Defending the places we love

You’re standing up against federal rollbacks

From Puget Sound to Mount Rainier, for more than a century Americans have taken action to protect the places we love, guided by our shared values and informed by the best advice of our scientists.

Yet President Trump and the 115th Congress have embarked on a reckless, shortsighted plan to dismantle dozens of environmental protections.

Environment Washington and our nationwide network are working to inform the public about what’s at stake, hold the administration and Congress accountable, and build the support necessary to defend our health and the places we love.

Clean air, clean water, open spaces

The president and Congress are working to eliminate federal protection for 38,037 miles of streams in Washington, with nearly 2 million miles of streams left unprotected across America. They’re moving backward on climate action and endangering public health by moving to shut down the Clean Power Plan, a key part of our commitment to reduce global warming pollution.

Even worse, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is now being run by Scott Pruitt, even though he sued the EPA 14 times to block environmental protections. And perhaps most frighteningly, the White House’s 2018 budget proposal aims to slice the EPA’s overall budget by 31 percent and staffing by 21 percent.

So we’re uniting people from all sides of the political spectrum in urging our senators to stand up and defend our environmental protections.

Acting on our shared values

You, our members, are taking action, generating thousands of petitions, calls and emails to our elected leaders. This is making an impact, but we need to do more. The leaders and activists of the past organized the first Earth Day, supported and passed the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act, and created the EPA. Now the torch passes to us. The children we know and love today can live cleaner, healthier lives in a greener world, but only if we can keep our protections in place and make them stronger.

Credit: Dawn Wilbert

In response to moves by the president and Congress that would threaten the people and places we love, Americans like you across the country and from all sides of the political spectrum are standing up for clean water, limits on carbon pollution and smog, and protected wild places.

Credit: Nicolas Kaviani, NK Photography

We need your help to defend our environmental protections. Take action online to urge our senators to stand up for the people and places we love in Washington.

www.EnvironmentWashington.org

Our national citizen outreach staff are speaking with households across the country this summer to educate, mobilize and unite Americans to defend our environment and health.
As a member of Environment Washington, you’re helping us win tangible results for our environment. We all want our children to be able to enjoy clean air and water, the great parks we treasure, and a safer world free from threats of climate change. That’s why in the face of disheartening setbacks in Washington, D.C., or obstruction from special interests here at home, I’m counting on members like you, who share these values, to stand with us as we work for a better future.

People like you, who translate their optimism for a greener future into action, define the advances we make for our environment and health. So, even though at times the road feels riddled with obstacles, I feel encouraged. Together, we’re making headway to tackle climate change, defend our clean air and water, and protect the places we love by uniting Americans around shared values.

Through this, we’re amplifying the call on our elected officials to rise to the task and advocate for our environment.

Thanks for standing with us.

Anna Aurilio
Federal Legislative Director

Environment Washington has also been working to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), one of our nation’s most incredible landscapes. This national treasure is home to polar bears, grizzlies, caribou and wolves, but the oil and gas industry is threatening to exploit the region for profit.

That’s why, with your support, we’re mobilizing members and supporters to urge Congress to designate the ANWR as permanently protected wilderness.

Environment Washington is working to protect the Arctic Wildlife Refuge, which is home to a variety of wildlife, from developers who want to exploit the land.

Who’s leading the way on renewable energy?

Despite the Trump administration’s promises to move America backward on climate action and renewable energy, businesses and cities across the country have committed to 100 percent renewable energy. And a new report from Environment Washington Research & Policy Center, “Renewable Energy 100: The Course to a Carbon-Free Campus”, shows that America’s institutions of higher education can also play a crucial role in combating global warming.

Colleges and universities have long played a leading role in bringing technological changes to society, and should commit to getting 100 percent of their energy from clean, renewable sources.

Meanwhile, in the Northeast, our national federation has been calling on our elected officials to double the strength of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, the nation’s best climate and clean air program. In February, 546 health professionals, businesses, academics, elected officials and community leaders from nine states in the Northeast joined our call to action.

How you can protect public lands

Just weeks after the 115th Congress convened for the first time, Rep. Jason Chaffetz filed a bill that would sell off 3.3 million acres of America’s public lands. But he wasn’t expecting the public opposition from hunters, anglers, outdoor enthusiasts, and supporters of wilderness like you. More than 1,000 people showed up at a pro-public lands rally in Helena, Mont., the hashtag #keepitpublic zipped around Twitter, and Rep. Chaffetz’s Facebook page filled up with criticism. One week after introducing the legislation, Chaffetz announced that he would withdraw his bill—which goes to show what people power can accomplish.

Environment Washington

www.EnvironmentWashington.org/newsletters
Communities Rising to the Challenge

A few trailblazing cities are leading the way to protecting our children from this growing threat.

Seattle, WA

In 2014, Seattle began testing the water at every one of its schools every three years. The district’s most recent school tests show that 97% of all tests passed district requirements.

New York, NY

When water tests in schools show high lead levels, fixtures are removed and replaced. As a result, there has been a substantial reduction in lead detected in almost 90,000 tests conducted since 2002.

Madison, WI

Faced with test results confirming lead in its water, the city dug out approximately 8,000 lead pipes between 2001 and 2010. Since then, the highest lead level in the city’s water has been 3.5 ppb.

Lansing, MI

Just 60 miles from Flint, Lansing has successfully removed lead from its water infrastructure. Last year, Lansing completed the removal of 14,500 lead pipes underneath the city.
Chefs join our call to save bees

As a member of Environment Washington, you have supported our work to save bees and our food supply by calling for a ban on bee-killing pesticides. You may have taken action by signing our petition to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), spreading the word in your community, or planting bee-friendly plants in your garden. In fact, all of our work on this campaign has only been possible thanks to the support of passionate members like you.

This winter, our campaign took another step forward when 235 restaurateurs sent a letter calling on the EPA to ban bee-killing pesticides. Then, in February, 65 chefs and restaurant owners joined with Environment Washington to launch the Bee Friendly Food Alliance.

“From family run pizza shops to fine dining destinations, chefs and restaurant owners around the country are coming together to Save the Bees,” said Christy Leavitt, Bee Friendly Food Alliance Coordinator with Environment Washington. “Chefs know up close and personal: no bees means no food.”

Support our efforts

If you are a chef or restaurateur who is interested in joining the Bee Friendly Food Alliance, visit bit.ly/BeeFriendlyFood to learn more and sign up.