



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

# A New Leaf

Building on  
past success  
through growth  
and transition

Leadership and  
Vision


PennFuture entered 2016 with a new mission, new leadership, and the seeds of a new brand to re-engage Pennsylvania. We're building on our past victories and laying the foundation for greater successes to come.

We've refocused on the **citizens** who comprise PennFuture. This is reflected in our outreach and communications efforts. By grouping our work into three focus areas—**climate & clean energy, environmental protection, and sustainable communities**—PennFuture is refining our priorities to have the greatest impact.



PennFuture revises its strategic plan to reflect the policy and climate reality

As the funding landscape changes, PennFuture is well-positioned to reenergize our members and redouble our legal and policy efforts to combat threats to our air, water, land, and wildlife.



**PennFuture is leading the transition to a clean energy economy in Pennsylvania and beyond. We are protecting our air, water and land, and empowering citizens to build sustainable communities for future generations.**

**A New Mission for  
a New PennFuture**



**As a young boy, I fished opening day of trout season on the Wissahickon,** the surprisingly pristine creek that winds through Chestnut Hill and into Fairmount Park in Philadelphia. In my early days on the “Wis” (as we called it) opening day began at 5 a.m. when it was still dark with just the faintest suggestion of light in the sky. My brother and I would arrive streamside at 3 a.m., claiming our favorite spot where the Bells Mills Bridge crossed the creek. My appreciation of the beautiful setting—the sound of riffles rushing and the sunrise warming the chill—set the stage for me to make environmental protection a lifelong priority.

Enter PennFuture. I discovered PennFuture 15 years ago and fell in love with the organization. Comprised of lawyers, outreach coordinators, and policy experts, the staff was gifted, smart, and dedicated to Pennsylvania’s environment in a way I had never before experienced. “Wow! I need to get involved,” I said. And I did. John Hanger, PennFuture’s founding president, asked me to join the board. Quickly accepting, I now had the opportunity to help on a larger scale. Some six years later, I was elected to board chair.

Now, threats to Pennsylvania’s environment and citizens’ health and wellbeing are enormous. Gas and oil drilling that goes unchecked; abandoned mines that need to be sealed; pesticides that drain into our waterways and pollute our streams, rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay; and climate change that puts our collective future at risk. For these and many other reasons, we continue to rely on the concentrated efforts of PennFuture’s dedicated staff, amazing coalitions of environmental activists throughout the state, and generous financial support of individual donors and foundations, which are now more important than ever.

As I retire as board chair, I think about the strength and capabilities of PennFuture now as compared to when I first joined the board many years ago. Have I, and other retiring board members, left the organization better than we found it? Isn’t that the whole idea? In an atmosphere of legislative non-support for environmental stewardship, are the leadership and staff of PennFuture stronger today?

The answer, in my view, is a resounding “yes!” Our president & CEO, Larry Schweiger, a prominent national environmental leader, works to leverage statewide resources and calls upon his network of colleagues throughout the country hoping to boost interest in Pennsylvania as an environmental swing state. Our staff is comprised of smart veterans unafraid to take on those who stand in the way of sensible environmental stewardship or flat-out break laws. And new staff, anxious to realize the vision of PennFuture, continue to invigorate us. Our board also boasts new members and new leadership. In total, “they’re on it like a hornet,” as a friend of mine likes to say!

I don’t fish the Wissahickon anymore, but now head up to the beautiful Pine Creek Valley in north central Pennsylvania. My brother is no longer with us, but I bring my son, nephews, and—perhaps, one day—I will bring my grandchildren. This last trip we saw an eagle and her eaglet perched high on a ridge overlooking the creek. This beautiful sighting reminds me why we need PennFuture and other dedicated groups that protect all of Pennsylvania’s natural resources.

Thank you for the work you do. And thank you for the privilege of allowing me to help the cause.

**David Lane, board chairperson**

**Legacy &  
Leadership**



**I grew up learning about the giants of the American conservation movement:** Gifford Pinchot, Rachel Carson, Theodore Roosevelt, John Muir, and George Bird Grinnell.

The concept of conservation has evolved over the years, but Grinnell's litmus that as stewards of the land we must consider "the greatest good for the greatest number, for the longest time" still holds true today.

With the recognition of climate challenges we face as a planet, we simply can no longer suggest that we "saved" some piece of real estate without saving the climate system that makes that land a treasure.

Climate change is the most significant threat to humankind--we're seeing the consequences now.

As we remember the legacy of the early conservationists, we also have a duty to revise our mission for a new day. Climate challenges present the backdrop for our efforts to do the "greatest good for the greatest number, for the longest time." This is guiding PennFuture's work as we think of the next generation.

