Annual Report
A recap of our work for our members in 2013
Dear Environment Michigan member,

This year was a big one for Environment Michigan. We took on tough new challenges, and we made important progress on a number of fronts. And we couldn’t have done it without your unwavering support for our environment.

The dangerous gas drilling process known as hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” has come to Michigan. This dirty drilling poses huge risks to our water resources and public health. That’s why Environment Michigan launched a statewide campaign to stop the spread of fracking and protect the Great Lakes from contamination, toxic spills and other threats posed by this dirty drilling. With your support, we’re building the grassroots strength it will take to protect Michigan from fracking. We also launched an ambitious campaign to put solar panels on more than 100,000 roofs across the state by 2020, and 250,000 roofs by 2030. We have already made headway in many communities across the state, including Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids and Ypsilanti. In the coming months, we will continue working with more communities across the state to go solar.

On these campaigns and more, your support and activism is crucial. Thank you so much for making it all possible.

Sincerely,

Shelley Vinyard, Regional Director
Conservation Michigan

Michigan’s parks are state treasures. But this past summer, Congress threatened to eliminate funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), a crucial program designed to protect and preserve the nation’s parks and other public lands. In response, Environment Michigan is mobilizing the public to stop these outrageous cuts and protect our parks.

Congress urged to preserve our parks

It’s unfortunate, but not surprising, that the current U.S. House would cut funding for our national parks. Yet the vote of a key House subcommittee on July 23 was stunning even for this Congress. The panel voted to completely eliminate funding for the LWCF. Our national parks depend on this vital program.

- Michigan’s national parks attracted $159 million in tourism in 2011. But if LWCF funding is cut, our parks, such as Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, would be left in the lurch, becoming more vulnerable to encroaching overdevelopment, logging, drilling and pollution.

- Environment Michigan and our national federation of state groups are calling for full funding for the LWCF. So far, we’ve helped collect tens of thousands of petitions and submit them to Congress. We will continue to organize the public support it will take to fully fund the LWCF and give our parks the protection they deserve.
Go Solar Michigan

Michigan has huge solar potential—but we still get far too much of our energy from fossil fuels such as coal. We can go a long way toward fixing this problem by installing 250,000 new solar roofs by 2030. To achieve this, Environment Michigan worked to establish strong solar energy standards and encourage investment in solar projects in cities across the state.

Cities across Michigan going solar

Michigan still gets nearly 60 percent of its electricity from dirty, dangerous coal. Instead of using polluting fossil fuels, we should be shifting to clean, renewable solar power. That’s why Environment Michigan has been working to reach 100,000 new solar roofs in Michigan by 2020, and 250,000 solar roofs by 2030.

- Action on solar energy is often slow at the state and federal level. But luckily, we can jumpstart the transition to clean, homegrown solar power right here at the local level. Michigan cities have vast solar potential, and we’re working with cities across the state to set smart, ambitious solar goals and establish programs that will put solar on thousands more homes, businesses and public buildings.

- Environment Michigan mobilized citizens in Lansing, Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor and elsewhere to contact their mayors and city councils, urging them to embrace solar energy.

- We also brought together solar activists, industry members and other interested parties at events such as our Go Solar Community Forum in Ypsilanti in March, and the Go Solar Ypsi Community Action Meeting that we sponsored in February. In addition, Environment Michigan helped turn out attendees to Gov. Rick Snyder’s forums on energy policy, where they spoke out in favor of solar.
“Solar Destination” report released

In April, Environment Michigan released a report that outlined a vision for how Ypsilanti—and other Michigan cities—can go solar. The report, “Building a Solar Destination: How Ypsilanti can harness the sun to power its future,” provided a roadmap to help put solar on roofs across the city. By embracing solar, Ypsilanti can be a model for the rest of the state. The report advocated:

• Setting an ambitious goal for solar growth in the city and removing financial barriers to solar installations for commercial and residential customers.

• Establishing public-private partnerships, solar incentives, and community projects to pave the way for easy access to solar financing.

• Collaboration between city officials, solar businesses, educational institutions and community organizations to promote public understanding and solar literacy through aggressive citizen outreach and education initiatives.

Photo credits: (page 3-4 top) Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, (page 4 bottom left to right) SolarYpsi, University of Michigan SNRE.
Keep the Great Lakes Safe from Fracking

The dirty gas drilling practice known as hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” is spreading rapidly across Michigan, and it poses huge risks to the Great Lakes, including contamination, toxic spills and water depletion. In response, Environment Michigan launched a statewide campaign to stop the spread of fracking and protect the Great Lakes from its harmful effects.

Fracking threatens the Great Lakes

The fracking boom has descended on Michigan, and the threat to the Great Lakes is enormous. The oil and gas industry has snatched up millions of acres of mineral rights across the state, and Encana Oil and Gas, Inc., alone has identified 1,700 potential fracking locations.

