



Fall Report

Californians get to work to ban fracking

Thousands speak out to protect air, water and land

Fracking, an environmental nightmare, is coming to California. We have seen the disastrous effects of fracking move across the country, and now Big Oil wants to frack across our state, putting our air, water and land at risk.

This summer, hundreds of activists and volunteers hit the streets and had conversations with more than 100,000 Californians. Thanks in part to this outreach, each day more Californians are coming forward to call on the governor to ban fracking.

Fracking uses millions of gallons of water, water we just can't spare, and pollutes it with toxic chemicals. It pumps toxic pollution into the air, including methane, a potent global warming pollutant. Fracking also tears up beautiful places, and keeps us addicted to fossil fuels at a time when we need to move toward a renewable energy future.

Calling on the governor to act

Gov. Jerry Brown, a longtime ally of the environment, and a transformative thinker when it comes to clean energy, has not made up his mind on fracking.

The oil companies are trying to convince him that fracking is safe—that there is no danger of earthquakes, no problem with toxics in our water supply, and that more methane in the air will not stunt our work to solve global warming.



Photo: Canvass Staff

▲ Staff and volunteers joined “Gasland” director Josh Fox, in black, at an anti-fracking rally in L.A. (above). Environment California has talked to over 100,000 Californians so far about the health and environmental dangers of fracking.

We are convinced that once Gov. Brown sees the people of California, the ones he has been protecting and defending for years, standing up against this new dirty and dangerous form of drilling, he will not let fracking happen in California on his watch.

In New York State, the political experts all said fracking was a done deal in the Empire State, but each time Gov. Andrew Cuomo moved to allow dirty drilling, activists and celebrities joined forces and stayed his hand.

We can learn from the activists around the country and show Gov. Brown that fracking and California just don't mix. From students to farmers, public health officials to celebrities in Hollywood, the message from California has been clear: “Don't frack California.”



Photo: RL Miller

more online

▲ Fracking for oil in California affects our land, water and air quality.

Visit our website and take action to ban fracking in California before it's too late: www.EnvironmentCalifornia.org.



To our members

California is such a beautiful state, with so much to offer, and so much to protect. There's really nothing more peaceful to me than hiking on the soft ground under a grove of towering redwoods, or listening to the waves on the beach in Santa Cruz.

Even with so much to protect, Congress shortchanged our parks this year, making them more vulnerable to pollution and overdevelopment. And now, the oil and gas industry wants to use a dirty drilling process known as fracking in or near our national parks and forests.

Protecting these places is something we owe future generations, and I know the only way we'll be able to do it is if we join together and call on our elected officials to act. Protecting the best of California is our top priority. Thank you for being with us.

Sincerely,

Dan Jacobson
Legislative Director

Recent action

New congressional bill could expand Yosemite

Documentary filmmaker Ken Burns once said that if he could change one thing about our national parks, he'd make them bigger. In step with that idea, Sen. Dianne Feinstein and Rep. Jim Costa introduced a congressional bill to expand Yosemite National Park by 1,600 acres. The introduction of this bill came after tens of thousands of Environment California supporters and others called on Congress to expand the park.

To show support for this bill, we sponsored a resolution in the state Legislature this session to support expanding Yosemite. It passed both houses unanimously, showing that every state legislator is in favor of expanding California's favorite park. We'll continue to work closely with Congress to build the bipartisan support this measure will need to succeed.

Yosemite National Park celebrates its 150th birthday in 2014. It is home to tall pines, snowmelt creeks, and the critically endangered Sierra Nevada red fox.

First grade solar champs descend on Capitol

Environment California has launched a campaign to make Los Angeles a world-class solar leader by getting 20 percent of its energy from the sun by 2020.

Already our "Go Solar L.A." campaign has garnered strong support from Angelenos, young and old. We organized a solar event in the state Capitol for students from L.A.'s Placentia Elementary School to meet with state Senator Kevin de León and Assemblymember Jimmy Gomez. The first graders held signs that read "I Heart Solar Power" and "Go Solar CA," while they thanked their elected officials for their commitment to solar power and asked them to bring more solar energy to California.

