



Protecting the Great Lakes from fracking

Drilling threatens lakes with pollution

This summer, Environment Michigan launched a new campaign to keep the Great Lakes safe from hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking,” the dirty gas drilling process that’s rapidly expanding across the state.

Too much at stake

The Great Lakes’ importance to Michigan can’t be overstated. Yet despite their beauty, immense popularity and importance to Michiganders, the lakes are being threatened by water contamination, toxic waste spills, water depletion and more.

The culprit is fracking, the drilling process by which water, sand and toxic chemicals are injected into wells to fracture the surrounding rock and extract shale gas and oil. Fracking has left a trail of contaminated drinking water, air pollution and ruined landscapes in Pennsylvania, Ohio and other states.

Now, the drilling industry is snatching up hundreds of thousands of acres of mineral rights to increase fracking all over the state, and as a result, the Great Lakes—and the waterways that flow into them—are suffering the consequences.

Fracking poses a twin threat to the Great Lakes. First, as many worry about record-low water levels, drilling operators are proposing to withdraw hundreds of millions of gallons of the state’s groundwater. Second, toxic fluids and wastewater present a growing threat of leaks and spills.



X-Ray 10

▲ *The rapid expansion of fracking across the state threatens the Great Lakes with contamination, toxic spills, water depletion and more.*

Stop the spread of fracking

To protect the Great Lakes from fracking—and the toxic waste, contamination and water depletion that come with it—we’re working to pass local bans on this dirty drilling process across the state. This summer, Environment Michigan is talking to tens of thousands of Michiganders and rallying businesses, elected officials,

homeowners and others to stand up to fracking.

The oil and gas industry—and its well-heeled lobbyists in Lansing—will do everything in their power to keep fracking booming in Michigan. But by mobilizing massive public support, we can stop the spread of fracking and protect the Great Lakes.



Art Moore

take action

Environment Michigan is working to stop the spread of fracking.

Take action on our website, www.EnvironmentMichigan.org.



Staff

To our members

I love the summer! Going to the beach, hiking in my favorite parks, or having a barbecue with neighbors on the back porch—but my favorite part of summer? Working with our citizen outreach team.

This summer, all across Michigan, passionate folks will be educating people about protecting the Great Lakes from fracking, which threatens the lakes with contamination, toxic spills and water depletion. They will educate tens of thousands of people and make the voices of Michiganders heard by local leaders across the state.

The only way to stand up to the oil and gas industry—and its anti-environment allies in Lansing—is by bringing committed and educated people together. Our staff in blue T-shirts will likely be in your neighborhood doing just that. When you see them—say hello for me!

Sincerely,

Dan Kohler
Regional Director



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.

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Recent action

Obama strikes new tone on global warming

In his 2013 State of the Union address, President Obama spoke strongly of the need to address climate change by cutting carbon pollution and embracing clean energy, saying, “If Congress won’t act soon to protect future generations, I will.”

Environment Michigan Associate Virginia Shannon responded approvingly to the president’s speech: “Americans have been asking for leadership on tackling global warming. Clean energy solutions, like cutting our energy waste in half and expanding renewable energy, as the president outlined, are critical pieces of the puzzle. We are also counting on the president to clean up carbon pollution from power plants, which will help the United States fulfill its obligation to future generations.”

“We look forward to working with the Obama administration to implement and expand upon the president’s plan to address global warming, as outlined in his State of the Union address,” concluded Shannon.

Climate rally in DC: say “no” to XL Pipeline

On February 17, Environment Michigan federal staff joined more than 40,000 activists for the largest climate rally in history. Along with our allies from across the country, Environment Michigan participated in the “Forward on Climate” rally in Washington, D.C., and urged President Obama to follow up on his calls for strong action to address global warming.

As global warming contributes to a rise in extreme weather—including the Genesee County flooding in May 2012, which damaged more than 1,700 homes—the need to address global warming grows ever more urgent. The “Forward on Climate” rally called for strong limits on carbon pollution, more clean energy, and increased energy efficiency. In addition, Environment Michigan urged the Obama administration to reject the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline, which has the potential to add 240 billion metric tons of global warming pollution to our environment.



Staff

Environment Michigan’s federal advocates at the “Forward on Climate” rally in Washington, D.C.

Nearly 80% live in counties hit by weather disasters

Air Force Space Command

New report says global warming to bring more extreme weather

A new Environment Michigan Research & Policy Center report finds that weather-related disasters are already affecting hundreds of millions of Americans, and documents how global warming could lead to certain extreme weather events becoming even more common or more severe in the future.

