



Fiscal Year 2021 Program Report
Thanks for making it all possible

From the director

Every day, the news delivers more dire warnings about the state of our natural world.

Fewer than 400 Right whales remain in the North Atlantic. Fewer than 80 Southern Resident orcas survive in Puget Sound. Nearly 99 percent of western monarch butterflies have disappeared. Climate change is accelerating this loss of wildlife and threatening human life as well.

It would be naive to downplay the scale of these problems and heartless not to mourn the losses. But it would be irresponsible to conclude that there's nothing we can do—especially when solutions are all around us.

Our country has all of the clean, renewable power we need if we choose to use it. We can accelerate the transition to electric vehicles. U.S. corporations can reduce their use of plastic pollution and their sale of pollinator-killing pesticides. And on and on.

Environment Florida and our national network of 29 state environmental groups made progress on all of these issues and more in the past year. None of these problems are completely solved—not even close. But we keep chipping away, breaking down big problems and making them a little more manageable. Incremental change that leads to concrete results is our stock-in-trade because success, one step at a time, is how we build confidence in—and demand for—the changes that are still to come.

Our action and progress—all of which is made possible by your support—also provide fuel for hope. Not a passive hope, like that of spectators rooting for their team. Our hope is action-oriented, results-oriented, a hope that serves, as an ally once said, “as a hammer that we use in case of emergency to break the glass, sound the alarm and spring into action.”

We're reminded every day about the emergency our natural world faces. And every day, together with you and all of our friends, supporters and allies, we pick up that hammer.

Thanks for making it all possible.



Wendy Wendlandt
Acting Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Wendlandt".

Clean, Green & Renewable Energy

We envision a healthier world powered by clean, renewable energy. With support from Environment Florida's members, our national network bolstered our nation's chances at harnessing our vast renewable energy potential. From our rooftops to our coasts, we keep taking steps toward a future powered by 100% clean energy.

Report: After years of advancement in clean technology, it's clear that 'We Have The Power'

JUNE 16, 2021: It's time for America to move beyond fossil fuels, and fortunately, we have the power to realize our clean, renewable energy potential.

That was the finding of the 2021 edition of our national partner Environment America Research & Policy Center's "We Have The Power" report, released in June. According to the report, America has the technical potential to meet all its electricity needs many times over with wind and solar energy.

"To a visitor from an earlier century, America in 2021 would be unimaginably advanced in all ways but one: We still rely on dirty and dangerous fossil fuels to meet our energy needs," said Susan Rakov, chair of Environment America Research & Policy Center's Clean Energy program.

"But it doesn't have to be that way. This report shows that between the sunshine and the wind, we have the potential to run our society on clean energy, today and in the future."

Tampa committed to 100% clean energy

AUG. 13, 2021: Tampa is now the largest city in Florida to adopt goals for a clean energy future.

On Aug. 5, the Tampa City Council voted 6-1 to adopt a resolution committing the city to be powered by 100% renewable sources of energy by 2035. The resolution pledges support for 100% clean electrification, electric vehicle infrastructure, energy efficiency and other citywide measures.

"Tampa is increasingly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Rising sea levels, stronger and more frequent hurricanes, and hotter days put everything from our white sand beaches to our beloved wildlife at risk," said Johanna Neumann, our network's 100% Renewable Energy campaign senior director. "By setting a goal to repower the city with clean, renewable energy, local leaders are helping to protect everything that makes Tampa so special."

In making this commitment, Tampa joins 11 other cities in Florida and 180 cities across the country that have made similarly bold commitments to renewable energy.



Environment Florida Clean Energy Advocate Ryann Lynn joined state Rep. Anna Eskamani and professor Mark Z. Jacobson to discuss Florida's clean energy potential.



Clockwise from top: By July, more manatees had died in 2021 than any other year in Florida's history; supporters spoke up to save the less than 130 remaining Florida panthers with conservation measures such as wildlife corridors.

Conservation

Across Florida, our wildlife and wild places need protection. In 2021, as manatee populations dropped at alarming rates and our Florida panthers prowled on the brink of extinction, tens of thousands of supporters like you took part in campaigns to protect wildlife and the places we love.

