Defending the places we love

You’re standing up against federal rollbacks

From Big Sur to Yosemite, for more than a century Americans have taken action to protect the places we love, guided by our shared values and informed by the best advice of our scientists.

Yet President Trump and the 115th Congress have embarked on a reckless, shortsighted plan to dismantle dozens of environmental protections.

Environment California and our nationwide network are working to inform the public about what’s at stake, hold the administration and Congress accountable, and build the support necessary to defend our health and the places we love.

Clean air, clean water, open spaces

The president and Congress are working to eliminate federal protection for 139,599 miles of streams in California, with nearly 2 million miles of streams left unprotected across America. They’re moving backward on climate action and endangering public health by moving to shut down the Clean Power Plan, a key part of our commitment to reduce global warming pollution.

Even worse, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is now being run by Scott Pruitt, even though he sued the EPA 14 times to block environmental protections. And perhaps most frighteningly, the White House’s 2018 budget proposal aims to slice the EPA’s overall budget by 31 percent and staffing by 21 percent.

So we’re uniting people from all sides of the political spectrum in urging our senators to stand up and defend our environmental protections.

Acting on our shared values

You, our members, are taking action, generating thousands of petitions, calls and emails to our elected leaders. This is making an impact, but we need to do more. The leaders and activists of the past organized the first Earth Day, supported and passed the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act, and created the EPA. Now the torch passes to us. The children we know and love today can live cleaner, healthier lives in a greener world, but only if we can keep our protections in place and make them stronger.

In response to moves by the president and Congress that would threaten the people and places we love, Americans like you across the country and from all sides of the political spectrum are standing up for clean water, limits on carbon pollution and smog, and protected wild places.

We need your help to defend our environmental protections. Take action online to urge our senators to stand up for the people and places we love in California.

www.EnvironmentCalifornia.org

Our national citizen outreach staff are speaking with households across the country this summer to educate, mobilize and unite Americans to defend our environment and health.
Your Impact

Who's leading the way on renewable energy?

Despite the Trump administration's promises to move America backward on climate action and renewable energy, businesses and cities across the country have committed to 100 percent renewable energy. And a new report from Environment California Research & Policy Center, “Renewable Energy 100: The Course to a Carbon-Free Campus”, shows that America's institutions of higher education can also play a crucial role in combating global warming.

Colleges and universities have long played a leading role in bringing technological changes to society, and should commit to getting 100 percent of their energy from clean, renewable sources.

Meanwhile, Environment California supported the passage of a Los Angeles City Council resolution requiring a study of how the city can achieve 100% clean energy, and is providing support for Senate President pro Tempore Kevin de León's recently introduced legislation for California to achieve 100% renewable electricity by 2045.

How you can protect public lands

Just weeks after the 115th Congress convened for the first time, Rep. Jason Chaffetz filed a bill that would sell off 3.3 million acres of America's public lands. But he wasn't expecting the public opposition from hunters, anglers, outdoor enthusiasts, and supporters of wilderness like you. More than 1,000 people showed up at a pro-public lands rally in Helena, Mont., the hashtag #keepitpublic zipped around Twitter, and Rep. Chaffetz's Facebook page filled up with criticism. One week after introducing the legislation, Chaffetz announced that he would withdraw his bill—which goes to show what people power can accomplish.

Environment California has also been working to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), one of our nation's most incredible landscapes. This national treasure is home to polar bears, grizzlies, caribou and wolves, but the oil and gas industry is threatening to exploit the region for profit.

That's why, with your support, we're mobilizing members and supporters to urge Congress to designate the ANWR as permanently protected wilderness.

You make the difference

As a member of Environment California, you're helping us win tangible results for our environment. We all want our children to be able to enjoy clean air and water, the great parks we treasure, and a safer world free from threats of climate change. That's why in the face of disharmonious setbacks in Washington, D.C., or obstruction from special interests here at home, I'm counting on members like you, who share these values, to stand with us as we work for a better future.

