

A new day for Pennsylvania

Annual Report 2015

With the election of Gov. Tom Wolf in November 2014, it's a new day for Pennsylvania when it comes to energy and the environment. Gov. Wolf pledged to address the new energy economy and make it work for the people of Pennsylvania. Already in 2015, key actions for which PennFuture has been advocating have been taken: the governor has reinstated the **moratorium on new drilling leases for public lands** and has proposed a **five percent severance tax on natural gas drilling operations**. We are cautiously optimistic and will continue to press for the strongest possible safeguards for our environment.

PennFuture submitted **26 policy recommendations** to the Wolf administration that will improve our environment and the economy; many of these actions are ones the governor can take or initiate in his first 100 days in office. We look forward to working with the new administration and the legislature on issues impacting our air, land, and water as we promote a clean energy economy.

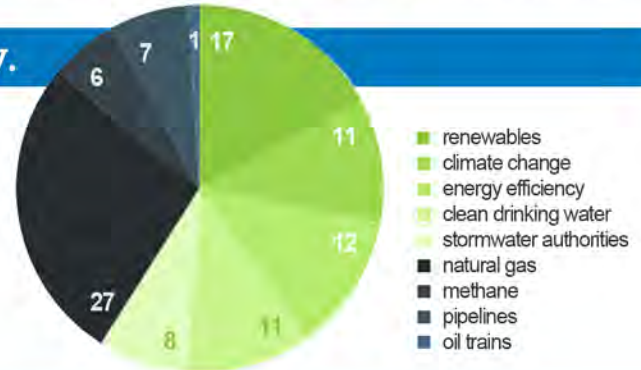


Moving toward a clean energy economy.

We're building a bridge away from fossil fuels and toward renewables.

Here's how we spent our time on this work in 2014.

Estimated percentages are based on unaudited figures as of June 2014.



Renewable energy and energy efficiency



We released the report, *Clean Energy Wins: A Policy Roadmap for Pennsylvania*, in 2014. The report offers a series of **policy recommendations** around energy efficiency, wind energy, and solar energy, with a particular focus on the benefits Pennsylvania could see in job creation and economic growth. We didn't stop there.

Through the PennSave program, we led a campaign showing schools and municipalities how to improve energy efficiency and guarantee that their **energy savings** will more than pay for any financing costs.

Our fourth annual **Pittsburgh Solar Tour** featured 20 homes and businesses that were visited by nearly 600 "solar tourists."

Our Black and Gold City Goes Green campaign provided Pittsburgh residents with nearly 400 energy efficiency kits – including **LED light bulbs**.

We continue to defend existing **net metering rules** that guarantee owners of solar panels will receive full retail value for excess clean energy generated.

We developed new outreach tools including engaging videos that show how easy it is to switch to **100 percent Pennsylvania-based renewable energy**.

Climate change

We are leading statewide efforts to get the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue a strong standard for **limiting carbon pollution from power plants**. In July 2014, we organized hundreds of participants to testify and rally at a two-day EPA hearing in Pittsburgh on the carbon standard. Equally, we're pushing the Commonwealth to comply with EPA's pollution reduction targets for Pennsylvania. We testified at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), held a rally in Harrisburg, and generated widespread media coverage on the issue.

We're not stopping at carbon pollution, however. Methane emissions from natural gas operations are a potent climate killer, which is why we asked Gov. Wolf to launch a rulemaking in his first 100 days in office to **directly regulate methane** in Pennsylvania. Seventy percent of Pennsylvanians support methane regulations – the time to act is now.



Water

PennFuture sued and reached a settlement with DEP over administration of its municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) program. Stormwater carries significant quantities of pollutants to our rivers and streams. The settlement is significant in that it will **improve how the state permits municipal stormwater discharges**. Our work was also instrumental in the enactment of Act 123 of 2014, which allows municipalities to form stormwater authorities. The work for clean drinking water and pristine rivers and streams continues.

