



Annual Report

A recap of our work for our members in 2013



To our members

"Despite the many challenges of 2013, we never backed down—and we were able to accomplish so much because of it."

Dear member,

When I started as director of Environment New Jersey, I knew I would have my hands full. There's a lot to fight for and a lot of threats.

But despite the many challenges of 2013, we never backed down—and we were able to accomplish so much because of it. Starting to rebuild the Jersey Shore following Superstorm Sandy was a challenge. But rebuilding in a way that protects our environment and restores the best parts of the Shore—our beaches and bays—was an even bigger undertaking. In 2013, we took it on together. More than 10,000 New Jerseyans joined our call to make sure that as we rebuild, we do it in a way that protects our beautiful beaches and bays for future generations. This summer, our message reached more than 50,000 homes across New Jersey.

And in the summer, we celebrated the president's commitment to tackle global warming. After years of calling on our leaders to crack down on polluters and enact real solutions to address our warming planet, our campaign came to a head in June when President Obama released an in-depth proposal to protect future generations from the consequences of global warming.

In addition, in 2013, we won a critical program for wind energy in New Jersey, and we stood up against toxic threats from fracking waste entering the Delaware and other rivers.

No one said this would be easy. In fact, I know powerful interests are working against us all the time. But we stay the course—and succeed—because New Jerseyans like you are with us. As we embark on the next year, we do so knowing that with you by our side, New Jersey is already a cleaner, greener, healthier place.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug O'Malley". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Doug O'Malley
Director

Wind Power For New Jersey

As fiscal cliff negotiations stalled toward the end of last year, crucial federal incentives for clean, renewable wind power were in danger of being eliminated. Environment New Jersey called on Congress to extend these incentives. And in the 11th hour, we succeeded. President Obama and congressional leaders agreed to extend these critical incentives, ensuring the continued growth of wind power in New Jersey.

Critical wind incentives renewed

New Jersey is primed to be the first state in the nation with offshore wind. Once built, wind could power more than 1 million New Jersey homes and displace more than 8 million tons of global warming pollution—the equivalent of taking 1.5 million cars off the road. But as the nation approached the fiscal cliff in 2012, critical incentives for wind were set to expire, putting wind power—and 37,000 American jobs—on the line.

- Just weeks before the fiscal cliff deadline, Environment New Jersey released a report, “Wind Power for a Cleaner America,” that documented the benefits of wind in cutting global warming pollution. To broadcast the findings of the report, we held media events in Atlantic City and Trenton, where we were joined by the state’s Senate President Stephen Sweeney and state Sen. Linda Greenstein.
- Environment New Jersey, together with our national federation, submitted thousands of comments in support of extending these crucial incentives. And ultimately, we won a major victory for clean, renewable wind power when President Obama and Congress agreed in January 2013 to extend these incentives.



Senate President Stephen Sweeney echoes Environment New Jersey’s call for more wind power at the release of our report, “Wind Power for a Cleaner America.”



Keep Fracking Out of New Jersey

After decades of pollution, New Jersey has worked hard to bring the Delaware and other rivers back to health. So when out-of-state gas drilling companies sought to make our waters the destination for their fracking waste, we said “no way.” In 2013, Environment New Jersey built a groundswell of public support to keep New Jersey’s waters from becoming the next toxic dumping ground.



Activists at the Trenton State House rallied to protect New Jersey from fracking waste.



In Pennsylvania, fracking waste pits hold waste that is often laced with toxic chemicals, carcinogens, and sometimes radioactive particles.

Keep fracking waste out of New Jersey

Right next door in Pennsylvania, the dangerous gas drilling practice known as “fracking” has produced more than 1.2 billion gallons of benzene-laden, heavy metal-ridden, highly-toxic and even radioactive wastewater in just the past few years.

Records from Pennsylvania’s Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) show that New Jersey has already been made a destination for toxic fracking waste. Drilling companies already have shipped toxic fracking wastewater to Deepwater along the Delaware in South Jersey, and to plants in Kearny and Carteret. None of these plants are capable of fully treating this fracking waste and removing toxic carcinogens.

We stood up against toxic threats

Traditional wastewater plants treat polluted water and then dump it into the nearest body of water, like the Delaware 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 carcinogens, heavy metals, and radioactive materials could be dumped directly into our rivers at the end of the process.

