



ENVIRONMENT CALIFORNIA Your Summer Report

Our campaign to go 100% renewable by 2030

In California, we know that in order to avoid the worst consequences of climate change, we have to leave dirty fossil fuels behind and transition to clean, renewable energy—and we'll have to do that fast.

That's why, in order to support an accelerated transition to 100 percent renewable energy in the next 10 years, Environment California Research & Policy Center will build support through research reports and media outreach about how we can get there faster; from robust solar incentive programs such as net energy metering, to offshore wind development that will increase our state's capacity for clean energy production.

Environment California Research & Policy Center's effort is part of a national trend of championing clean, renewable energy. Seven states have already enacted laws requiring 100 percent clean or renewable electricity by 2050 or sooner. Cities and businesses across the country are also opting for clean, efficient and increasingly affordable renewables. More than 170 cities in the United States, including 33 in California, have committed to transitioning to 100 percent renewable energy. Many of these cities have already achieved 100 percent renewable electricity or have set their sights on 2030 as the deadline to achieve it.

"From solar panels on Los Angeles rooftops to wind turbines turning in Northern California fields, California is already reaping the benefits of tapping into the renewable resources right here in our backyards," said Lizzi Nickerson, clean energy associate with Environment California Research & Policy Center.

And our efforts here in California and across the country are exceeding expectations. In 2001, it was predicted that by 2020



California has led the nation in renewable energy gains made since 2010, ranking among the top 10 states for increased solar electricity production and wind energy generation.

America would be generating just 1 percent of its electricity from renewable energy sources.

Fast forward to the present: According to "Renewables on the Rise 2020," a report by our national research partners at Environment America Research & Policy Center, we've beaten that prediction, reaching 10 percent this year. Over the past decade, wind power generation has tripled and solar generation has grown 30-fold.

Continued on page 3 ►

Thanks
for making it
all possible

Whole Foods earned an 'F' on plastic packaging. We're urging it to do better.

Whole Foods touts its commitment to "planet before profits." But to live up to that claim, it'll need to deal with its contribution to the plastic pollution crisis.

Right now, it's not doing enough. A report by the environmental shareholder advocacy group As You Sow gave the grocer an "F" grade for its policies on single-use plastic

2020 under the Trump administration, stand as they are. One rule allows showerheads to expel more water and cause more energy to be consumed; the other creates a new class of washers and dryers with less stringent efficiency standards. Along with U.S. PIRG and the Alliance for Water Efficiency, our national partner Environment America is challenging both rules in court.

"These Department of Energy rules set up tens of thousands of Americans to needlessly and unintentionally waste water and energy each time they hop in the shower or clean their clothes," said Brynn Furey, energy conservation and efficiency associate with our national network.

Supporters of Environment California and our national network previously submitted more than 10,000 public comments opposing the showerhead rule.

Rep. Huffman files bill to grant Arctic Refuge permanent protection from drilling.

We have a chance to make sure one of America's most pristine wild places stays that way forever.

On Feb. 4, U.S. Rep. Jared Huffman (Calif.) introduced the bipartisan Arctic Refuge Protection Act in Congress along with U.S. Sen. Ed Markey (Mass.) and U.S. Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (Penn.). The act would permanently grant wilderness designation to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's coastal plain, prohibiting oil and gas drilling. The coastal plain is an ecologically rich area, where Porcupine caribou migrate each year to raise their young, and polar bears and hundreds of other species make their home.

"Permanent protection for the Arctic Refuge's coastal plain is long overdue," said Ellen Montgomery, director of our national network's public lands campaign. "The survival of Arctic wildlife shouldn't depend on the price of oil or who inhabits the White House. If any place in our country is deserving of wilderness status, it's this one."

The previous administration had rushed through a drilling lease sale for land in the refuge, a move opposed by Environment California and others.

