



Summer Report

New push to restore protections to the Bay

Keeping momentum to restore the Bay

The Chesapeake Bay is arguably the most cherished part of Maryland's natural heritage. The Bay's serene expanses, combined with a beautifully jagged coastline and treasured islands, makes it an object of affection for many Marylanders. It also plays a crucial role in Maryland's ecosystem, along with the many streams, creeks and rivers throughout the state that feed into the Bay.

Unfortunately, the volume of pollution entering the Bay's fragile ecosystem is still staggering, despite years of cleanup efforts.

The good news is that after dozens of false starts by previous leaders, the Obama administration is finally working with Maryland and neighboring states to effectively cut excess pollution into its waters.

Critical progress for the Bay

Environment Maryland is working to channel this new momentum into real improvements for the health of the Bay and our local waterways. This spring, we helped win pivotal new policies to limit pollution from urban and suburban areas.

A pair of bills passed by the Maryland General Assembly will help ensure local governments have the resources they need to install the latest pollution-removing technology in wastewater treatment plants, and ensure their



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▲ *New clean water guidelines could help restore the Chesapeake Bay.*

infrastructure is better able to absorb rainwater instead of letting it carry pollution into nearby waterways.

Important work remains

Unfortunately, some of the Bay's biggest polluters, including corporate agribusiness and Big Chicken, are digging in their heels and pushing leaders in An-

napolis to resist the new framework for clean water.

This summer, Environment Maryland will mobilize tens of thousands of Marylanders to push our state politicians to stand up to the polluters and keep the momentum going toward a clean, healthy and restored Chesapeake Bay.



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action

◀ *Visit our website to urge our state leaders to do their part and clean up the Chesapeake Bay.*

Take action online at:
www.EnvironmentMaryland.org/action



To our members

As another legislative session in Annapolis comes to a close, I'm extremely grateful to you and all of our supporters who make our work possible.

This year we've been able to take big steps toward cleaning up the Bay, banning arsenic from chicken feed, and making important progress toward achieving a clean energy economy.

And now that the summer is upon us, we are again going to have young Marylanders out knocking on your doors to educate the public about the most pressing issues facing our environment—and ask for your continued support. As our political world becomes more and more dominated by special interests with deep pockets and Super PACs, I see our summer citizen outreach campaign as a simple but crucial step to help keep citizens engaged in our country's democracy.

Thank you again, and have a superb summer.

Tommy Landers
Director



Photo: Critical Area Commission

How do you want to be remembered?

You can be remembered as someone who cared enough to keep up the fight for a cleaner, greener, healthier future by making a bequest to Environment Maryland or the Environment Maryland Research & Policy Center.

For information, call: 1-800-841-7299, or email PlannedGiving@EnvironmentMaryland.org.

Recent action

Arsenic in chicken feed: The nation's first ban

It's hard to believe, but for years poultry companies have been adding arsenic to chicken feed to give meat a pink hue. Thankfully, the general assembly banned the practice this spring, with Environment Maryland's strong support.

Recent tests conducted by the Food and Drug Administration found arsenic in the chicken that regularly ends up on our kitchen tables. According to their findings, more than 55 percent of chicken sold in grocery stores—and all the chicken served in fast food restaurants—contained arsenic, a carcinogen linked to neurological disorders in children.

"Environment Maryland applauds the legislature for standing up to the powerful agribusiness lobby and passing this commonsense policy," said Megan Cronin, clean water associate with Environment Maryland.

Opposition grows to fracking in Maryland

You've probably experienced the natural splendor of western Maryland, with its rolling hills, rural landscapes and beautiful places like Deep Creek Lake. These places are not only tourist destinations, but also essential parts of Maryland's ecosystem and our natural heritage.

Unfortunately, drilling companies are now angling to drill for gas in this priceless region. They want to use a risky new method called "hydraulic fracturing," better known as fracking, to drill deep down into the rock under Garrett County, inject millions of gallons of water mixed with sand and toxic chemicals and extract a limited amount of gas.

This year, Environment Maryland supported legislation that would have prohibited the transportation of fracking wastewater in Maryland. The law, unfortunately, did not pass the General Assembly. Looking ahead, we'll redouble our efforts to protect our land, air and water from this dangerous practice.



KCPHOTO

▲ Environment Maryland staff meet with the staff of Rep. Chris Van Hollen.

Global warming means more severe weather

After a mild winter and eerily warm spring, Marylanders are bracing themselves for a potentially scorching summer. In fact, as temperatures continue to rise, climate scientists predict Maryland could see 110 days over 90 degrees within the century.

