



Your Summer Report

Together, we can save the bag ban

Vote "Yes" this November

Environment California has been hard at work saving California's first-in-the-nation statewide ban on single-use plastic bags, and your support is making it all possible.

California voters will get their say on the bag ban this November, after the plastic industry gathered enough signatures to qualify a referendum on the measure. Join us in voting "Yes," because nothing we use for five minutes should pollute our environment for decades or more.

Plastic is burdening our oceans

Ninety percent of ocean debris, which harms more than 660 marine species, is made up of plastic trash. Today, there are 100 million tons of trash in the North Pacific Gyre; in some parts of the Pacific, plastic outweighs plankton six to one.

All of this plastic in the Pacific is creating an ecological disaster:

- Turtles and seabirds frequently ingest floating plastic, mistaking it for food. They also get entangled in bags and often drown or die of suffocation.
- Adult seabirds inadvertently feed small bits of plastic to their chicks—often causing them to starve to death after their stomachs become filled with plastic.
- Toxic pollutants leach from the plastic into the water. Scientists are now studying whether fish and other marine animals absorb these toxic pollutants. If so, there is a good chance that we also absorb them when we eat seafood.



▲ Environment California Legislative Director Dan Jacobson speaks with students about the importance of banning plastic bags.

Special interests spending millions

Out-of-state plastic bag companies have already spent more than \$3 million to repeal the bag ban, and these companies aren't invested in protecting California's environment. While we can't match our opposition's financial clout, we can show that Californians want the ban to stay. At our last count, 138 communities, repre-

senting one-third of the state's population, had gone bag-free.

Thanks to these local bag bans, we've reduced the number of plastic bags by 6 billion per year, and that number will continue to dwindle if the statewide ban takes effect.



Credit: Suzanne Hoover Photography

take action

We need your help to save the bag ban. Take action online to protect our oceans from plastic pollution:

www.EnvironmentCalifornia.org

◀ To save the bag ban, Environment California is going door to door to educate and engage thousands of people.



Credit: Guillermo Brisenó

You make the difference

Whether we're protecting vital pollinators from toxic chemicals, building overwhelming public support for clean water, or laying the foundation for 100 percent renewable energy, I know you'll be by our side.

As a member of Environment California, you really do make the difference—for our environment, for our special places and for kids growing up today. We all want to make an impact on the world, and together, we're creating change that will last.

In this newsletter, you'll find updates on some of our most important campaigns, and know that you played a part in each. And while this work often leads to challenges, rest assured that you're part of a community of like-minded advocates and activists all standing up for what we believe in—a cleaner, greener, healthier future.

That's where our power comes from. That's how you make the difference.

Thanks for being a part of this,

Dan Jacobson
Legislative Director



Credit: McCarver Photography/Sutterstock

Toward a greener future

Environment California and Environment California 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 x312 or send an email to:
PlannedGiving@EnvironmentCalifornia.org.

Recent action

You can help ban fracking in California

In December 2015, world leaders agreed to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. In order to make that a reality, we need to leave most of our oil and gas in the ground.

Yet, California oil and gas companies continue to pressure Gov. Jerry Brown to open up more places in California to drilling. If America is going to lead the world on climate action, California needs to stop drilling for fossil fuels now.

Environment California staff have been knocking on doors across the state to educate Californians about what's at stake. We're also testifying in Sacramento, educating lawmakers and shining a spotlight in the media. With your support, we can build the grassroots opposition to show Gov. Brown that banning fracking is the only way forward.

Putting 1.5 million clean cars on the road

California's transportation sector is the state's single largest source of global warming emissions, so Environment California Research & Policy Center is working to put 1.5 million clean cars on the roads by 2025 and make electric vehicles (EVs) accessible for all Californians, especially low-income consumers who are disproportionately impacted by air pollution.

Thanks to the support of our members, we've been able to secure endorsements from more than 250 local elected officials all around the state who support California's 1.5 million EV goal.

The heart of this campaign is a high-profile grassroots education and outreach effort to create visibility and excitement for electric vehicles. We've recently organized EV ride-and-drive events in Oakland, Hunter's Point and Boyle Heights, providing many community members with a first-time opportunity to check out EVs and learn about rebate, loan and financing options.



Credit: Staff

▲ Young participant in our electric vehicle ride-and-drive event in Boyle Heights colors her vision of driving into a clean energy future.

100 percent renewable 100 percent possible

Burning oil, gas and coal has not only polluted our air, water and land for decades, but is also changing our climate even faster than scientists feared it would. We can have healthier communities right now and a livable future for kids growing up today. But to get there, we need to transform the way we produce and consume energy.

