



# Summer Report

## Keeping the Great Lakes safe from fracking

### Campaign launched to protect national forests, lakes from drilling

This summer, we're continuing our work at the federal level to keep the forests and public lands that border the Great Lakes off-limits to fracking. We've launched a massive campaign to ensure our lakes and rivers are protected from this dirty drilling, and over the course of several months, plan to talk to thousands about this threat.

#### Millions of acres leased

Unbelievably, the oil and gas industry has leased millions of acres of mineral rights across Michigan, including 84,000 acres in our national forests near the lakes. The Huron-Manistee National Forests touch two of our Great Lakes, and because 95 percent of Michigan's waterways are connected, fracking anywhere in the state can threaten the lakes. One, single fracking company, Encana Oil & Gas Inc., has identified 1,700 potential fracking locations.

"Fracking is rapidly expanding across our state," said Shelley Vinyard, regional director with Environment Michigan. "And unbelievably, some of the best parts of our state are at risk. We should be doing all we can to keep the Great Lakes safe. But right now, Michigan's national forests and public lands, many of which sit along the Great Lakes, are vulnerable to fracking—putting our Great Lakes at risk."

#### Warning from 1,000 doctors, nurses

Aside from the grave environmental risks, fracking also poses threats to public health. This past February, Environment Michigan and our national affiliate rallied doctors and nurses around the state and country to



Neo/RespectMyPlanet.org

▲ Construction of a fracking rig near Kalkasa

join us in shining a spotlight on the serious health risks of fracking. More than 1,000 health professionals signed letters to President Obama and state officials verifying this drilling has real consequences for the health of nearby communities. These signatures are only firm backup to the irrefutable evidence present in actual communities close to fracking sites. Documented ailments in individuals and entire families include dif-

ficulty breathing, nosebleeds, skin rashes, and neurological and gastrointestinal issues.

This summer, Environment Michigan will work to make sure the health of Michiganders and the places that define this state—the Great Lakes and the forests that surround them—are kept safe from this drilling that's already proved itself to be both dangerous and destructive.



Kirk Donaldson

### more online

◀ *Summertime along Lake Michigan's shore*

To learn more, visit us at: [www.EnvironmentMichigan.org](http://www.EnvironmentMichigan.org).



## To our members

I hope this note finds you well and gearing up for summer fishing or canoeing trips with friends and family, be it at the Great Lakes or a waterway closer to your home, or a camping trip at a local park or forest. After a winter like this past one, feeling the warmth of the sun on your face or being out in the fresh air is a welcome relief. There's simply nothing like summertime in Michigan.

Environment Michigan knows how our lakes, rivers, beaches, forests and parks make Michigan a great place to live—and we're winning victories to protect them. You can read all about it in these pages. We've just launched a new campaign to talk to thousands of people across the state about keeping the Great Lakes safe from fracking, and we're looking forward to an amazing summer of working to protect our health and environment from the dangers of this drilling. And none of it could happen without your support.

Thanks for all you do.

Shelley Vinyard  
Regional Director

## Recent action

### Green Future Fund: A new way to honor supporters

Environment Michigan's new Green Future Fund honors donors who ensure a greener future for Michigan by remembering Environment Michigan or our sister group, Environment Michigan Research & Policy Center, in their estate plans.

Including Environment Michigan in your planning costs nothing today, while protecting the places we love and the values we share for the future. With your permission, we'll recognize your gift in our publications, inspiring other members to make their own legacy gifts. Or you may choose to keep your gift private. Either way, any details you choose to provide about your gift will remain confidential. To enroll in the Green Future Fund, or to learn more, call 1-800-841-7299 ext. 312, or email [PlannedGiving@EnvironmentMichigan.org](mailto:PlannedGiving@EnvironmentMichigan.org).

### President's budget good news for our wild places

This past spring, President Obama took decisive action to protect Michigan's public lands when he fully funded the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), America's premier land conservation program, in his budget. If passed, the funding of the LWCF will protect and preserve Michigan's 718,000 acres of parkland, including special places like Sleeping Bear Dunes and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. These actions came on the heels of the president's 2014 State of the Union promise: "I'll use my authority to protect more of our pristine federal lands for future generations."

Over the last year, Environment Michigan and its sister organizations around the country collected thousands of public comments urging President Obama to use his authority to protect our public lands and built a coalition of hundreds of conservation groups, businesses and local elected officials. In February, we brought this public support to Washington, D.C., where we hand-delivered these comments to Department of the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell during an in-person meeting.

"We still have a lot to do to protect America's last wild places, but the recent progress we've made is noteworthy," said Mary Rafferty, federal conservation program director. "We applaud the president for taking action."

Photo: puchan - shutterstock.com

### Toward 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 to build a cleaner, greener, healthier future.

For more information, call 1-800-841-7299 or send an email to: [PlannedGiving@EnvironmentMichigan.org](mailto:PlannedGiving@EnvironmentMichigan.org).



# One-two punch in global warming fight

Clean energy policies, such as standards for renewable energy and energy efficiency, are leading to big reductions of carbon pollution—the leading cause of global warming—according to a new report released by Environment America Research & Policy Center, our national affiliate, this past spring. Their report, “Moving America Forward,” showed that clean energy policies have reduced U.S. carbon pollution by the equivalent of 34 million passenger vehicles.

“By using energy more efficiently and by generating more power from clean, renewable sources, states are delivering a one-two punch in the fight against global warming,” said Julian Boggs, federal global warming program director with Environment Michigan. “They’re proving that we do have what it takes to protect our children and future generations from the worst impacts of climate change. But we will need firm limits on carbon pollution from power plants in order to deliver a knockout blow.”

Scientists say extreme weather like Superstorm Sandy and the historic drought in California foreshadows a new normal, which could threaten our children and future generations if we fail to limit the pollution fueling global warming.

“Science shows us the danger of climate change. Economics shows the opportunity of climate solutions. Now we must press forward on the politics,” said Sen. Edward J. Markey, who recently joined 30 other U.S. senators in an all-night talkathon on the Senate floor.

## The next step

Coal and gas-fired power plants are America’s largest source of the carbon pollution fueling global warming, accounting for about 40 percent of total emissions. Environment Michigan pointed to the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) plan to move forward with limits on carbon pollution from power plants as the next step to fight global warming

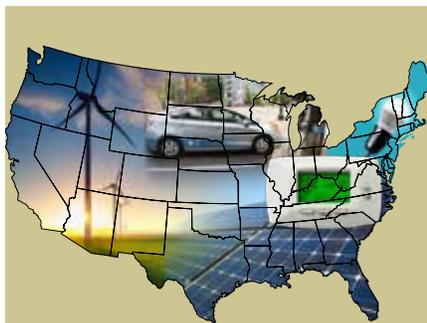
and shift to clean energy. Right now, the EPA limits arsenic, lead, soot and other pollution from power plants—but not carbon pollution.

## Our clean energy progress

Michigan has seen significant progress in its efforts to move away from dependence on dirty energy sources, such as coal and oil, and toward clean, renewable energy sources like wind and solar power.

Environment Michigan has been working with communities all around the state to reach our goals of seeing 100,000 new solar roofs in Michigan by 2020, and 250,000 solar roofs by 2030. Michigan cities have vast solar potential, and we’re working to set smart, ambitious solar goals and establish programs that will put solar on thousands more homes, businesses and public buildings.

“With enough willpower, the U.S. can rise to any challenge. We’ve seen that climate solutions work, and now it’s time for the next round,” said Boggs. “Our leaders can start by rejecting attacks from polluters, investing in clean energy solutions that are right at our fingertips, and supporting the EPA’s plan to limit carbon pollution from power plants.”



## Moving America Forward



Visit us online to read the full report:  
[www.EnvironmentMichigan.org/reports](http://www.EnvironmentMichigan.org/reports)

## New report names Detroit “Solar Beginner”

This spring, a new report by Environment America Research & Policy Center, our national affiliate, named the city of Detroit a “Solar Beginner,” a city just beginning to experience a significant amount of solar energy. Detroit currently has approximately 1 megawatt of cumulative solar photovoltaic (PV) capacity.

Nationally, there is more than 200 times as much solar PV capacity installed in the U.S. today compared to 2002, and much of it is happening in American cities.

The top 20 solar cities in this report have more solar power within their city limits than was installed in the entire U.S. just six years ago.

The report pointed to policies that encourage investment in solar PV installations, which have been adopted by local leaders in solar cities.

“We’ve made progress here in Detroit. But we’ve only just begun,” said Shelley Vinyard, Environment Michigan regional program director. “By committing to bold goals and putting strong policies in place, we can make Detroit shine as a national leader and reap the environmental and economic benefits of the solar revolution.”

News, research, ways to get involved:  
[www.EnvironmentMichigan.org](http://www.EnvironmentMichigan.org)



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Photo: Flickr user - Julia Weatherbee

### Environment Michigan

#### 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 Michigan. We focus exclusively on protecting Michigan'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.

### Historic action taken for rivers, streams

This spring, in a historic proposal, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) moved to close loopholes that leave 48 percent of Michigan's streams and wetlands at risk of unchecked pollution and development, many of which feed into and filter the Great Lakes.

"With the drinking water for 1.4 million Michiganders at risk, we're thrilled to see the EPA moving forward to protect our waterways," said Shelley Vinyard, regional director.

This summer, the EPA will open the proposal to public comment with the hopes of finalizing the rule next spring, but many of the nation's biggest polluters are already weighing in, lobbying against the comprehensive clean water protections. That's why we're going to keep educating the public and gathering support to close the clean water loopholes that leave our waterways vulnerable. "When finalized, this rule will be the biggest step forward for clean water nationwide in more than a decade," said Vinyard. "Thank you, Administrator Gina McCarthy and the EPA for fighting to protect Michigan's waterways. Now let's get the job done."



Cherice/Flickr

#### more inside

*Improving safeguards for Great Lakes; Detroit highlighted for solar power; clean energy policies deliver one-two punch in global warming fight; and more.*

▶ *The Michigan River, near Mason*