pixabay