As leaders of the Choose Clean Water Coalition, we led a delegation to Washington, D.C., where we successfully advocated for millions of dollars in federal funding to **improve and protect water quality** in the multi-state Chesapeake Bay watershed, which includes the Susquehanna Basin – more than half of Pennsylvania.

We're battling polluters to restore Clean Water Act protections to 2 million miles of streams and 20 million acres of wetlands nationwide, which will protect **drinking water sources** for 117 million Americans, including over 8 million Pennsylvanians.

Working with a coalition of environmental organizations, we pushed the **Susquehanna River Basin Commission** to take an aggressive role in regulating oil and gas development activities in the basin, and to perform a cumulative impacts analysis of such activities.

Natural gas

In March 2014, we prepared 46 pages of detailed comments – identifying numerous legal and practical problems – on proposed revisions to 25 Pa. Code **Chapter 78, DEP's main regulations for oil and gas operations**. The agency is revising those regulations, most of which are decades old, to implement Act 13, the state's oil and gas law. We also had legal wins to cheer.

PennFuture successfully represented families that opposed the location of a **shale gas well pad in the middle of their residential neighborhood** in Fairfield Township, Lycoming County. The township granted the company a conditional use permit, but on appeal the Court of Common Pleas overturned the issuance of the permit in part on the basis of the Supreme Court's decision in *Robinson Township*, which breathed new life into the Environmental Rights Amendment of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

We successfully contested a permit that **would have allowed expansion of a logging road to accommodate shale gas trucks** immediately adjacent to Frozen Run, a special protection water in the Loyalsock State Forest.

We successfully represented families in Mt. Pleasant Township, Washington County, who opposed the location of **shale gas well pads next to their K-12 school complex**. PennFuture opposed the pads on the basis that the township ordinance was unconstitutional under *Robinson Township*, and that locating the pads so close to the school would pose an unacceptable risk of harm to the children. The company withdrew the permits after several days of hearings, and we are now working with citizens in a re-zoning process.

Land

We launched a campaign to prevent the **Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission** from eliminating the Allegheny Tunnel in favor of an open cut through the top of Allegheny Mountain. A cut would destroy over 1,000 acres of beautiful forested land, conserved by the local Mountain Field and Stream Club since 1936. We are also part of a coalition seeking to **protect the Clarence Moore lands, a section of the Loyalsock State Forest**, from drilling. The Old Logger's Path and Rock Run traverse these lands and are among its environmental and recreational treasures.

Air

Through our work with the Air Collaborative in southwestern Pennsylvania, we partner with environmental, scientific and public health organizations to ensure the air in the region is clean and safe to breathe. Over the past year, the Collaborative's work focused on **cleaning up big polluters** as well as working to ensure that smaller sources of air toxics such as school buses don't put our children at risk. We submitted testimony to the state Environmental Quality Board on major source pollution controls in May 2014.

We hosted our quadrennial **Post-Election Forum** in December 2014 and heard Franklin & Marshall College pollster Dr. Terry Madonna's insights on what citizens of Pennsylvania want from their elected leaders on energy and the environment. Similarly, we seek engagement with members and supporters via our weekly blogazine, **Talk Back**, as well as multiple social media channels. As the convener of the **Next Great City Coalition** in Philadelphia, we hosted a Mayoral Candidates' Forum in March 2015, an event that prompted substantive dialogue around the Coalition's sustainability policy platform.

While 2015 promises to be a year of action on air, land and water in Pennsylvania, we can't do this work alone. **Please join us**. Sign up for our action alerts, volunteer, read our blogs, donate. We're honored to partner with you to preserve and protect Pennsylvania for this and future generations.

Thank you for your continued support,
John Norbeck, acting president and CEO
March 15, 2015

We're protecting over **20,000** unfragmented acres of forest in the Clarence Moore lands of the Loyalsock State Forest.

We're advocating for the Waters of the U.S. rule, which will preserve clean drinking water for **8,000,000** Pennsylvanians.

We're holding polluters accountable in Allegheny County to promote clean air for **1,200,000** residents.