- In September 2012, when Gov. Chris Christie vetoed an overwhelmingly bipartisan bill that would have banned the discharge of fracking wastewater into our rivers and streams, Environment New Jersey got to work mobilizing public support to override the governor’s shortsighted decision.
- Together with a coalition of other environmental groups, elected officials and health experts, Environment New Jersey mounted an aggressive campaign to override the governor’s veto and stop gas drillers from using New Jersey’s waterways as a dumping ground.
- Over the past year, we generated thousands of comments to our legislative leaders, and we mobilized support for federal legislation to eliminate the worst environmental loopholes for the industry.

“We can’t let another year go by without delivering protections for the Delaware River and other waterways from fracking waste,” said Dan DeRosa, field organizer for Environment New Jersey. “We need to ban the importation, transportation and discharge of dangerous fracking waste in the Garden State.”



The New Jersey Pinelands are threatened by a massive gas pipeline that will likely carry gas from fracking. Fracking has polluted local drinking water supplies near its operations, as seen above.



Restore the Jersey Shore

Superstorm Sandy brought unthinkable damage to our coast. But as our state picked up the pieces and moved forward, Environment New Jersey worked to make sure we protected our beaches and bays as we rebuilt. In 2013, more than 10,000 New Jerseyans joined our call to rebuild in ways that will make the Shore cleaner and more sustainable for generations to come.



Sand dunes in Lavallette



Barneget Bay

We held the line for a cleaner Shore

In 2013, Environment New Jersey laid out our bold vision for a stronger, more sustainable Shore. Our vision for a cleaner, greener Shore reached more than 50,000 New Jerseyans this summer. As New Jersey rebuilds, we can and must rebuild in ways that keep sewage and other forms of pollution from fouling our waters and threatening our health and marine wildlife. To keep pollution from reaching the Shore, we need to upgrade our outdated and damaged stormwater infrastructure and rebuild in ways that will reduce water pollution, such as pavement that can actually absorb water, rain gardens that can hold and filter water, and green roofs that can capture up to 50 percent of the rain that falls on a building.

Our beaches and bays deserve protection

In 2012, the Jersey Shore saw more than 245 beach closings or advisories because the water was too polluted for swimming. These closings were mainly the result of dirty runoff pollution that came from our streets, lawns and parking lots—and washed into outdated stormwater systems.

“As New Jersey rebuilds, we can and we should rebuild in ways that keep sewage and other forms of pollution from fouling our waters and threatening our health and marine wildlife,” said Environment New Jersey Director Doug O’Malley. “That means upgrading our outdated and damaged stormwater infrastructure and rebuild with green building solutions, such as pavement that can actually absorb water.”

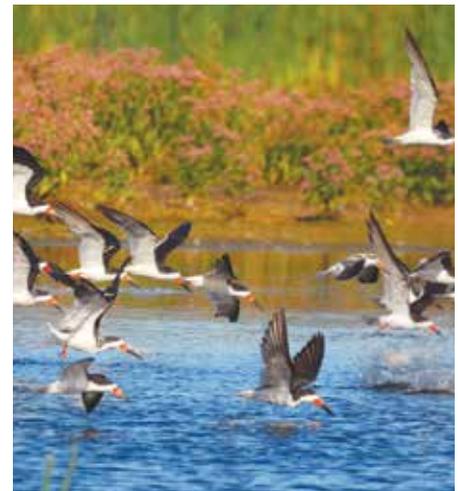
Thousands of New Jerseyans called on our leaders to act

In order to make our vision for a cleaner, more sustainable Shore a reality, Environment New Jersey talked to more than 50,000 New Jerseyans face-to-face about ways in which we can restore the Shore to keep pollution from spoiling our beaches.

In addition, Environment New Jersey staff and volunteers gathered more than 10,000 signatures on our petition asking Gov. Chris Christie and other elected leaders to rebuild the Shore in ways that are smart and good for our environment.

In August, the federal Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force, which was assembled by President Obama, released recommendations to guide the recovery effort. At a news conference, O’Malley applauded many of the official recommendations in the report and called on Gov. Christie to follow through on them.

Following the media event, Environment New Jersey staff and members hand-delivered thousands of petitions to Gov. Christie urging him make sure we protect the Shore as we rebuild.

