



# Your Fall Report

## Time to turn the tide on plastics

### More than 40 percent: Used once, thrown away

It's clear we have a plastic problem. Over the past six decades, we've produced more than 9 billion tons of the stuff, most of which now clogs our landfills—or worse.

Too often, this plastic pollution ends up in our rivers, lakes and, ultimately, our oceans. Experts estimate that millions of tons of plastic enter the ocean every year, where it forms enormous garbage patches and harms and even kills wildlife.

### What a waste

With millions of pieces of plastic floating in the water, it's easy for a bird, turtle or whale to mistake it for food.

It's a costly mistake. When animals eat plastic, it can block their digestive tracts—and they starve as a result.

This was the sad case of a pilot whale that died in June after swallowing more than 80 plastic bags. In all, experts found 17 pounds of plastic lodged in his stomach.

### Wildlife over waste

Nothing we use for a few minutes should be allowed to pollute our rivers and oceans for hundreds of years.

Environment California was instrumental in winning California's ban on single-use plastic bags; now, we're calling for a state-wide ban on one of the worst kinds of plastic: polystyrene foam cups and containers, like the kind you get from restaurants and coffee shops.

This summer, we worked to educate business owners, decision-makers and all Califor-



Staff

▲ Assemblyman Richard Bloom joined Environment California staff and volunteers to call on the Legislature to pass “straws on request” legislation.

nians about the costs of plastic pollution. In all, more than 300,000 members and supporters from across the country joined our national network in calling for bans.

With Environment California's help, our state is leading the way in solving the problem of plastic waste. We worked with State Sen. Ben Allen on a bill to ban wasteful take-out food packaging at state parks

and beaches, and with Assemblymembers Richard Bloom and Ian Calderon to pass legislation to require restaurants to provide plastic straws only upon request.

With your support, we'll build on this momentum and convince more cities, more companies and our state to choose wildlife over waste and ban single-use plastics.



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### Take action

We need your help to protect wildlife in our rivers, lakes and oceans from plastic pollution. Take action online to urge our leaders to ban foam cups and containers in California.

[www.EnvironmentCalifornia.org](http://www.EnvironmentCalifornia.org)

◀ This summer, our national network organized beach and park cleanups across the country to raise awareness around plastic pollution.



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## You make it possible

You care about clean air and water, a healthy climate, and all the places that make California beautiful—and so do I. That’s why I’m proud to share with you the work we accomplished over the summer.

Environment California launched our new Wildlife Over Waste campaign to tackle the mountains of plastic trash produced each year by building public support for bans on items like plastic foam cups and containers.

At the same time, we celebrated a decade of clean energy progress with the release of our sister organization Environment California Research & Policy Center’s new report showing the incredible advances states like California have made on solar and wind power since 2008.

Thank you for making all this work possible with your action and support.

Dan Jacobson  
Legislative Director

## Action for our environment

### How can you protect the jaguar’s home?

Picture your high school’s football field. Now picture 40 of them. That’s how much tropical forest the world lost every minute during the past two years. It’s a terrible blow to wildlife, as deforestation drives out rare and endangered species like jaguars and orangutans. But what can we do about it here in California?

Many of these forests are being clear-cut or burned down to make way for palm oil and soybeans to be used in our everyday products and in farm animal feed. It’s a terrible and tragic trade-off. What’s more, as the preservation of tropical forests remains critical to slowing global warming, we know the stakes are even higher—for people as well as wildlife.

Environment California is calling on U.S.-based agribusinesses like Cargill and Bunge to end their role in tropical deforestation. With your support, we can slow the loss of endangered species and the pace of climate change by saving the world’s tropical forests.

### California invests in its parks

In June, parks and clean drinking water won big at the polls. Proposition 68, a ballot measure to invest billions of dollars in parks and conservation projects, passed with 56 percent of the vote.

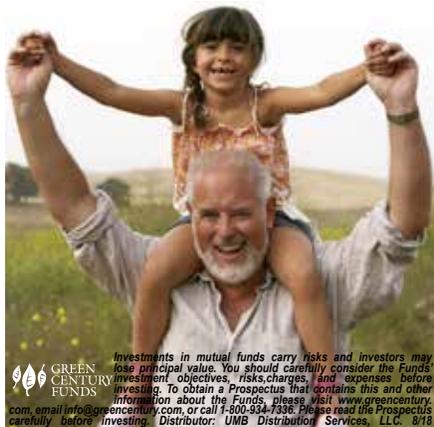
Environment California supported the measure, which will allow the state to allocate \$4 billion toward parks in underserved neighborhoods, flood prevention and clean drinking water projects.

“Protecting the environment is not easy and it’s not cheap,” said Environment California State Director Dan Jacobson. “But taking steps to protect it is better than losing it forever.”

The measure also includes funds to help preserve the Salton Sea—our state’s largest lake—which has been shrinking for years.