The report found that four of out five Americans live in counties that have been hit by at least one federally declared weather-related disaster since 2007.

More severe storms, higher risk of drought

The new report, entitled “In the Path of the Storm,” examined county-level weather-related disaster data from 2007 to 2012 to determine how many Americans live in counties hit by recent weather disasters. The report also details the latest science on the projected influence of global warming on heavy rain and snow; heat, drought and wildfires; and hurricanes and coastal storms.

Key findings from the report include:

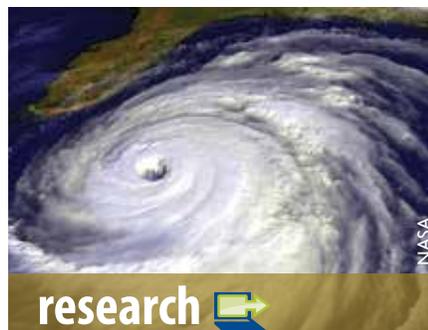
- Since 2007, federally declared weather-related disasters affected 12 counties in Michigan. Recent weather-related disasters in Michigan included flooding and severe storms.
- Nationally, federally declared weather-related disasters have affected counties housing 243 million people since 2007—or nearly four out of five Americans.
- Higher temperatures and drier summers will likely increase the risk of drought for certain parts of the country.
- Records show that the U.S. has experienced an increase in the number of heat waves over the last half-century. Scientists project that the heat waves and unusually hot seasons will likely become more common in a warming world.

The solution: More clean energy, less carbon pollution

Environment Michigan Associate Virginia Shannon noted that every weather event is now a product of a climate system where global warming “loads the dice” for extreme weather, though in different ways for different types of extreme weather.

“Extreme weather is happening, it is causing very serious problems, and global warming increases the likelihood that we’ll see even more extreme weather in the future,” said Shannon. “Carbon pollution from our power plants, cars and trucks is fueling global warming, and so tackling global warming demands that we cut emissions of carbon pollution from those sources.”

Environment Michigan Research & Policy Center called on decision-makers at the local, state and federal levels to cut carbon pollution by expanding efforts to clean up the largest sources of pollution, shifting to clean, renewable energy, using less energy overall, and avoiding new dirty energy projects that make the carbon pollution problem even worse.



research

To read the full Environment Michigan Research & Policy Center report, “In the Path of the Storm,” visit www.EnvironmentMichigan.org/reports.



Lisa Jackson’s legacy

On February 14, Lisa Jackson served her last day as administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Former Administrator Jackson took on some of the nation’s paramount environmental challenges during her time as head of the EPA. She was instrumental in implementing the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a landmark program in capping global warming pollution and creating investments for clean energy development.

She also oversaw the implementation of life-saving limits on mercury pollution from power plants, worked with the Department of Transportation to double the fuel efficiency and global warming pollution standards for vehicles, and more, making her four-year tenure one of the most successful in the history of the EPA.

Senate urged to confirm new administrator

In February, President Obama nominated Gina McCarthy to replace Lisa Jackson as head of the EPA. McCarthy, who was previously the assistant administrator of the EPA’s Office of Air and Radiation, has a strong record of winning real results for our environment and public health.

Given her past accomplishments and dedication to doing what’s best for our environment, Environment Michigan joined with our national federation of state groups in calling on the Senate to confirm McCarthy as the new administrator of the EPA.

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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.

Ypsilanti can be a model for solar success

In April, Environment Michigan Research & Policy Center released a report detailing a vision for how Ypsilanti can become a "Solar Destination." The report, "Building a Solar Destination: How Ypsilanti can harness the sun to power its future," outlined a roadmap to help put Ypsilanti on track to have clean, renewable solar on 1,000 roofs by 2020. By making smart policy decisions and investments, the city can lead the way to a solar powered-Michigan.

Ypsilanti has already shown strong leadership on solar: There are currently 13 major solar installations in the city. But the report suggested that Ypsilanti's brightest days are ahead. "By setting bold goals now, Ypsilanti can tap into its vast solar potential to reduce pollution from dirty energy sources and build a thriving local economy," said Environment Michigan Associate Virginia Shannon.



◀ *Solar power can help us reduce pollution, while adding green jobs to Michigan's economy.*

A new report by Environment Michigan details how Ypsilanti can lead the way to a solar-powered Michigan. View the full report online at www.EnvironmentMichigan.org/reports