



Mainers say no to tar sands pipeline

Campaign advanced in South Portland, statewide

This summer, Environment Maine staff and supporters talked to more than 15,000 people across the state and gathered 10,000 petition signatures opposing ExxonMobil's plan to pump tar sands oil through Maine.

We also helped lead the push to pass an ordinance to block the project in South Portland, the terminus of the pipeline.

Broad public support mobilized
ExxonMobil's planned Montreal-to-Casco Bay tar sands pipeline, which would cut directly through the Sebago Lake watershed and crisscross the Crooked River six times, poses a huge threat to our drinking water, air quality and climate.

That's why Environment Maine talked to Mainers from all walks of life this summer and collected thousands of petition signatures calling on the State Department to subject the pipeline to a full environmental review—and then reject it.

Zoning ordinance push underway
Another way to stop ExxonMobil is to block the construction of two 70-foot smokestacks on the pier in South Portland that are necessary to reverse the flow of the 63-year old Portland-Montreal pipeline. The smokestacks would burn off excess pollutants as the tar sands oil is loaded onto tankers for export.

South Portland has the authority to block the smokestacks, and Environment Maine worked with the Concerned Citizens of



▲ Environment Maine and the Concerned Citizens of South Portland spoke out against tar sands at South Portland City Hall in June.

South Portland to qualify a citizen's initiative for the November 5 ballot that will stop their construction. The ordinance is narrowly focused on blocking the oil industry from loading tar sands onto tankers and would not affect any existing activities or other types of businesses.

Together, we can win

As this fight heats up, you can bet ExxonMobil will pull out all the stops to win. But with support from our members, we can stop the oil industry in its tracks and block this dangerous tar sands pipeline for good.



more online

For more information on our campaign to stop ExxonMobil's tar sands pipeline, visit www.EnvironmentMaine.org.

◀ Environment Maine and our allies delivered 3,779 petition signatures for the South Portland ballot initiative.



To our members

This fall, Environment Maine is working to pass a citizen-initiated ordinance on the November ballot in South Portland to stop ExxonMobil from building two towering smokestacks right on the coast. The smokestacks are needed to export tar sands from Casco Bay. The zoning change would have the impact of protecting all of Maine from the tar sands project. While there is strong support for the initiative in South Portland, we'll have to overcome the oil industry's deep pockets and deceptive tactics to win.

Environment Maine is well prepared for the challenge, particularly after Taryn Hallweaver joined our staff in August as our Campaigns Director. Taryn is an accomplished community organizer in Maine and elsewhere in New England. Please join me in welcoming her to Environment Maine!

If you have any time to volunteer this fall to help educate people about tar sands and get out the vote, we'll put your time to good use!

Emily Figdor
Director

Recent action

Gov. LePage vetoes Healthy Kids Act

Over the last three years, Environment Maine has been working with the Alliance for a Clean and Healthy Maine to protect children from toxic BPA. BPA is an endocrine disruptor associated with a long list of health problems, from the early onset of puberty to cancer. The chemical is used in certain plastics and in the linings of metal cans and jar lids, but, thanks to our efforts, it is now prohibited in baby bottles, sippy cups, and containers used for infant formula and baby food.

Children's largest source of exposure to BPA, however, is canned adult food. But in June, Gov. Paul LePage vetoed the Healthy Kids Act (LD 1181), our bill to require the largest food manufacturers to disclose their use of BPA in cans and jars.

Rest assured that the effort to protect kids from BPA is not over, and we'll be working hard to hold Gov. LePage accountable.

President Obama unveils plan to fight global warming

In June, President Obama announced a climate plan that will set limits on carbon pollution from power plants, advance energy efficiency and increase the nation's commitment to renewable energy.

"President Obama responded to the millions of Americans who have spoken out on behalf of their communities and their families, urging him to lead on climate change," said Emily Figdor, director of Environment Maine.

"Carbon pollution from power plants is the largest single source of the pollution fueling global warming. Today, President Obama mapped out a plan for cleaning up power plants," said Figdor. "We also know that this plan is just one important step in a multi-year effort, and that the proof of the plan's success will be in the pudding. Environment Maine stands ready to assist the president in following through on this critical commitment."



Photo: Staff

▲ Environment Maine Summer Organizer Alysha McClain applauds President Obama's climate plan at a news conference at Portland City Hall.



Maine beaches still struggling with high bacteria levels

Photo: April Westervelt

Environment Maine released a new report this summer on beach water safety showing that Maine's coastal communities continue to struggle with high bacteria levels at local beaches. The 23rd annual *Testing the Waters: A Guide to Water Quality at Vacation Beaches* report from the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) this year ranked Maine 27th out of 30 coastal states for beach water quality.