- Gas drilling using hydraulic fracturing poses risks of pollution throughout the process. Water is mixed with toxic chemicals and injected into wells to fracture the surrounding rock and extract shale gas, generating huge amounts of contaminated wastewater.

- This toxic fracking waste can leak, spill, seep into groundwater or otherwise find its way into our waterways. In May 2012, 40,000 gallons of fracking wastewater were sprayed on dirt roads in Cheboygan and Kalkaska Counties as “dust control.” The roads sprayed were as close as one mile from Lake Huron, and all it takes is a rainstorm to wash this contaminated wastewater in the lake.

- The Great Lakes are too important to put at risk of toxic pollution. That’s why Environment Michigan is working to build massive opposition to fracking throughout the state and halt the spread of this dirty gas drilling.
Thousands took action to halt spread of fracking

The oil and gas industry has immense resources and influence. To stop the fracking boom and protect the Great Lakes, we know we have to mobilize massive grassroots strength and show our leaders that the public overwhelmingly opposes this dangerous process and the threats it poses to our waterways.

• This past summer, Environment Michigan staff fanned out across the state and had more than 19,000 face-to-face conversations with Michiganders, educating them about the dangers of fracking and the urgent need to take a stand for the lakes. More than 7,500 people signed petitions to their local and state leaders, urging them to ban fracking in their communities.

• In addition, we reached out to our members and supporters and generated nearly 2,000 comments urging Gov. Rick Snyder to take action to halt the spread of fracking and protect the Great Lakes. We delivered these to the governor ahead of his public forums on Michigan’s future energy policy, sending the message loud and clear: Michigan says “no” to fracking.

Left: A fracking operation in Kalkaska County. Right: This summer, Environment Michigan staff talked to more than 19,000 people about the dangers of fracking.
Toward the end of last year, crucial federal incentives for clean, renewable wind power were in danger of being eliminated. Environment Michigan called on Congress to extend these incentives. And in the end, we succeeded: President Obama and congressional leaders reached a deal to renew these critical incentives.

Critical wind incentives renewed

Current wind generation in Michigan displaces 247,000 metric tons of global warming pollution annually—the equivalent of taking 48,000 cars off the road each year. But as the United States approached the fiscal cliff late last year, critical incentives for wind were set to expire, putting wind power—and 37,000 American jobs—on the line.

• In December 2012, Environment Michigan released a report, “Wind Power for a Cleaner America,” that documented the benefits of wind in cutting global warming pollution.

• Along with our national federation, Environment Michigan submitted thousands of comments in support of extending these crucial incentives. And ultimately, we won a major victory for clean, renewable wind power when President Obama and Congress agreed in January 2013 to extend the incentives as part of the deal reached to avert the fiscal cliff.

Environment Michigan
Stopping Global Warming

More than 3.2 million Americans, including thousands of Environment Michigan members, supporters and allies, submitted public comments last year in support of cutting the carbon pollution that fuels global warming. And in June, President Obama responded by announcing a far-reaching plan to address climate change.

After push, Obama announced climate plan

Left unchecked, global warming is projected to bring to Michigan more intense storms, more severe droughts and more unhealthy air days. Scientists have warned that the window is rapidly closing for making the necessary cuts in carbon pollution to protect future generations from the worst consequences of global warming. To respond to this threat, the president’s plan contains several key components. It will:

- **Limit carbon pollution from new and existing power plants.** The president directed the Environmental Protection Agency to set limits on carbon pollution from power plants—the single largest source of global warming pollution in the country.

- **Invest in energy efficiency.** New efficiency measures for buildings will cut carbon pollution by reducing our overall energy demand.

- **Build more renewable energy.** The plan focuses on expanding production of clean energy sources like wind and solar.

- **Support affected communities.** The plan will help ensure that communities are better equipped to prepare for and recover from the impacts of global warming.

- **Rebuild U.S. leadership internationally.** The president’s plan calls for the U.S. to actively engage in international efforts to address global warming.
Citizen support is the cornerstone of Environment Michigan. Thousands of Michigan citizens supported Environment Michigan and the Environment Michigan Research & Policy Center by making membership contributions in fiscal year 2013. The members listed below were particularly generous in backing the organizations’ research and advocacy. Names that appear in italics denote Monthly Supporters. These members provide stability to the organizations’ resources through our monthly giving program.