Across the country, extreme heat is just one noticeable effect of global warming. This February, Environment Maryland Research & Policy Center released a new report called “In the Path of the Storm,” revealing that since 2006, every county in Maryland has seen an extreme weather event, ranging from intense precipitation to severe heat.

Global warming is caused by excessive emissions of greenhouse gases—and most of this pollution comes from power plants, as well as the transportation sector.

EPA moves to cut carbon pollution from power plants

Thankfully, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently proposed limits on carbon pollution from new power plants. When fully implemented, these historic standards will be the first nationwide limits on the single largest source of the carbon pollution that fuels global warming.

To show the EPA that the public wants to tackle air pollution from coal-fired power plants, Environment Maryland is working to collect thousands of comments in support of this proposal. We’ll be joining a network of organizations across the country to collect more than one million supportive comments in this effort.

If all goes as expected, the EPA will finalize these carbon pollution standards for new power plants by the end of 2012.

A state plan to cut carbon pollution

These federal standards will complement an Environment Maryland-backed state law passed in 2009 that requires Maryland to slash global warming pollution by 2020.

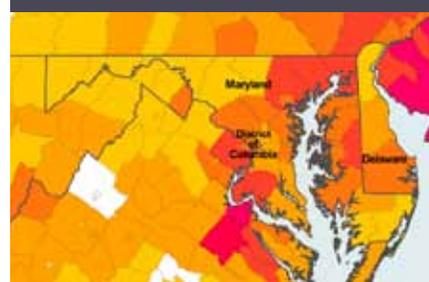
The law’s centerpiece specified that Maryland agencies are required to come up with a plan and comprehensive regulatory framework by the end of 2012 to achieve ambitious reductions.

And now, as the biggest polluters push back hard, Environment Maryland will work to show broad support for these bold steps—and help the state avoid global warming’s worst impacts.

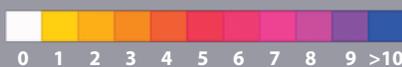
“The choices Maryland’s political leaders make this year will steer our course for years to come, so it is paramount that they make the right ones,” said Tommy Landers, director of Environment Maryland.

“We will continue raising Marylanders’ voices, speaking directly with decision makers, and shining a spotlight on this issue throughout the year to ensure this plan is a success.”

Map of recent weather-related disasters in MD



Number of weather-related disasters 2006-2011



Weather related disasters in Maryland are expected to be on the rise unless comprehensive steps are taken to tackle global warming pollution.

Visit our website to view the interactive map.



Clean Farms, Healthy Maryland

We all know that our food should be grown in ways that minimize its environmental impacts, not worsen them. Unfortunately, agriculture today is dominated by factory farms that pollute the Chesapeake Bay and other waterways, while contributing to air pollution by transporting food long distances.

Thankfully, across Maryland we’re seeing more and more local, sustainable farming. Environment Maryland has been and will continue advocating for state policies that will promote sustainable farming across the state, including systems to help farmers transport their food to market. We’ll also work to bolster the state’s Farm to School program.

To show support for these kinds of initiatives, Environment Maryland organized a Farm Lobby Day this spring to give local farmers and citizens a chance to speak with their legislators about the importance of sustainable agriculture.

Fifty farmers and Marylanders came to Annapolis to lobby their legislators about the future of agriculture in our state. And some farmers even supplied locally grown food and snacks for attendees.

“Local sustainably grown food should be easily accessible across the state,” said Meg Cronin, clean water associate for Environment Maryland.

“By helping to expand markets for local, sustainable farmers and their products, we can help protect our environment and health at the same time.”

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Environment Maryland

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 Maryland. We focus exclusively on protecting Maryland'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.

State Senate kills offshore wind bill

With Maryland still getting 60 percent of its energy from dirty, dangerous sources like coal, oil and gas, Environment Maryland was shocked when the state Senate killed a landmark piece of legislation to make offshore wind power a reality for Maryland.

This commonsense bill had broad support from the public, environmental organizations and health groups across Maryland. And, with our strong support, the House of Delegates approved the wind bill. Now, after the Senate failed to pass its own version of the legislation, the proposal will likely have to wait at least another year.

"With so many Marylanders suffering from asthma and other respiratory ailments, it's jaw-dropping that the state Senate would continue our reliance on dirty energy sources," said Tommy Landers, director for Environment Maryland. "The Senate missed a tremendous opportunity to shift Maryland to clean energy."



more online

◀ Kumar Barve, Majority Leader of the Maryland House of Delegates, made the case for offshore wind power among a demonstration of health professionals.

Visit our website to learn more about our campaign to bring offshore wind to Maryland.