



Fall Report

A summer spent working for Maine's lakes

23,000 Mainers contacted, thousands took action

This summer, Environment Maine talked to people across the state about the need to protect our lakes. Our summer citizen outreach office spoke with more than 23,000 Mainers face-to-face this summer, and we were consistently blown away by the level of support for restoring protections to Maine's lakes. From the suburbs of Portland, to mid-coast communities, to lakes communities themselves, we found incredible support everywhere we went.

Meanwhile, our summer intern team visited 15 lakes over the course of the summer, from Pleasant Pond to Rangeley Lake. There, they spoke with more than 500 Mainers about individual actions they can take to protect our lakes, as well as the need for our state Legislature to act on restoring protections through policy. We captured photo petitions from more than 300 people, and also recorded audio memories about lakes, both of which we're delivering to legislators after the election this fall.

Water quality of lakes is declining

Maine's nearly 6,000 lakes are like snowflakes: No two are alike. Mainers and visitors from far away escape to our lakes in order to enjoy natural beauty. And they play a tremendously important role for tourism. Take the Rangeley Lakes region: The local population is little more than 1,500 people in the winter, but it blossoms to nearly 10,000 each summer. On the way up to Rangeley, depending on your route, you might pass Great Pond in Belgrade. Unfortunately, Great



Staff

▲ An Environment Maine supporter makes her voice heard in one of our photo petitions.

Pond is an example of the work we've got cut out for us: Milfoil afflicts the lake, and the problem has been expensive and time-consuming to mitigate.

Research from the University of Maine confirms that the water quality of Maine lakes is declining. And instead of doing anything to reverse this decline in water quality, Gov. Paul LePage cut funding for Maine's lake protection program,

dramatically reduced program staffing, eliminated nearly all educational programs about our lakes, and muzzled scientists.

That's why Environment Maine is building a groundswell of public support to convince the Legislature to stand up to Gov. LePage and give our lakes the protection they deserve. With your help, we can protect the lakes we love.



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◀ Environment Maine is working to restore protections to our lakes.

To learn more about our work to protect Maine's lakes and other campaigns, visit: www.EnvironmentMaine.org.



To our members

This time of the year is my favorite—the crisp air, brilliant burnt orange and crimson leaves, long walks with my kids through the woods, and harvest festivals.

It's also election season, and elections have serious implications for our environment.

This year, in addition to the gubernatorial race, the entire Maine Legislature will be elected on Tuesday, Nov. 4.

Maine has one of the highest voter participation rates in the nation. That means that many of your neighbors, family, and friends will be voting on Tuesday.

Please make your own plans to vote. And bring family and friends with you to the polls.

If you're not yet registered, you can still register at your town office or city hall.

It's our environment. It's our future. Let's vote!

Sincerely,
Emily Figdor
Director

Recent action

Electric cars putting the brakes on pollution

More than 220,000 electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles are on America's roads today, delivering real benefits for our health and our environment, according to a report released by Environment Maine. In just the last two years, annual sales of electric vehicles have increased by 500 percent.

The report, "Driving Cleaner: More Electric Vehicles Mean Less Pollution," shows that electric vehicles could prevent more than 101,000 metric tons of climate-changing carbon pollution annually in Maine by 2025—which is equivalent to saving more than 11.4 million gallons of gasoline per year, or eliminating tailpipe pollution from 21,000 of today's cars and trucks.

"It's time to charge ahead on electric cars," said Environment Maine Organizer Ben McCormack. "It's not just because electric cars are speedy, quiet and cool-looking—they are also one of the most important tools we have to break our dependence on oil, clean up our air, and protect our climate."

A groundbreaking step on global warming

In June, the Environmental Protection Agency announced its new Clean Power Plan. The plan would establish the first-ever national carbon pollution standards for power plants. The proposal, which would be the single biggest step our country has ever taken to reduce the pollution causing global warming, builds on the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative in place in Maine and eight other states.

Despite the overwhelming public support in Maine and across the country for the EPA's proposed Clean Power Plan, coal companies and other polluting industries continue to fight tooth-and-nail to derail the rules even before they become law.

Two weeks after the EPA proposed the new rules in June, Environment Maine joined Environment America and our sister organizations in 23 other states on an unprecedented campaign to organize people already grappling with the early effects of global warming—from survivors of Hurricane Sandy and recent wildfires to clambers and lobstermen in Maine—to back the proposal.

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GINA MCCARTHY
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

C-SPAN3
c-span.org

HD

In June, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy announced the first-ever limits on carbon emissions from power plants.



