



Summer Report

West River, Guilford; Slack12

Progress towards slashing global warming

Conn. moves to strengthen pollution program

Last year, the Northeast's most significant program to reduce global warming pollution, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), came up for review. At the moment when we clearly need to step up our response to the threat of global warming, too many updated versions of RGGI that were put forth severely weakened the program.

So we rallied the support of our members and activists, and we worked to convince the RGGI states that the program must be improved. A significantly strengthened RGGI was the result, putting us on track to reduce carbon pollution from power plants by 20 percent in the next ten years.

20 percent less carbon pollution by 2023

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is a key part of Connecticut's strategy to reduce pollution from fossil fuels and shift to clean energy. By limiting carbon pollution from power plants, requiring polluters to buy permits to pollute and investing the revenues in energy efficiency and renewable energy, RGGI has helped Connecticut cut carbon pollution and reduce dependence on fossil fuels since 2009.

RGGI-funded investments are also benefiting Connecticut and the region economically, boosting economic growth in the Northeast by \$1.6 billion. Strengthening RGGI would produce an additional \$8 billion in economic benefits, along with 124,800 additional job-years of em-



▲ Milford Point after Hurricane Sandy.

USEFS

ployment, according to a recent analysis by Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management.

In January, the Malloy administration announced it was joining other Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states in dramatically strengthening the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative this year. The newer,

stronger RGGI program will cap global warming pollution from power plants at current levels and then tighten them, requiring cuts of 2.5 percent each year. This is a big victory against global warming pollution, and we look forward to continuing to push the envelope and find ways to tackle carbon pollution.



Dr. Rayhead

take action →

◀ Coal-fired powerplant, Bridgeport, CT.

Visit us online to get involved in our global warming work at www.EnvironmentConnecticut.org



To our members

I love the summer! Going to the beach, hiking in my favorite parks or having a barbecue with neighbors on the deck—but my favorite part of summer? Working with our citizen outreach team.

Every summer, we talk to people from all over the state and build support for cleaner air, water, and protecting our special places and all the environmental values we hold dear. This summer, passionate folks across Connecticut will be educating people about protecting the Connecticut River from destructive development.

The only way to stand up to developers and other powerful interests is by bringing committed and educated people together. Our staff in blue T-shirts will likely be in your neighborhood doing just that. When you see them—say hello for me!

Sincerely,

Chris Phelps
Campaign Director

Recent action

Forward on climate

In February, roughly 40,000 Americans joined us in D.C. for the “Forward on Climate” rally. Tens of thousands of others across the country gathered at dozens of simultaneous rallies to reject the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline; put a cap on carbon pollution from new and existing power plants; and expand renewable energy programs.

Earlier this year, President Obama renewed his promise to tackle global warming saying, “the failure to do so would betray our children and future generations.” And then, in his State of the Union address, he added, “If Congress won’t act soon to protect future generations, I will.”

Environment Connecticut is working to garner the public support the president needs to tackle global warming and cut carbon pollution from the source.

Victory for offshore wind

Thanks to the work of our staff, activists and our allies along the Atlantic Coast, we are likely to see construction begin on our country’s first-ever offshore wind turbines before the end of the year.

At the end of 2012, Environment Connecticut helped save critical wind energy tax incentives from being cut, and we worked with our allies to mobilize public support for regulators to approve offshore wind farms in places where there would be minimal environmental impacts.

Areas off of six states (Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Virginia) were approved in the last several months. We also expect two more areas off of New York and North Carolina to be approved later this year.



Toward a greener future

Environment Connecticut and Environment Connecticut Research & Policy Center gratefully accept bequests, beneficiary designations of IRAs and life insurance, and gifts of securities to support our work to build a cleaner, greener, healthier future.

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

Photo: Jill Lang, shutterstock.com



Environment Connecticut joined our allies at the “Forward on Climate” rally in D.C.

Keeping toxic fracking waste out of Connecticut

J. Henry Fair

1.3 billion gallons of toxic waste

The Connecticut River, our smaller rivers and streams and the wildlife they support are part of what makes our state so special.