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Because her future matters.**

Download our guide to get started at  
[www.greencentury.com/myguide](http://www.greencentury.com/myguide)



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▲ Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti (center) joined us at an event supporting Proposition 68.

# Renewables are rising in California

How quickly are renewable technologies taking hold in California? Faster than most experts predicted just a few years ago.

Technologies that were once considered novelties, like wind turbines, solar panels, energy-saving LED light bulbs and electric cars, are now commonplace in America's energy landscape. Virtually every day, we see new developments that make renewable energy more abundant and more affordable than ever.

"Renewables on the Rise," a report released in July by Environment California Research & Policy Center and Frontier Group, explores just how far we've come—and what steps we can take today to build a cleaner, greener future.

## 600 percent increase

The last decade has seen explosive growth in the key technologies needed to power America with clean, renewable energy.

Today, our nation produces nearly six times as much renewable electricity from the sun and the wind as we did in 2008. That's enough renewable energy to power more than 34 million homes, or roughly 1 in 4 homes across the country.

At the same time, the average American uses nearly 8 percent less energy than a decade ago, due largely to more energy efficient lighting, appliances and cars—even as our population grew by 20 million.

Of course, building an economy that relies on clean, renewable energy means ending the use of fossil fuels for all activities, including transportation.

## 395,000 electric cars

More than 395,000 electric vehicles have been sold over the last decade. We saw sales surge by 24 percent in 2017 alone, fueled by lower prices, better performance, and a range of attractive and affordable new car models.

We know that repowering America with clean, renewable energy is essential to phasing out carbon pollution by 2050—a necessary step to prevent the worst impacts of global warming.

It will also improve our health by preventing harmful air pollution and eliminating the dangers of extracting, transporting, processing and burning fossil fuels.

## 100 percent renewable electricity

Fortunately, our country has renewable energy resources vast enough to power the nation several times over. Environment California has been urging businesses, universities and colleges, local governments, and our state to set their sights on meeting all of our energy needs with renewable energy and to adopt bold targets to move us in that direction.

In August, we saw our hard work pay off with a historic victory when the California Legislature passed Senate Bill 100. If signed by Gov. Jerry Brown, the bill will ensure that our state will generate 100 percent of its electricity from clean sources by 2045—putting California on the bright side of history.



## Explore more online

▲ Environment California State Director Dan Jacobson in Bakersfield at a press conference supporting Senate Bill 100. The bill passed in August, putting California on a path to 100 percent renewable electricity by 2045.

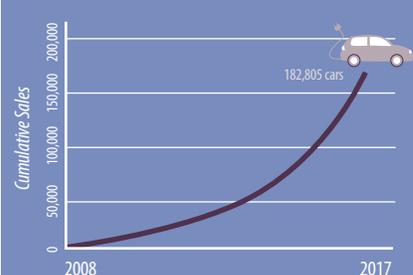
Read the full report at:  
[www.EnvironmentCaliforniaCenter.org](http://www.EnvironmentCaliforniaCenter.org)

# PROGRESS ON CLEAN ENERGY IN CALIFORNIA

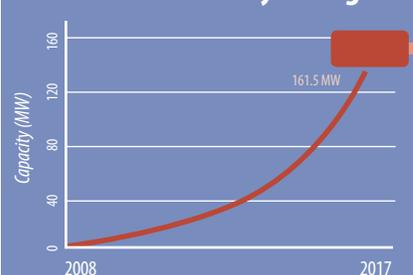
## Growth of solar & wind energy



## Growth in electric vehicle sales



## Growth in battery storage



## FROM 2008-2017

Solar growth: 23-fold  
Wind growth: threefold  
Electric vehicles: 182,805 sold  
Utility battery storage: 162 MW

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

# Environment California

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## Your Fall Report

VOLUME 15 | NO. 1 | 2018

### 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.

Bus Stocker/Shutterstock



## Why 219,000 said no to bee-killing 'neonics'

Every year, bee-killing neonicotinoid pesticides are used on millions of acres of farmland across the U.S.—but they don't stay there. Whether sprayed on crops or applied to seeds as a coating, recent studies show that neonics are drifting far beyond the field, even showing up in our rivers and lakes.

This is bad news for bees—and us, as we rely on bees to pollinate many of the world's most common crops. And as the pace of bee die-offs continues to accelerate, it's clear that urgent action is needed.

Environment California supporters joined a coalition of food safety and environmental groups to deliver 219,000 public comments to the Environmental Protection Agency, calling for a ban on bee-killing pesticides. "Given the facts at hand about the harm neonics do to bees, the EPA should move quickly to ban these dangerous pesticides," said Steve Blackledge, senior campaign director. "We don't have time to wait."



### Support our efforts

**Support efforts to ban bee-killing pesticides.**

Donate online at:  
[www.EnvironmentCalifornia.org](http://www.EnvironmentCalifornia.org)

◀ *Environment California members and supporters were among the 219,000 public comments our coalition delivered calling for a ban on bee-killing neonicotinoid pesticides.*