

The people have a right to clean air, pure water, and to the preservation of the natural, scenic, historic and esthetic values of the environment.



These words form part of Article 1, Section 27 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, a passage commonly known as the Environmental Rights Amendment.

It was cited in December 2013 by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court as the justices struck down portions of Act 13, the state's oil and gas law, and prompted Chief Justice Ronald Castille to comment on Pennsylvania's history of "... shortsighted exploitation of its bounteous environment."

At PennFuture, we are guided by these words in the work we do.

We work to preserve and protect our water, air, and land, and to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency as we strive to safeguard public health in the face of natural gas and other fossil fuel development. Our efforts are conducted through policy and legal channels and via outreach to the citizens of Pennsylvania. In 2013, these efforts were comprehensive and marked by a series of successes.

Pennsylvania's public natural resources are the common property of all the people, including generations yet to come.



Land

For much of 2013 and into 2014, we have been fighting to beat back proposed legislation that would take protection of the state's **threatened and endangered species** out of the hands of scientists and place it in the hands of bureaucrats doing the bidding of the natural gas and mining industries. After more than two years of advocacy, we finally saw creation of the **Philadelphia Land Bank** – a law that will streamline the city's vacant/blighted land acquisition and disposition processes – so these properties can be reused productively and sustainably. Back on the farm – literally – we represented York County members seeking relief from offensive odors and manure spreading by a **local hog farm**.

As trustee of these resources, the Commonwealth shall conserve and maintain them for the benefit of all the people.



Air

We are a member of the Breathe Project – an air-quality collaborative in southwestern Pennsylvania. One of the initiative's primary efforts in 2013 was to push forward the development, via legal review and technical comments, of a State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the Liberty/Clairton corridor, a geographic area with a legacy of industrial activity that has created some of the poorest air quality in the nation. *The fight for clean air is ongoing.*

- Working alongside Sustainable Pittsburgh, and on initiatives that include the 2030 challenge, we were able to foster green power purchasing – focusing specifically on renewable energy generated within Pennsylvania – in the name of improved air quality.
- We remain vigilant around the impacts of shale gas drilling on air quality and have challenged DEP permitting on compressor stations associated with drilling activity. Our comments on a proposed DEP regulation for drill well pads resulted in the closure of an ill-advised loophole.
- We continue to advocate for Pittsburgh's designation as a Green Power Community – like Philadelphia.

Climate change

Climate change is the lens through which we view much of our work. As Pennsylvania state lead for the federal **Climate Action Campaign**, we work to enhance efforts at the federal level to limit industrial carbon pollution, a potent contributor to climate change with harmful impacts that extend to human health issues such as asthma, lung, and heart disease. The Campaign is also pressing the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue strong standards to limit carbon pollution from both existing and not-yet-built power plants.

Renewable energy and energy efficiency

As chair of the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) **Climate Change Advisory Committee**, Christina Simeone, director of the PennFuture Energy Center spent nearly two years working toward a non-binding, honest, and scientifically rigorous state Climate Action Plan. *Once again, our Energy Center's work was varied and its accomplishments many.*

- We successfully defended the state's **Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard (AEPS)** from legislative and regulatory attacks by fossil fuel interests. This mandate requires gradually increasing percentages of consumer electricity to be generated from alternative sources like solar and wind.
- We continued advocacy for **Act 129, Pennsylvania's energy efficiency law** that compels the state's largest electric distribution companies to enact consumer efficiency and conservation plans.
- Our work on the Peoples Gas-Equitable Gas merger in southwestern Pennsylvania secured the **first energy efficiency and conservation plan for a gas company** in Pennsylvania as a condition of the merger.
- We intervened with the Public Utility Commission (PUC) on behalf of municipalities in the Duquesne Light service territory (southwestern Pennsylvania) to secure a rate schedule that reflects the lower energy cost of **LED street lights**, which use about half the electricity of traditional high pressure sodium (HPS) lights.
- Our **Build It Safe** initiative champions the update of Pennsylvania's building codes to remedy the state's broken code adoption process. Updated building codes protect the health and safety of citizens while maximizing energy efficiency.

Natural gas

In early 2013, we filed several Right-to-Know Law requests with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to obtain records pertaining to Anadarko Petroleum's plans for gas development on the Clarence Moore Lands in the Loyalsock State Forest. This extraordinary tract is home to the oft-trod Old Loggers Path hiking trail and Rock Run, which is often cited as the most beautiful stream in Pennsylvania. When we learned that extensive drilling negotiations were underway, the **Save the Loyalsock Coalition** was formed. Efforts have included public testimony, a private stakeholder meeting, legislative activity, action alerts, online petitions, media outreach, and a report on Anadarko's woeful track record of violations in Pennsylvania. To date, our efforts have staved off natural gas development of these valuable public lands.

In early 2014, we provided testimony at public hearings pertaining to proposed revisions to the state's **oil and gas law**. We followed that with an appeal on behalf of local residents challenging the location of several **shale gas wells** in a residentially zoned district of Fairfield Township, within 3,000 feet of nearly 125 individual residences.



We strongly deliberate each issue to ensure we are doing what is right for the environment, community and economy.





We are continually seeking engagement with the citizens of the Commonwealth as it is the people who are our best allies in the fight for protection of our natural resources. Our **social media channels** were expanded in 2013 to include six blogs, populated weekly on issues ranging from water and climate to renewable energy, and we are also active on Facebook and Twitter. We're out in the field at tabling events as well as presenting at meetings of small neighborhood and regional environmental groups. Renowned climate scientist Dr. Michael Mann headlined our **15th anniversary event** in Harrisburg in September.

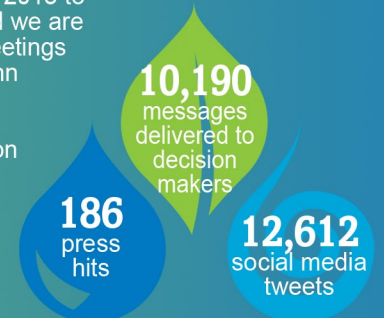
It is our privilege to serve you, the people, but we can't do it alone. **Please join us.** Sign up for our action alerts, volunteer, read our blogs, donate. Our collective victories will strengthen the environment and save special places for the benefit of all Pennsylvanians, including generations yet to come.

Respectfully,
Cindy Dunn, president and CEO
March 15, 2014

Water

We are state lead for the **Choose Clean Water Coalition**, a multi-state group whose primary goal is to protect and enhance the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay watershed. In a major victory for clean water and for the 17 million people who live in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, a **federal judge upheld Bay clean-up plans** championed by our coalition of public interest groups and rejected claims made by big agricultural interests and developers. The ruling affirmed that pollution limits established by the EPA are within the agency's authority and based on sound science. *Additional successes were achieved in the fight for clean drinking water.*

-  We proposed, and helped pass, Act 68 in July. The law allows local governments to create municipal authorities to tackle **stormwater management**.
-  Our lawyers were successful in **protecting and restoring Primrose Creek** in the aftermath of adverse impacts from operations at a nearby limestone quarry.
-  As a founding member and leader of the **Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed (CDRW)**, we held the *Accelerating Action* watershed forum in Philadelphia in October, playing host to hundreds of environmental professionals, government agency liaisons and water quality experts.
-  We are working to compel the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) to **regulate gas development more aggressively in its watershed** alongside a push to improve its water quality protection programs.



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Resources are precious. We use ours efficiently.

This is how monies were allocated to fund our work in 2013.