Dan Wood

Historic victory in South Portland!

This summer, in a true David versus Goliath victory, South Portland citizens came together to protect their community and prevailed over Big Oil.

South Portland has been at the center of a battle over tar sands, in reaction to the possibility of tar sands coming to Portland Harbor from Canada.

South Portland is important to the oil industry's massive tar sands expansion plans, because it is the only U.S. city on the East Coast with a deep-water port that is connected to a crude oil pipeline.

Culmination of extraordinary work

In a 6-1 vote in late July, the South Portland City Council passed a zoning ordinance that blocks a tar sands terminal on the shores of South Portland.

The new Clear Skies Ordinance prohibits the bulk loading of tar sands onto tankers on the waterfront, and it prohibits the construction of infrastructure for that purpose.

Environment Maine is very proud to have worked side-by-side with Protect South Portland, the citizens group we helped form and facilitate, to achieve this extraordinary victory. We worked behind-the-scenes training, guiding, and building the group, running their neighbor-to-neighbor campaign last fall to educate and embolden the community, and providing policy expertise and legal resources.

The ordinance protects the city from a new source of air pollution that would have been emitted as tar sands oil was loaded onto tankers. It also prevents the city's scenic coast between two historic lighthouses from being transformed by two towering, 70-foot tall tar sands smokestacks.

People power beat Big Oil

The oil industry has fought very hard against the ordinance. The American Petroleum Institute and its allies spent \$750,000 last fall, according to our analysis, "Inside the Big Oil Playbook," to

narrowly defeat our citizens' initiative at the ballot to block the tar sands terminal.

The victory shows that Big Oil is not invincible, and that the exploitation of tar sands is not inevitable. Communities are standing up, and powerfully so, to protect themselves—and we are winning.

South Portland isn't alone. Many communities dealing with tar sands infrastructure projects, from extraction to transportation to refining, face local impacts. Some communities face threats from pipeline spills, others from extraction and mining, and others from loading and refining. All of us face the threat of climate change worsened by tar sands. South Portland's action makes clear that communities are not going to accept these impacts.

However, it's not over in South Portland. The oil industry has vowed to "evaluate all political and legal means available to us to overturn this ordinance." We're committed to seeing this fight through and will work with Protect South Portland, the city, and a team of lawyers to defend the victory in court.



Portland Press Herald

 To learn more about our campaign to protect South Portland, and all of Maine, from tar sands, visit: www.EnvironmentMaine.org



Office of Jerry Jalbert

An interview with Mayor Jerry Jalbert

Jerry Jalbert is the mayor of South Portland and led the city's actions on tar sands over the last year.

How has citizen involvement on the tar sands issue compared to other issues confronting the city?

It's the biggest issue we've ever faced in South Portland. The concern about tar sands is widespread. Hundreds of residents attended our final workshop and City Council meetings to consider the Clear Skies Ordinance.

It was a long year, but I'm incredibly proud of what we accomplished. The Clear Skies Ordinance is a strong but surgical ordinance to protect the city from tar sands. It has statewide, regional, and even global significance.

What is the city doing to prepare to defend the Clear Skies Ordinance from expected oil industry challenges in court?

The city is forming a Clear Skies Ordinance Legal Defense Fund as a restricted reserve. There will be a website, and people all over the state, country, the globe will be able to help us defend the ordinance in court. I'm confident that people will be very generous and really step up to help the city.

News, research, ways to get involved:
www.EnvironmentMaine.org



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Environment Maine

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 Maine. We focus exclusively on protecting Maine'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.

Outreach, film screenings to support local farms

This summer, our outreach team made 33 visits to farmers markets, from Brunswick to Washington, and spoke with more than 1,200 Mainers about what it's going to take, above and beyond our beloved farmers markets, to bring Maine's sustainable agriculture movement to scale. We also hosted movie screenings and panel discussions of "Fresh" and "To Make A Farm" in Bowdoinham, Portland, Waldoboro, and Waterville. In Portland, we held the movie screening at the Portland Public Library, and the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association, Maine Farmland Trust, Portland Food Co-Op, and the Conservation Law Foundation cosponsored it.

We were thrilled at the level of discussion among our panel members at each screening, from local farmers to local entrepreneurs to legislators, as well as the contributions of the audience, who were keen to make connections, dig in on the issues, and get involved.



Michael Rosenstein

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To learn more about our work to expand Maine's sustainable agriculture movement, visit: www.EnvironmentMaine.org

◀ Silver Ridge Farm near Bucksport