But our beautiful and clean waterways are facing a new threat—out-of-state polluters are threatening them with toxic contamination. This threat comes from drilling companies and “frackers” looking to make Connecticut the destination for their toxic wastewater.

Fracking is short for hydraulic fracturing, a practice in which drilling companies extract oil or gas deposits from deep under the ground with high-powered injections of chemical-laced sand and water.

The water—containing such toxic ingredients as benzene, manganese, methane and radioactive substances—can leach into nearby drinking water sources. Afterwards, fracking leaves an even bigger mess—billions of gallons of dangerous wastewater and nowhere to put it. Fracking in Pennsylvania alone has already generated 1.3 billion gallons of toxic waste water, and counting.

In short, fracking is an environmental nightmare that tramples forest and farmland, contaminates rivers and drinking water, pollutes the air, makes families sick and upends communities.

For the record, we’ve joined our national allies to fight fracking where ever it occurs.

The most immediate threat that fracking poses to Connecticut comes in the form of the toxic wastewater it produces. The drilling companies need some place to put it and right now nothing is stopping them from dumping it here.

That’s because in Pennsylvania, fracking has produced more than 1.3 billion gallons of benzene-laden, heavy metal-ridden, highly toxic and even radioactive wastewater—in just the past few years.

And now these drilling companies are trying to figure out where to put it. There is a chance they could set their sights on the Connecticut as a dumping ground for their toxic waste. This is terrible news for the Connecticut River and other Connecticut waterways.

Protecting our rivers and streams

Traditional wastewater plants clean polluted water and then dump it into the nearest body of water like the Connecticut and other rivers. But fracking wastewater is different. The extent of toxic pollution is far beyond anything these plants are used to processing, and the amount of waste is so large, that the toxic pollution cannot be fully removed. That means that at the end of the process, carcinogens, heavy metals and radioactive materials are dumped directly into our rivers.

Connecticut has worked hard to clean up pollution in our rivers, streams, and Long Island Sound. Environment Connecticut is working to urge our state’s leaders to do everything in their power to protect our state and its waterways from toxic fracking waste.



Marko Vasika

news

Toxic wastewater and air pollution are not the only concerns associated with fracking. Miles and miles of new pipeline, like this transmission pipe in Pennsylvania, can lead to serious habitat fragmentation.



Bedford County 135

▲ A fracking drill pad in Bedford County, Pennsylvania, where fracking has boomed for the past few years.

Fracking: by the numbers

1 in 3 frack jobs report using cancer-causing chemicals.

320 leaks or spills where fluid reached groundwater in Colorado.

421 drilling-waste pits that leaked into groundwater in New Mexico.

3,355 violations by drilling companies reported in Pennsylvania, 2008-2011.

40,000 Median estimate for number of wells drilled if fracking starts in New York.

\$1.6 million Amount Chesapeake Energy agreed to pay three families last summer whose drinking water was contaminated with methane.

1.3 billion gallons of fracking wastewater created in Pennsylvania in about 3 years.

These numbers add up, and folks across the country are taking action:

100,000 signatures on PennEnvironment’s petition for a drilling moratorium in Pennsylvania.

225,000 people urging Gov. Andrew Cuomo not to proceed with fracking in New York.

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Environment Connecticut

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 Connecticut. We focus exclusively on protecting Connecticut'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.

Working to protect the Connecticut River

The Connecticut River and its surrounding landscapes represent the best of our state's natural heritage. Unfortunately, too much of the remaining undeveloped landscape along the river and its tributaries remain at risk of destructive development. If these precious hills, woodlands and riverfront habitats are lost, the river's water quality, diverse ecosystems, and natural beauty could be lost forever.

Congress has routinely raided the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the program intended for protecting natural treasures like the Connecticut River from destructive development.

Environment Connecticut is working to bring people together to urge Sens. Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy to make protecting places like the Connecticut River a top priority. By standing up to anti-environment members of Congress, and protecting this fragile natural treasure, our senators can leave a lasting legacy for Connecticut.



◀ *The Connecticut River's watershed was designated a national wildlife refuge almost 20 years ago, but much of the river and its ecosystem remain at risk from destructive development.*