Solar power can benefit our environment, our health and our economy—providing cleaner air, reducing global warming and creating jobs. And L.A.'s leadership on clean energy is critical not only for the city itself, but for the state to meet its clean energy goals.



Photo: Staff

▲ Environment California Clean Energy Advocate Michelle Kinman (center) stands with Assemblymember Jimmy Gomez, Senator Kevin de León and first graders from Los Angeles who flew up to the Capitol to call for more solar.

Environment California launches A Million Electric Cars campaign

California needs a visionary, yet concrete global warming solution.

Environment California has a vision of bringing a million green, non-polluting cars to our roads over the next decade.

California has always been the nation's leader when it comes to clean cars and solving global warming. Yet if California is to succeed in meeting its air quality and clean car goals, as well as keeping the state's premier global warming program on track, it needs to significantly ramp up efforts to put average car buyers behind the wheel of electric and other zero-polluting cars. It's time to bring breakthrough technologies to the mainstream.

38% of global warming pollution

If California is going to continue to lead the way on cutting global warming emissions, clean up our air, and get off oil, we need to start driving cars that are not only greener, but are zero-polluting. It's possible and it's necessary.

Transportation is the single-largest source of air pollution in the state—38 percent of all global warming pollution comes from the cars and trucks we drive every day. And California is already feeling the effects of global warming, largely due to pollution from cars. An increase in catastrophic wildfires with faster and more intense burning is associated with global warming.

Unstable weather brings the threat of mudslides, drought and a decline in fresh drinking water supplies—urgent problems for the state.

In addition, for many families in California, smog continues to threaten the health of many asthmatics, especially children and the elderly. Even though we've made a lot of progress in the recent past to clean up our cars, if we don't put non-polluting cars on the road, our air will continue to become more and more polluted.

Our electric car vision will usher in cleaner skies for all Californians.

We can shift away from dirty cars

This vision of a clean, green car is doable. Most automakers today are either selling or making zero-polluting cars that will be for sale within the next few years. These cars have all the amenities consumers are used to, and they are 100 percent pollution-free.

Of course, Big Oil will want to drag their feet and continue our dependence on fossil fuels. But given California's leadership and our propensity for big, bold initiatives, and with the help of the public in convincing our elected officials to do the right thing, we can put California on the road to a clean car future.

After all, we've done it before. In 2006, we called for a million solar roofs by 2017. Today, we are well on pace to hit this solar power goal.

Please join us in putting clean, electric cars into the driveways of average Californians—every person who joins our campaign helps us show Gov. Jerry Brown that he should make California a worldwide green car leader.



Clean energy solutions

Learn more about our Million Electric Cars campaign online and help us implement our plan:
www.EnvironmentCalifornia.org

(Above) Clean Energy Advocate Michelle Kinman at an electric car event in L.A.



Obama announces climate plan

President Obama took decisive action this June to respond to the threat of climate change by limiting our carbon pollution, while expanding our commitment to renewable energy. In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, record drought in many states including California and wildfires in Colorado, the president's plan to address global warming was loudly applauded by Environment California.

"President Obama responded to millions of Americans who have spoken out on behalf of their communities and their families, urging him to lead on climate," said Michelle Kinman, clean energy advocate with Environment California. "All of us who have felt the effects of global warming, or simply worry 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."

Left unchecked, global warming is projected to bring more intense storms and more unhealthy air days to California.

To respond to this threat, the president's plan contains several key components: It will limit carbon pollution from new and existing power plants, invest in energy efficiency, expand renewable energy, ensure that communities are better equipped to prepare for and recover from global warming impacts, and rebuild U.S. leadership.

Learn more and take action at:
www.EnvironmentCalifornia.org

Photo:Michelle Kinman/Staff

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Fall Report VOLUME 11 | NO. 2 | 2013

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.

11.5 Million Living Bag-Free

Better protecting the Pacific every year, thanks to advocacy and action



70 communities banned single-use plastic bags and more to come in 2014



1 icon = 100,000 people

Let's keep the momentum toward a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags