Summer of support for our lakes

But polluters continue to block crucial protections

This summer, thousands of Granite Staters traveled to our lakes to enjoy the long days of summer, stay cool in the waters of Squam Lake and fish on Newfound Lake. Clean Water Act protections are incredibly important for the safety and preservation of these beloved waters.

Streams that feed our lakes at risk

In April of last year, President Obama proposed much-needed clean water guidelines to protect the rivers and streams that feed and clean New Hampshire’s lakes—including Lake Winnipesaukee and Ossipee Lake. More than half of these vital waterways are vulnerable to toxic pollution and development—thanks to two polluter-driven Supreme Court decisions.

Unfortunately, the long-overdue protections have yet to be finalized. Recently, they have fallen victim to partisan politics and face heavy blowback from out-of-state polluters like ExxonMobil and the American Farm Bureau, which in July launched a major campaign to stop the proposed guidelines.

Granite Staters stand up for our waters

To counter their efforts and push these protections past the finish line, this summer Environment New Hampshire staff pounded the pavement across the state, talking to more than 10,500 Granite Staters about the issue and getting many of them involved. We also released a report detailing the toxic pollution that entered New Hampshire’s streams, titled “Wasting our Waterways.” The report identified the Merrimack as the most polluted river in New Hampshire and supported the need to restore the Clean Water Act to its original form.

Despite three separate attempts to block the Obama administration’s efforts in Congress, our persistent efforts are beginning to pay off. Our work helped demonstrate enough public support this summer to help convince leadership in the U.S. Senate to stop one of the dirty water bills from even coming up.

In the coming months, Environment New Hampshire will continue to stand up to big polluters and show Sens. Jeanne Shaheen and Kelly Ayotte that they have the support they need to fight for our lakes—from Winnipesaukee, to Winnisquam, to Ossipee.

more online

Visit us online to voice your support for New Hampshire’s lakes.

www.EnvironmentNewHampshire.org
Recent action

Environment New Hampshire endorses Barack Obama for president

Looking back on the accomplishments of President Obama’s first term, we have seen real progress for our environment. We have seen cleaner cars on the road—cars that are saving oil and reducing carbon pollution, strong new standards in place that will significantly reduce mercury, soot and smog pollution from power plants, and historic levels of investment in clean energy. Record federal investments in clean energy by President Obama have almost doubled our nation’s production of truly clean energy like wind and solar.

In an election already overrun with the influence of Big Oil and their allies, we need to make sure that Congress and the White House are champions that will stand up for us and fight for the same environmental values we share. Now is the moment when we can keep that progress going and keep America moving forward to cleaner air and water, protection for our natural environment and a new clean energy economy.

Intense precipitation on the rise

New research from Environment New Hampshire Research & Policy Center confirms that the number of extreme rainstorms has doubled in New Hampshire since 1948. Scientists have concluded that the rise in the frequency and severity of heavy rainstorms and snowstorms is linked to global warming. Warming increases evaporation and enables the atmosphere to hold more water, providing more fuel for extreme rainstorms and heavy snowstorms.

The good news is that we know how to make big cuts in the carbon pollution fueling the problem—and New Hampshire is already headed in the right direction in some areas. Visit us online at EnvironmentNewHampshireCenter.org/GlobalWarmingSolutions to learn more about why global warming matters for New Hampshire and what you can do to help.
New Hampshire is dangerously addicted to oil. We’re an oil-dependent state, because we use oil both to power our cars and trucks, and to heat our homes and businesses.

Our oil dependence negatively impacts our economy, forcing us to rely on out-of-state sources for our energy. It also takes a tremendous toll on our environment, polluting our air and water, and even jeopardizing our health.

**Failing the smog test**
The global warming pollution released by petroleum-dependent cars and trucks leads to elevated temperatures, which in turn leads to an increase in dangerous smog pollution.

When the American Lung Association released its report card on smog pollution, not one of our eight counties received a grade “A.” Three counties earned a “C” or lower for smog pollution. This pollution triggers asthma attacks and other health problems, and New Hampshire has one of the highest rates of childhood asthma in the nation.

The good news is that we have the technology today to take the first steps away from oil and all its negative effects on our environment and our health. We can improve the energy efficiency of our homes and businesses, move people and goods more efficiently, and transition to sustainable substitutes for oil.

The first step is to establish concrete goals to reduce our oil use, a plan to make it happen and the support of our leaders. And in 2011, we accomplished that much.

**A future free from oil**
This fall, Environment New Hampshire launched a campaign to pass a bill in the 2013 Legislative session that will set up milestones and road signs to achieve a 30 percent oil use reduction. And we have a plan to give that bill the momentum it needs.

By reaching out to both sides of the aisle, we will work with key legislators to pass the Get Off Oil bill in the New Hampshire Legislature.

We’ll work to build stakeholders in key districts across New Hampshire with veterans, business owners and public health groups.

Finally, we’ll meet directly with lawmakers to ask them for their support on our bill to reduce our state’s oil use by 30 percent by 2030.

The path to victory will not be an easy one, as entrenched fossil fuel interests will fight to keep New Hampshire hooked on oil. But the drain on our economy, the threat to public health and the damage to our environment all show that it’s time New Hampshire weans itself from its addiction and looks to a cleaner, brighter energy future.

**Green Future Fund**
A new way to honor supporters
Environment New Hampshire is proud to announce the establishment of our Green Future Fund.

The Green Future Fund will honor a special group of our donors; those who are ensuring a greener future by remembering Environment New Hampshire or our sister group, Environment New Hampshire Research & Policy Center, in their wills, life insurance policies or retirement accounts.

These legacy donors are helping to ensure that Environment New Hampshire will continue to flourish—protecting the places we love and the values we share—for years to come. “We appreciate all of our supporters,” said Environment New Hampshire’s Jessica O’Hare. “I feel a special gratitude toward those members who have the vision and generosity to plan a gift that will protect our state’s environment beyond their own lifetimes.”

Establishing a legacy gift also offers donors a few advantages. Some supporters wish they could give more but can’t right now. Including Environment New Hampshire in your estate plan costs nothing today, while ensuring support for our mission in the future. Legacy gifts may also offer tax benefits. Your professional advisor can help you determine any tax advantage.

As a Green Future Fund donor, with your permission, we’ll recognize your gift in our annual report and other publications, helping to inspire other members to make their own legacy gifts. Of course, you may also choose to give anonymously. Either way, any specific details you choose to provide about your gift will remain confidential.

If you’d like to become a member of the Green Future Fund call our planned giving coordinator, Marilyn Tesauro, at 1-800-841-7299 or email plannedgiving@EnvironmentNewHampshire.org.
Environment New Hampshire

Our mission
We all want clean air, clean water and open space. 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 New Hampshire. We focus exclusively on protecting New Hampshire’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.

Mercury standards defended

This summer, Environment New Hampshire successfully blocked an attempt in the U.S. Senate to roll back new life-saving mercury standards.

Last December, President Obama issued the first ever nationwide mercury standard to prevent the dangerous neurotoxin from contaminating our waters and poisoning New Hampshire’s wildlife. But the coal lobby targeted Congress to convince them to block the new rule before it could take effect. So we mobilized and helped convince both Sens. Jeanne Shaheen and Kelly Ayotte to vote against the dirty air proposal.

Jessica O’Hare, advocate with Environment New Hampshire, applauded our senators for their vote: “Today our leaders in New Hampshire came together to stand up for New Hampshire’s clean air and our kids’ health.”