Manatee deaths prompted Environment Florida supporters to demand protections

JUNE 6, 2021: On average, five manatees died every day this year from Jan. 1 to June 4. That's more than 1 in 10 of all of Florida's manatees.

In 2017, the Trump administration downgraded manatees' listing under the Endangered Species Act from "endangered" to "threatened." Since then, they've faced mounting pressures on their habitat with fewer protections. Water pollution is killing the manatees' food and leaving them to starve. Chronic exposure to pesticides, such as Roundup, is harming their health. Development is forcing them out of traditional wintering grounds and into heavily trafficked, food-poor canals. And every year since 2016 has seen more manatees killed by boat collisions than the last.

These challenges to the manatees' habitat are pushing them to the breaking point. That's why nearly 9,000 supporters of our national network called on their U.S. senators to fund clean water investments and save the manatees.

Environment Florida will continue advocating to protect manatees.

Florida passed a law to bridge together broken habitat with wildlife corridors

JUNE 29, 2021: Much of Florida's wildlife habitat has been fractured by development. A new law promises to help stitch some of it back together.

On June 29, the Florida Wildlife Corridor Act was signed into law. The act earmarks \$300 million for the "wildlife corridors" that offer a lifeline to our imperiled wildlife, including the fewer than 130 endangered Florida panthers. Through overpasses, lowered fences and strips of connective land, wildlife corridors provide access to whole habitats and repair some of the damage done to wildlife by the division and fragmentation of critical lands.

"When an animal's home is sliced in half, it loses access to food and breeding grounds," said our national network's Conservation America Campaign Advocate Alex Peterson. "Development has left wildlife with broken homes, but if we stitch habitats back together, we can do a lot more to protect our most vulnerable species."



Clockwise from top: Conserving the Everglades means conserving one of our nation's natural carbon sinks; Environment Florida Clean Energy Advocate Ryann Lynn rallied Floridians around the bold climate action our state needs.



Global Warming Solutions

The climate crisis is here, now. For years, Environment Florida has advanced concrete ideas for reducing global warming pollution. Last year, we rallied Floridians around climate action and helped move our nation closer to a future free of fossil fuels.

Hundreds gathered online to reclaim Florida's future

MARCH 19, 2021: Here in the Sunshine State, Environment Florida is working to ensure our state's future is bright.

On March 10, Environment Florida joined ReThink Energy Florida, Floridians Against Fracking and other environmental groups to host Reclaiming Florida's Future For All—a citizen advocacy day. More than 200 people from across the state attended the virtual advocacy day, where they could listen to panels and lectures, lobby their decision-makers, and learn more about climate, clean energy and our environment.

“When it comes to the consequences of climate change, Florida's on the front lines,” said Morgan Folger, our national Destination: Zero Carbon campaign director. “But if we give everyday Floridians the chance to talk with their legislators about critical issues such as protecting Florida's clean water, supporting renewable energy, and banning fracking, we can help ensure a cleaner, greener future for our state.”

Citizens participated in 70 meetings with decision-makers as they advocated for bold climate action.

As Congress reached spending deal, climate and energy advocates notched key wins

JAN. 4, 2021: In December, Congress passed a major energy bill that prioritized clean energy over dirty fossil fuel options as part of the omnibus package to fund the federal government.

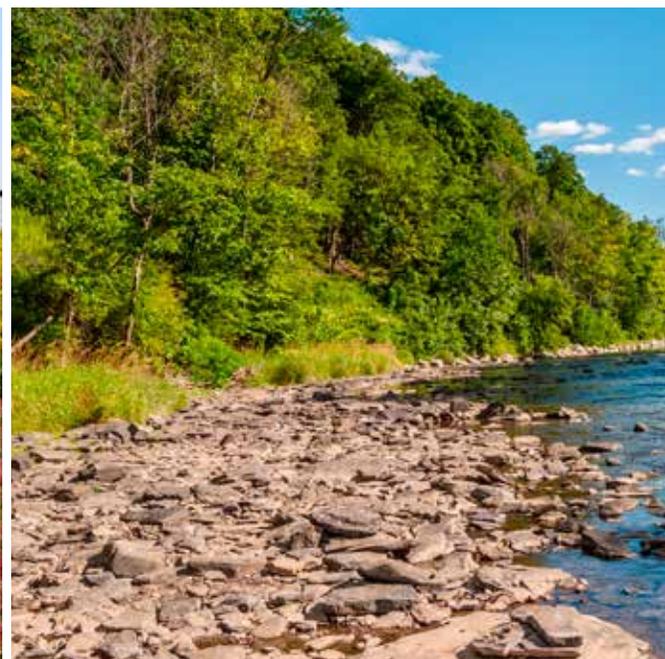
The measures, passed with bipartisan support, included big boosts in funding for renewable energy and energy efficiency programs; the phase-out of a class of potent greenhouse gasses called hydrofluorocarbons; funding to get the dirtiest diesel vehicles off our roads; money for clean energy research; and much more.