**Development Committee**
The following members supported Environment Michigan and/or Environment Michigan Research & Policy Center with contributions of $2,000 or more in fiscal year 2013:
- William Ammerman
- John Haugo
- Judith Huf
- Audrey Keck
- Douglas H. Phelps
- Harriet Statz

**Patrons**
The following members supported Environment Michigan and/or Environment Michigan Research & Policy Center with contributions between $1,000 and $1,999 in fiscal year 2013:
- Dave Anderson
- Ellen Barmeister
- Danny Beard and Stephanie Murray
- Gordon Faulkner
- Sharon and Scott Frank
- Diane Home
- Mary Hughes
- Jennifer and Mark Kopetsky
- Dawne and Oliver Luetscher
- Zhongdang Pan
- Jay Platta and Lisa Searing
- Jan and Louis Pritzl
- Marjory Stewart
- Kalpa Vithalani
- Bruce and Donna Wallbaum

**Sponsors**
The following members supported Environment Michigan and/or Environment Michigan Research & Policy Center with contributions between $500 and $999 in fiscal year 2013:
- Jake and Helen Bennison
- Nadine Bergstrom
- Todd and Laurie Brachman
- Donald and Stacy Carpenter
- Corkey Custer
- Scott Deyo and Denise Youngerman
- George Dreckmann
- Susan Dyer
- Kimberly Gerlach
- Linda and Chuck Gorchels
- Scott Kinsey
- Sally Long
- Robert H. March
- Karen and Joe Pagliari
- Edward Purdy
- Laura Putnam
- Edwin Reid
- Jodi Ritsch
- Charles Snowdon
- Deborah Umstead and Brian Davis
- Ken Wallace

**Supporters**
The following members supported Environment Michigan &/or Environment Michigan Research & Policy Center with contributions between $300 and $499 in fiscal year 2013:
- Charles and Peggy Angervine
- Julie Attermeier
- Chris Baird
- Lynda and Richard Barbieri
- Mariel Bird
- Bill and Shelley Blondeau
- Roberta Boczkiewicz
- Susan Brantly and Scott Mellor
- Francis Bretherton
- Michael Callontagna
- Gennine Castaneda
- Lynn and Abigail Christiansen
- Greg Crews
- Patricia Cutraro
- Maria and Thomas Dale
- Bill and Fern Delaney
- Lee Erickson
- Richard Erney
- Denis Gopan
- David Griffith
- Chanda Halderman
Supporters (continued)

- Joseph Hastreiter  
- Sonia Herber  
- Amy and Russ Hermes  
- Paul and Lisa Hick  
- Cory Highshaw  
- Arthur Hitt  
- Patricia and Jim Hughes  
- Wendy and Joe Jacobson  
- Ravindra Karonde and Preeti Solanki  
- Mitchel Kim  
- Laurie Krenz  
- Patricia Lacroix and James Penczykowski  
- Neil Lucchesi  
- Stewart Macauley  
- Rebecca Meier-Rao and Sunid Rao  
- Lucille Muldoon  
- Lisa Mullaney  
- David Nelson  
- Brian Nienhaus  
- Jeffery Nordholm  
- Elizabeth Orth  
- Nancy and Jason Ott  
- David Parker  
- Kimberly Parrish  
- Bob Paulos  
- Eric Piepho  
- David and Cathy Potter  
- Susan Rampacher and David Deadman  
- Tom and Carolyn Rehberger  
- Dale and Carol Reuter  
- Margaret Ruoff and John Schroeder  
- Reema Sanghvi  
- David Schultz  
- Russell and Michelle Sharpswain  
- Hemant and Debra Shenvi  
- Philipp Simon  
- Sally Smaida and Andrew Youez  
- Brent Starck  
- Lisa Stukenberg  
- Tom Sullivan  
- Howard Teeter  
- Wayne Thompson  
- Charlie Uging  
- Karen Updike  
- Lori and Jeffery Van Ness  
- Nick Vollendorf  
- Carey and Steve Wieler  
- David G. Wells  
- Kenneth Wood  
- Martha Wynn and Charles Acher

Foundation support

The Environment Michigan Research & Policy Center is a 501(c)(3) organization, and conducts research and public education on emerging environmental issues. Contributions to the Environment Michigan Research & Policy Center are tax-deductible. To find out more, contact Megan Severson at (608) 268-0511. The Environment Michigan Research & Policy Center would like to thank the RE-AMP Strategic Action Fund, the Brico Fund, and the Energy Foundation for supporting our work in fiscal year 2013.

Financial information

The charts below represent the combined financial information for Environment Michigan and Environment Michigan Research & Policy Center for the fiscal year 2013.

Building a greener future

Environment Michigan and Environment Michigan Research & Policy Center gratefully accept bequests, beneficiary designations of IRAs and life insurance, and gifts of securities to support our work. Your gift will assure that we can continue to protect Michigan’s air, water and open spaces for future generations. For more information, call 1-800-841-7299 or send an email to:
PlannedGiving@EnvironmentMichigan.org.
2013 Annual Report

Address service requested