That's why we're calling for a nationwide commitment to 100 percent renewable power. It's a big, bold goal, one that would make America a world leader in the race toward a cleaner, healthier future—and it's a goal that's 100 percent possible.

Apple, Facebook, Google and more

Companies like Apple, Facebook and Google and cities like San Diego, Burlington, Vt., and Aspen, Colo., have already committed to 100 percent renewable energy. With some of America's biggest companies and cities across the nation making the switch, it's only a matter of time before we see national action.

And clean energy keeps growing faster, with prices dropping lower than even the most optimistic industry predictions of just a few years ago. Solar power has tripled in America in the last two years—with a new home or business going solar every one and a half minutes.

We're ready; why wait?

All signs indicate that we're ready for 100 percent renewable energy, and two recent reports from Environment California Research & Policy Center emphasize this fact.

Last December, we released "Turning to the Wind," which details how wind power continues to grow as a source of clean energy across America. In fact, the United States generated 26 times more electricity from wind power in 2014 than it did in 2001.

Then, in February, we released "Solar on Superstores," which shows that installing 62.3 gigawatts of solar power on big box

stores and shopping centers would reduce global warming pollution by nearly 57 million metric tons annually—equivalent to taking nearly 12 million passenger vehicles off the road. With this kind of potential, it isn't a question of if we'll transition to 100 percent clean energy, but when.

And why should we wait? Why wait until it's impossible to leave the kids we know and love a safer, healthier tomorrow? Why wait, when America has the responsibility, the ingenuity and the will to start leading the world to a 100 percent renewable future right now?

Join the movement

Our national network has done more to promote solar, wind and energy efficiency on the state and local levels than any other group in the country. We've won clean energy policies, from pro-solar initiatives to clean cars programs to renewable energy standards in 22 states, all of which are driving down the costs of wind and solar and driving down carbon pollution.

Together, we can do this. A 100 percent renewable future based on 100 percent American-made energy. Visit our website to add your name in support of a 100 percent clean, renewable future.



Credit: Staff

Explore more online

▲ Releasing "Solar on Superstores"

To read our research on solar's growth and the obstacles it faces, visit: www.EnvironmentCaliforniaCenter.org



Credit (left to right): Oregon Dept. of Transportation via Flickr; CC BY 2.0; SkyLynx/Shutterstock

Beginning the year with a bright solar win

Last fall, we joined together with allies to deliver more than 150,000 petitions from Californians in support of rooftop solar to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). And this winter, thanks to your support, the Commissioners delivered a major clean energy victory for our state.

As January came to a close, the Commission voted to save rooftop solar by rejecting the attempts of big utilities to end the state's flagship net energy metering program, which allows rooftop solar owners to deliver any excess power they generate to other electric customers and receive fair credit for this energy.

Michelle Kinman, Environment California's clean energy advocate, summed it up by saying, "Today will shine bright in California history, bringing cleaner air, more local jobs and a more secure energy future to all Californians. We applaud the CPUC for listening to the outpouring of support from Californians all over the state to protect net metering and uphold Governor Brown's vision for climate and clean power leadership."

Similar battles are occurring around the country, and that's why California's win to protect rooftop solar is so important—it signals to the rest of the country that rooftop solar power is a priority for the environment and for consumers.

▲ Widespread public support of rooftop solar was key to saving California's net metering program.

3435 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 385
Los Angeles, CA 90010
(213) 251-3688

Environment California

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Summer Report

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Environment California

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 California. We focus exclusively on protecting California'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.

Credit: Staff



Leading the way on global warming after Paris

World leaders agreed last December to reduce carbon emissions under the Paris Agreement, and President Obama's Clean Power Plan, which was won due to widespread public support from people like you, gave our country the leverage needed to win this historic deal.

In February, however, the Supreme Court delivered a major blow to climate action, announcing it will put the Clean Power Plan on hold while it hears lawsuits from polluters and their allies who want to kill the plan. This decision is a huge loss for our kids' future and for all Americans who care about the health of our planet.

With your help, Environment California is now working to build public support to show our leaders that the Clean Power Plan is essential to reducing our global warming emissions, protecting kids growing up today, and showing the rest of the world that we are serious about tackling this growing threat.



Support our efforts

*Support our efforts to fight global warming.
Donate online at:
www.EnvironmentCalifornia.org*

◀ Environment California Legislative Director Dan Jacobson worked with state Sens. Kevin de León and Ricardo Lara to highlight California's work on combating climate change.