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Staff



On Jan. 12, our national research partners at Environment America Research & Policy Center held a virtual press conference launching their campaign to get Whole Foods to move beyond plastic.

packaging. On setting goals to reduce its unnecessary plastic waste, as well as transparency on those efforts, Whole Foods fell behind Target, Kroger and Walmart.

"Our wildlife, oceans and communities are choking on plastics and deserve better," said Kelsey Lamp, director of our national research partner Environment America Research & Policy Center's Protect Our Oceans campaign. "We must prioritize wildlife over waste, and we should expect more from a grocer known for its environmental vision."

Environment California Research & Policy Center is calling on Whole Foods to lead by example by eliminating single-use plastic packaging from store shelves.

Our allies go to court to protect water- and energy-saving standards for appliances

To protect our climate and environment, we'll need to use less energy and less water. Showers and clothes washers and dryers use lots of both.

That's why we can't let two recent Department of Energy rules, finalized in December



Toward a greener future

Support our work to build a cleaner, greener, healthier future by including a gift to Environment California or Environment California Research & Policy Center in your will, trust or retirement accounts.

For more information call 1-800-841-7299 or send an email to: PlannedGiving@EnvironmentCalifornia.org



Page 1 story continued: Our campaign to go 100% renewable by 2030

According to the report, California led the nation in renewable energy gains, ranking among the top 10 states for increased solar electricity production and wind energy generation, and ranking first for the number of electric vehicle charging stations and cumulative electric vehicle sales.

But there's still work to be done.

"The impact of climate change on our state is crystal clear, as is one of the necessary solutions: transitioning to 100 percent renewable energy. These energy sources will not only affordably and reliably power the grid, but they will also provide well-paying jobs and improve our public health. California has always led on the environment, and given the climate crisis, we must continue to lead," said Assemblymember David Chiu.

Lizzi added, "While we've seen remarkable progress already, we can do so much more to pick up the pace. Ambitious goals, including a commitment to 100 percent renewable energy by 2030, are some of the best tools in our toolbox to move our state toward the clean energy future we want and need."

"Some people may be turning their focus to federal action now, but we know states like California still have a crucial role to play in shaping America's energy future," said Lizzi. "We have the opportunity to show the rest of the country how it's done, all the while ensuring a cleaner, healthier future for Californians. That's an opportunity we can't afford to pass up."

In 2018, Environment California Senior Advisor Dan Jacobson (standing, right of center) joined former Gov. Jerry Brown (seated) for the signing of SB 100, which set a target of reaching 100% carbon-free electricity by 2045. We're calling on Gov. Gavin Newsom to move up the goal to 2030.



Thank you for supporting our work to take on the vast environmental challenges we face and to create a greener, healthier, more sustainable world.

I'm excited to serve as your new state director as Dan Jacobson steps into a senior advisor role. At Environment California, we're grateful for all the progress Dan has made for our state, and we're looking forward to building on that progress with him.

In these pages, you'll find the stories of the advocacy you made possible. Your action and support allow us to keep working for a better world. Thank you.

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Your Summer Report

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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..

Environment California calls on Amazon to stop the sale of bee-killing pesticides

To save the bees, we're asking one of the world's biggest retailers to stop selling the pesticides that kill them.

In March, Environment California, along with our national network, kicked off our campaign to call on Amazon to take neonicotinoid pesticides (or "neonics")—the substances most closely linked to a troubling decline in bee populations over the past two decades—off their (virtual)

shelves. Our ask is far from unprecedented: Home Depot and Lowe's have already pledged to phase out the use of neonics on their live plants, and Lowe's has committed to taking the pesticides off its shelves altogether.

"We need to reduce the use of this pesticide that's contributing to the collapse of our most important pollinators," said Malia Libby, Save the Bees campaign associate with our national partner, Environment America. "Amazon should join other retailers in doing the right thing and taking it off its shelves."

Our national network will be gathering petition signatures from thousands of people this summer calling on Amazon to act.

Studies show that dangerous herbicide use plays a significant role in bee die-offs.



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