"A day at the beach shouldn't turn into a night in the hospital," Environment Maine Director Emily Figdor told the media at a news conference at Portland's East End Beach. "Maine beaches are summer playgrounds for local families, and they draw visitors from around the world. We need to do everything we can to clean up the sewage and contaminated runoff that put Maine beaches and beach-goers at risk."

Pollution causes illness, beach closings

Beach water pollution is known to cause a range of waterborne illnesses in swimmers, including stomach flu, skin rashes, ear and eye infections, hepatitis, and neurological disorders.

There were a total of 194 beach closings or advisory days in Maine in 2012, an increase of 73% from 2011. Elevated bacteria levels were responsible for 92% of the closing/advisory days and 8% were preemptive due to heavy rainfall.

Higher than normal rainfall in 2012 is considered one of the culprits. Runoff pollution contributes to bacteria loads at these locations through factors such as storm drains that empty directly onto beaches, a high percentage of impervious ground cover, and the close proximity of urbanized areas.

Unfortunately, the federal funding that supports Maine's beach water monitoring program is currently in limbo. President Obama's fiscal year 2014 budget suggests eliminating funding for a federal grant

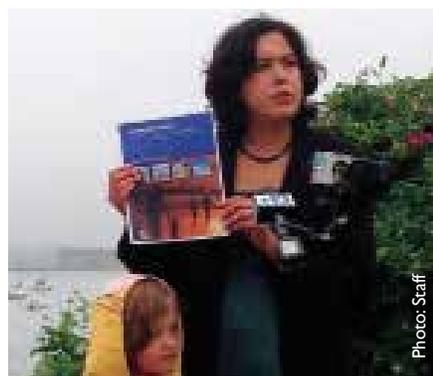
program under the BEACH Act that Maine and many other states rely upon to fund their monitoring programs.

Together, we can clean Maine beaches

At the news conference, Will Everitt of Friends of Casco Bay encouraged state and federal officials to act, saying, "Maine people deserve a more comprehensive beach testing and reporting program so everyone in the state will know if their beaches are safe."

We provided a few rules of thumb for choosing a beach this summer, including avoiding swimming at the beach for at least 24 hours after it rains and 72 hours after heavy rains; and checking MaineHealthyBeaches.org for current advisories and closings.

Figdor concluded, "We need a comprehensive monitoring and notification system to protect kids and families; we need new rules that help communities reduce storm water runoff; and we need standards for water quality that adequately protect human health. Together, we can make Maine beaches the cleanest in the nation."



research

Environment Maine Director Emily Figdor releasing a report, *Testing the Waters*, at East End Beach in Portland.

To read the full report on Maine's beaches, visit www.EnvironmentMaine.org/reports.



An interview with Barry Zuckerman

Barry Zuckerman is a member of the Concerned Citizens of South Portland, which Environment Maine has partnered with to launch a citizen's initiative to block the oil industry from building smokestacks between the "Bug Light" and Spring Point Ledge Lighthouses and other oil infrastructure in South Portland to export tar sands out of Casco Bay.

Why did you get involved with the Concerned Citizens?

I have two heroic role models in my life—my wife, Roberta, and our son, Adam. Roberta has for many years gravitated towards doing "good works." Adam, who is 26, has had that same spirit from a rather young age. I recently retired because of health issues, and I honestly had little self-direction as to what to do next. When I learned from Roberta about the threat of tar sands oil, I suddenly found a real purpose for the next stage of my life.

You've organized more than 200 local businesses to oppose tar sands coming through South Portland. How have you built so much support for the campaign?

I've spent my career in sales, and it's the easiest thing I've ever sold. I've spent many days visiting business owners across the city. I talk with them about the risks, let them do research on their own and consider the facts, and then I come back and ask them to join with us to protect our community. The response has been so positive. South Portland is a special place, and these small business leaders want to keep it that way.

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Photo: Katie Ring

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.

Building support for Maine-grown food in schools

This year, Environment Maine spearheaded a bill, LD 1185, to increase local foods in Maine's schools. Despite Maine's proud agriculture and fishing tradition, we import more of our food than any other state in the continental United States—with massive impacts on our environment.

Food from local, sustainable farms is healthier, fresher, and grown in ways that don't pollute our environment. This kind of food should be available to everyone—starting in our schools.

While our bill passed the House and Senate, the LePage administration added an overblown fiscal note to it that caused the bill to be carried over to 2014.

Unfazed by the LePage administration, we spent the summer building support for a more robust farm-to-school program at Maine's many farmers markets.



Photo: Straff

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◀ *Environment Maine interns building support for farm-to-school programs at a farmers market this summer.*

To learn more about our campaign, visit www.EnvironmentMaine.org.