This energy bill marks an American inflection point between our dirty energy past and our clean energy future,” said Johanna Neumann, senior director of our national Campaign for 100% Renewable Energy. “With the potential to do even more, we look forward to working with Congress in the new year to continue the drive toward a nation powered by clean, renewable energy.

The bill was signed into law on Dec. 27.

This energy bill marks an American inflection point between our dirty energy past and our clean energy future.

*Johanna Neumann
Senior Director, Campaign for
100% Renewable Energy*



Clockwise from top: Clean Water for America Campaign Director John Rumpler, before giving testimony to Congress on funding needed to replace lead pipes and stop sewage overflows in February 2020; Our staff advocated for rain gardens (such as the one above), green roofs and other nature-based infrastructure that keep our waters cleaner by preventing runoff pollution from entering our streams, rivers and lakes.

Clean Water & Air

Keeping on the path to cleaner air and water requires constant vigilance—including making sure that we reinstate bedrock environmental protections that we lost under the Trump administration. Below, you'll find a report on our national network's campaign to restore our nation's strongest clean water protections and a blueprint to keeping our waterways safe with clean, green infrastructure.

Endangered streams, wetlands moved closer to regaining federal protection

JUNE 25, 2021: Polluters have been quick to take advantage of the Dirty Water Rule, which weakened protections for our nation's waterways. But these protections could be on their way back.

On June 9, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it would take steps toward repealing and replacing the Trump administration's "Navigable Waters Protection Rule." This rule stripped Clean Water Act protections from thousands of streams and wetlands, and allowed companies to win rulings stating that no protections applied to more than 750 waterways.

"Repealing and replacing the Dirty Water Rule is a vital step for America's rivers, lakes and bays—and for the drinking water of millions of Americans," said John Rumpler, senior attorney and clean water program director for our national research partner, Environment America Research & Policy Center.

Environment America Research & Policy Center now calls on the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to strengthen waterway protections.

'A Path to Cleaner Water': Our research partners showed how repairing infrastructure can help make our waters safe for swimming

DEC. 7, 2020: With billions of gallons of sewage and runoff polluting our nation's waterways and making us sick, something needs to change.

On Dec. 2, our national research partners at Environment America Research & Policy Center published a report on how to fix our outdated water infrastructure. It summarized nearly two dozen case studies on projects that stop pollution—from conventional repairs to "green" infrastructure such as rain gardens.

The report helped educate the public and policymakers as Congress considered major infrastructure investments.

"Investing in water infrastructure works," said John Rumpler, co-author of the report and clean water director with Environment America Research & Policy Center. "We have the tools to stop sewage overflows and make our waterways safe for swimming."

Environment Florida
740 4th St. North #236
St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 327-3138

Non profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Brockton, MA
Permit No. 430

Our staff (partial list)

Wendy Wendlandt

Acting Director

Bronte Payne

Director, Go Solar Campaign

Lisa Frank

Executive Director, Washington
Legislative Office

Kelsey Lamp

Director, Campaign to Protect
Our Oceans

Allison Cairo

Vice President and National
Field Director

Emma Searson

Director, Campaign for 100%
Renewable Energy

John Rumpler

Senior Director, Clean Water for
America Campaign and Senior
Attorney

Doug Casler

Director of Outreach and Civic
Engagement

Johanna Neumann

Senior Director, Campaign for
100% Renewable Energy

Amy Floyd

Senior Director, Grants

Steve Blackledge

Senior Director, Conservation
Campaign

Ruthie Seroussi

Development Director