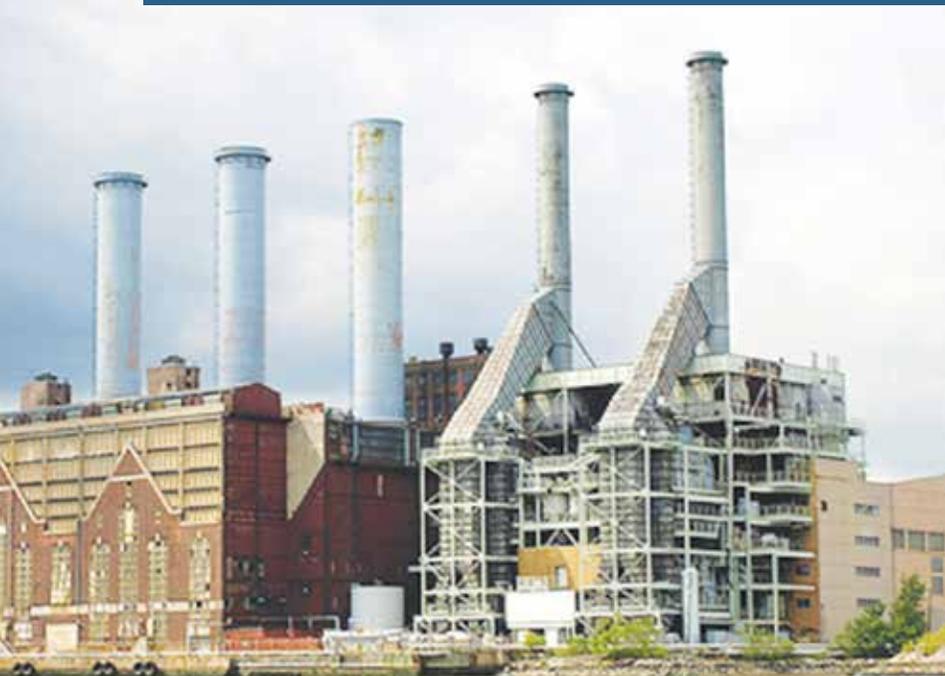


Top: Black Skimmers at Cape May National Wildlife Refuge; Bottom: Rain gardens reduce runoff and pollution by allowing stormwater to soak into the ground instead of traveling into drains and waterways.



Tackling Global Warming

We know the consequences of global warming here in New Jersey, and these dangers are cause for immediate action. In 2013, we got to work standing up to elected leaders who have long dragged their feet on protecting future generations. And we were successful. Our campaign to stop global warming came to a head this year when President Obama released an in-depth plan to tackle global warming.



Kearny Generating Station along the Hackensack River



Superstorm Sandy as it hits the East Coast

Historic Climate Action Plan announced

In June, President Obama announced a Climate Action Plan that will set limits on carbon pollution from power plants, advance energy efficiency and increase the nation's commitment to renewable energy. With the harsh reality of extreme weather events—particularly Superstorm Sandy—fresh in our minds, the president's plan to address global warming was loudly applauded by Environment New Jersey.

State groundwork led to federal action on global warming

- “President Obama responded to the millions of Americans who have spoken out on behalf of their families and their communities, urging him to lead on climate,” said Doug O’Malley, director of Environment New Jersey. “All of us who have felt the effects of global warming, or who have simply worried about what’s in store for our kids, can take comfort in knowing that President Obama has put the nation on a path toward a cleaner, healthier and safer future.”
- Environment New Jersey worked to educate the public on the need to reduce global warming pollution and delivered thousands of public comments in support of the president setting limits on carbon pollution from power plants.

Five commitments made to curb global warming consequences

- **Limit carbon pollution from new and existing power plants:** Right now, power plants lack federal limits, despite being the largest single source of carbon pollution.
- **Invest in energy efficiency:** New efficiency measures for buildings and new appliances will cut carbon pollution by reducing our overall energy demand.
- **Build more renewable energy:** The plan focuses on expanding production of renewable energy sources like wind and solar.
- **Support affected communities:** The president’s plan will help ensure communities are prepared for, and can recover from, the effects of global warming.
- **Rebuild U.S. leadership internationally:** The plan calls for the U.S. to actively engage in international efforts to reduce global warming.



State Sen. Sandra Cunningham, Carolyn Fefferman from U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez's office, and state Sen. Barbara Buono joined Environment New Jersey's Doug O'Malley and Dan DeRosa as they released our report on America's dirtiest power plants and their contribution to global warming.

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