



# Summer Report

## Ohio's clean energy future at stake

### New energy plan would undermine progress

Gov. John Kasich recently proposed revisions to Ohio's energy policy—revisions that would squander Ohio's clean energy potential and set the state back in its progress toward becoming energy independent.

Ohio's Clean Energy Law has been an unqualified success, funding new wind farms and major solar facilities that provide clean, renewable power to thousands of Ohioans (see page 3 for our latest report on the law's impact).

Yet the governor's plan dials back support for clean energy in order to promote fossil fuel-based electricity—capturing the heat from industrial processes to generate electricity. Promoting fossil-fuel based electricity at the expense of clean energy is a shortsighted mistake.

The governor has also proposed a \$30 million giveaway to the coal industry. In the 21st century, we should be shifting away from dirty energy such as coal—not subsidizing its further entrenchment in Ohio.

### A step in the wrong direction

In 2008, Ohio adopted a landmark Clean Energy Law that requires the state to get 12.5 percent of its energy from renewable resources by 2025. The law has been a resounding success, laying the groundwork for a clean energy-powered Ohio.

We should be building on the successes of Ohio's Clean Energy Law, rather than undoing the progress it has made. However,



▲ Solar array on the Wayne National Forest Welcome Center. Gov. John Kasich's proposal would shortchange clean energy resources.

Gov. Kasich's plan would do just that. It's a step in the wrong direction, and it will hinder Ohio's efforts to achieve a clean energy future.

### Standing up for clean energy

To stand up against the lawmakers working to roll back the clock on clean energy, Environment Ohio launched a clean energy campaign this winter. We met with

the governor's policy advisors to make the case for staying the course on Ohio's Clean Energy Law. More than 40 clean energy businesses and local development organizations signed our letter to Gov. Kasich calling for more clean energy. And we delivered more than 2,000 postcards to the governor's office. With your help, we can win.



### take action

◀ Coal-fired power plant near Cincinnati.

Take action online! Tell your state leaders to oppose rollbacks to Ohio's Clean Energy Law and to preserve our clean energy future:

 [www.EnvironmentOhio.org/action](http://www.EnvironmentOhio.org/action)

## To our members

One of my favorite quotes is from EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson, who said “Environmentalism isn’t a spectator sport.” This year, her words have felt more relevant than ever.

Four years ago, Environment Ohio led the effort to pass Ohio’s Clean Energy Law, our landmark policy to invest in wind, solar and energy efficiency. Recognizing our effort, then-Gov. Ted Strickland invited our staff to join him at the signing of the bill.

But it didn’t stop there. Since the bill has passed, we’ve had to work tirelessly, ensuring that regulators continue to enforce the law and holding utilities accountable to their clean energy commitments with a series of annual report cards. Now, we’re defending the law’s integrity at the Statehouse. Environmentalism isn’t a spectator sport, so thanks for helping us keep fighting.

Sincerely,

Julian Boggs  
State Policy Advocate

## Recent action

### Cincinnati City Council to EPA: Cut carbon pollution

On Wednesday, March 8, the Cincinnati City Council voted unanimously to pass a resolution urging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to reduce carbon pollution, which causes global warming, under the Clean Air Act.

“To continue to work tirelessly for improved air quality in our region and nationwide, we must also send a strong message of full support for the Clean Air Act to the EPA,” said Councilmember Laure Quinlivan, who serves as the council’s green chair. Despite the Clean Air Act’s strong track record of improving public health, the U.S. House of Representatives, led by Speaker John Boehner of West Chester, has passed a series of bills aimed at gutting the EPA’s ability to enforce the Clean Air Act.

“For decades, scientists have warned that carbon pollution fuels global warming,” said Matt Caffrey, field associate for Environment Ohio. “In the face of tough challenges and opposition from some members of Congress and candidates for president, EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson should stand strong to fully enforce the Clean Air Act.”

### On the verge of a victory for Lake Erie

Ohio is on the verge of winning new protections for the waterways that feed and filter Lake Erie. But just as President Obama is about to sign off on the biggest victory for clean water in a decade, some in Congress are doing everything they can to block him.

Thanks to two polluter-driven Supreme Court decisions, more than half of our streams and hundreds of acres of wetlands—the same waterways that flow into Lake Erie—have not been nearly as protected as they once were. Thankfully, in February the Obama administration announced that it was in the last stage before finalizing guidelines that will restore Clean Water Act protections to many of our waters. But many in Congress are working to block these protections. As of May, there were four separate rollback attempts in the House and Senate. We’re committed to defending this clean water victory for Lake Erie.

Photo: Robert Byrd, Shutterstock.com



## 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 Ohio or the Environment Ohio Research & Policy Center.

For information, call: 1-800-841-7299, or email [PlannedGiving@EnvironmentOhio.org](mailto:PlannedGiving@EnvironmentOhio.org).



NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory

▲ *Algae bloom off Lake Erie’s Kelleys Island. When finalized, the Obama administration’s new guidelines will go a long way toward preventing algae blooms like this one, which can be caused by polluted runoff.*

# The way forward on clean energy

In 2009, Ohio received 84 percent of its electricity from coal, the dirtiest fuel used to generate electricity. Over the last few years, however, Ohio has begun to develop alternatives to reduce our reliance on coal and other fossil fuels, cutting air pollution and reducing the state's contribution to global warming.

## Clean Energy Law's vital progress

Ohio's Clean Energy Law, passed in 2008 to promote the development of homegrown alternatives to fossil fuels, has now been in effect for more than three years. In that time, the state has taken important strides toward a clean energy future.

Between January 2009, when the law took effect, and January 2011, Ohio's four largest utilities implemented energy efficiency programs that will save enough electricity to power 141,000 homes every year.

And after a burst of renewable energy construction triggered by the new law, Ohio's wind and solar facilities are now providing as much power as 29,000 homes use in a year:

- Since 2009, two major solar energy facilities have opened in Ohio, and a third will begin construction this year.
- In 2011, the state's largest wind farm opened in Paulding County. The wind farm was built after American Electric Power signed a long-term contract to purchase electricity from its developer in order to meet their Clean Energy Law targets for renewable energy generation.

## We can do even better

While the Clean Energy Law has already made great progress, Ohioans will only receive the full benefits of the law if the state's major utilities commit to taking full advantage of renewable energy and energy efficiency opportunities. Several utilities have moved quickly to embrace clean energy, while others, such as First

Energy, are lagging behind and will need to improve their efforts in future years.

In addition, public officials must ensure that Ohio achieves its potential for renewable energy and energy efficiency. Rather than slow our progress toward a clean energy future, as Gov. John Kasich recently proposed to do (see page 1), Ohio should:

- Expand and strengthen its renewable energy and energy efficiency policies to match policies adopted by leading states.
- Adopt a suite of clean energy policies to support the Clean Energy Law, enabling low-cost financing for clean energy projects and strengthening the state's building energy codes.

## Let's keep Ohio moving forward

The Clean Energy Law has started Ohio on the road to a new energy future—one in which dirty and harmful energy sources are replaced with homegrown energy used efficiently—at great benefit to public health and the environment. Let's not stop now.



## action

Environment Ohio Advocate Julian Boggs at a clean car event with State Rep. Tracy Maxwell Heard.

You can read the full report, "Ohio's Clean Energy Report Card, Year 2," online at [www.EnvironmentOhio.org/reports](http://www.EnvironmentOhio.org/reports).

# Interview with U.S. Rep. Betty Sutton



**Recently, you spoke in defense of the Environmental Protection Agency and the role it plays in the United States. What role do you think the EPA will play in the future, and why is that role so important to maintain?**

*No parent wants to worry about whether the water their kids drink or the air they breathe is safe. I believe the EPA has an important role to play in protecting our families and communities.*

**Lake Erie is a huge natural resource and treasure for the state, but toxic algae and Asian carp are threatening the lake's ecosystems. What are the top things that Congress should do to help preserve Lake Erie?**

*Lake Erie is an important part of what makes our state so special, and I am proud to work with members of both parties to fight to protect our critical resources.*

*As a member of the bipartisan Great Lakes Task Force, I have worked to advocate for legislation that will keep harmful pollutants and devastating invasive species out of our lake and helped lead the way to pass the Great Lakes Compact. I believe we must move forward at the federal and state levels to not only recognize and address these threats, but future threats as well.*

203 E. Broad Street, Ste. 3  
Columbus, OH 43215  
(614) 460-8732

# Environment Ohio

Address service requested

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



## Summer Report

VOLUME 6 | NO. 2 | 2012

SecondTree, Creative Commons

### Environment Ohio

#### Our mission

We all want clean air, clean water and open space. 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 Ohio. We focus exclusively on protecting Ohio's air, water and open space. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

## Gov. Kasich shortchanges Hocking Hills

Watching today's news, it might be hard to remember the last time 70 percent of voters agreed on anything. But in 2008, 69 percent of Ohioans approved renewing funding for Ohio's green space and trails programs. Even though the program has such overwhelming public support, Gov. John Kasich has authorized only a fraction of the approved funding—a mere 6 percent.

The program, called Clean Ohio, has preserved tens of thousands of acres of green space in places like Clear Creek Metro Park in Hocking Hills and elsewhere. It has also built or improved thousands of miles of trails, like the Hockhocking Adena bikeway between Athens and Nelsonville. But in March, Gov. Kasich proposed a budget that funded only a tiny fraction of the funds approved by voters.

Hocking Hills and our other open spaces deserve better. That's why Environment Ohio has launched a campaign to convince Gov. Kasich and the Legislature to restore full funding for Clean Ohio. Hocking Hills is one of our most important natural treasures, and we must preserve it for future generations.



Environment Ohio Advocate Julian Boggs discussed funding for our open spaces with Michael Julian, aide to Rep. Tim Ryan.

To learn more about our campaign to protect Hocking Hills, visit us online at [www.EnvironmentOhio.org](http://www.EnvironmentOhio.org).