People like you, who translate their optimism for a greener future into action, define the advances we make for our environment and health. So, even though at times the road feels riddled with obstacles, I feel encouraged. Together, we're making headway to tackle climate change, defend our clean air and water, and protect the places we love by uniting Americans around shared values.

Through this, we're amplifying the call on our elected officials to rise to the task and advocate for our environment.

Thanks for standing with us.

Dan Jacobson
Legislative Director

Environment California is working to protect the Arctic Wildlife Refuge, which is home to a variety of wildlife, from developers who want to exploit the land.

Environment California

www.EnvironmentCalifornia.org/newsletters
Transportation is the single largest source of global warming pollution in California, creating pollutants that harm our environment and our health. But California can get in the driver’s seat and lead the transition from dirty vehicles to clean electric cars, trucks and buses.

Environment California Research & Policy Center, together with our partners Coalition for Clean Air, Communities for a Better Environment, The Greenlining Institute and the Natural Resources Defense Council, have been making great strides in this endeavor with our Charge Ahead California campaign.

With a goal of placing 1 million electric vehicles on California’s roads and ensuring that all Californians, especially lower income households in communities most impacted by air pollution, benefit from zero tailpipe emissions, we can make a big difference in the lives of Californians for generations to come.

At the time of this writing, we’ve been successful in getting nearly 270,000 new clean cars on California roads. With support from members like you, we can continue to push past opposition from the fossil fuel industry and their allies in government to clean up our cars and our planet.

**LA Metro: go electric!**
In addition to our work on the Charge Ahead California campaign, Environment California Research & Policy Center has been working on the local level, calling for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) to commit to an all-electric fleet of buses by 2030, powered by 100 percent renewable energy.

In January, a new coalition of environmental groups, labor advocates and bus riders gathered at Metro headquarters to launch the campaign. By accelerating the integration of electric buses into its transit fleet, Metro can reduce pollution from the transportation sector while enhancing equity and spurring good union jobs and broader economic development.

“Transit agencies around the country and the world are embracing electric buses,” said Michelle Kinman, clean energy advocate with Environment California Research & Policy Center. “Metro has a tremendous opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while cutting the air pollution that is poisoning our communities, improving the quality of life for the 9.6 million people who live, work, play and breathe in this region.”

**Natural gas is so ’90s**
Following the coalition press event, members of the campaign provided public comment to the Metro Board of Directors about the urgency of transitioning to a 100 percent electric bus fleet. The coalition also previewed an ad campaign to educate and engage the public in support of electric buses that centers on natural gas buses being such a ’90s thing.

The ads provide a fun way to push Metro to take a modern approach to its fleet by converting to battery electric buses powered by clean energy. From Hanson’s MMMBop to Hammer pants to natural gas buses, there’s a lot we can leave in the ’90s.

“Just 60 miles from Flint, Lansing, MI, is Lansing, WI. Faced with test results confirming high lead levels, fixtures are removed and replaced. As a result, there has been a substantial reduction in lead detected in almost 90,000 household tests conducted since 2002. In 2014, Seattle began testing the city’s water, the city has successfully removed lead from its water infrastructure.”

**Explore more online**

[CleanVehicleRebate.org](http://CleanVehicleRebate.org)
Chefs join our call to save bees

As a member of Environment California, you have supported our work to save bees and our food supply by calling for a ban on bee-killing pesticides. You may have taken action by signing our petition to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), spreading the word in your community, or planting bee-friendly plants in your garden. In fact, all of our work on this campaign has only been possible thanks to the support of passionate members like you.

This winter, our campaign took another step forward when 235 restaurateurs sent a letter calling on the EPA to ban bee-killing pesticides. Then, in February, 65 chefs and restaurant owners joined with Environment California to launch the Bee Friendly Food Alliance.

“From family run pizza shops to fine dining destinations, chefs and restaurant owners around the country are coming together to Save the Bees,” said Christy Leavitt, Bee Friendly Food Alliance Coordinator with Environment California. “Chefs know up close and personal: no bees means no food.”

Support our efforts

If you are a chef or restaurateur who is interested in joining the Bee Friendly Food Alliance, visit bit.ly/BeeFriendlyFood to learn more and sign up.