As the organization evolves, we reflect on the champions of PennFuture who lead and shaped the organization throughout its nearly 20 years.

One such example is board president David Lane, whose passion for the work is infectious. His unwavering support for PennFuture as well as the state's environmental and climate future has guided the organization through a challenging political and funding landscape and times of transition. We simply cannot thank him enough for his leadership and support.

We also thank you, Pennsylvania's citizens, for your support of PennFuture. We can't do this without you.

Our efforts would not be as successful without the loyal support and dedication of our donors and volunteers. Your time, dollars, and efforts are critical to us continuing our energy and conservation work across the state. That coupled with vigilant protection of your constitutional rights to clean air, water, and land now and for future generations. Thank you!

**Larry J. Schweiger, President and CEO**



**Legacy &  
Leadership** CONTINUED

## **Program Areas**

- **CLIMATE & CLEAN ENERGY**
  - Advancing climate policy
  - Promoting clean energy
  - Fighting dirty energy
- **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**
  - Ensuring clean water
  - Improving air quality
  - Protecting public lands & wildlife
- **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**
  - Ensuring a just transition
  - Protecting public health & safety
  - Preserving quality of life
  - Assisting communities & fostering sustainable development

## **Audiences**

- **Members, Donors, and Constituents**
- **Pennsylvania Citizens and Communities**
- **Policymakers and Staff**
- **Partner Organizations**

## **Activities**

- **Legal**
  - Fighting for public health & the environment
- **Policy**
  - Paving the way for a clean energy economy
- **Outreach**
  - Empowering Pennsylvania's citizens & communities

**Despite challenges,  
we believe there is  
reason to be  
optimistic and we  
look forward to the  
next 20 years.**



**Program Areas,  
Activities, & Audiences**

## **Advancing Climate Policy**

Upon release of the federal **Clean Power Plan** in August 2015, the first-ever limit on carbon pollution from power plants, PennFuture was quick to host a telephone press conference. We followed it with a robust effort to educate and mobilize constituents and policy leaders on the Clean Power Plan through a series of advocacy trainings, a legislative briefing, action alerts, fact sheets, and by increasing attendance at state regional listening sessions and federal hearings. PennFuture held state and federal lawmakers accountable on climate legislation by activating organizations and advocates outside the environmental space. Through this effort, faith leaders, public health advocates, and business voices have independently and collectively garnered support for the Clean Power Plan. Since then, PennFuture has battled against legislative attacks and stall tactics designed to derail a state implementation plan, but we argue that a one-size-fits-all federal plan is not the right choice for Pennsylvania.

Also in August, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its proposed rule to address methane pollution from new and modified sources in the oil and gas sector, which is the largest emitter of this pollution. Methane is a highly potent greenhouse gas--84 times as powerful as carbon dioxide during the first 20 years of its release into the atmosphere--and a significant contributor to climate change. PennFuture worked with a coalition of environmental organizations and public health advocates to push for strong national as well as **best-in-the-nation state standards on both new and existing sources of methane pollution**. Our coalition communicated the public health and climate consequences of this harmful pollution in local media and turned out attendees and testifiers at rallies and hearings. In January 2016, we applauded Gov. Tom Wolf's proposed four-point plan to cut methane pollution from new and existing oil and gas operations in Pennsylvania.

Coalition building is a hallmark of PennFuture's work and we've continued to lead and participate in regional coalitions, like **Next Great City** in Philadelphia and **Black and Gold City Goes Green** in Pittsburgh, to advocate for cost-effective policies that boost environmental protection, strengthen neighborhoods, and grow economic competitiveness.

# **Climate & Clean Energy**

## **Promoting Clean Energy**

The annual **Pittsburgh Solar Tour** is one of PennFuture's signature events to educate and engage hundreds of constituents about solar. The October event includes a self-guided tour of local homes and businesses utilizing solar power. PennFuture also challenges local municipal ordinances that hamper solar development.

Through the efforts of the PennFuture Energy Center we **submitted numerous comments and testified** to the state DEP and several legislative committees **on energy efficiency and renewables**, including phase III of Act 129 and net metering. PennFuture is fighting back against an effort by the Public Utility Commission to allow for additional fees and restrictions on solar owners that would weaken net metering in the state. We made a strong push in Harrisburg for bills that increase the use of clean energy and energy efficiency. Additionally, PennFuture's expert staff and leaders present information to citizens across the state on why we need to invest in clean energy now and the benefits of renewables and energy efficiency.

## **Fighting Dirty Energy**

PennFuture launched a campaign to promote a **severance tax on natural gas** through a series of constituent education initiatives, which included a series of fact sheets, social media and blog posts, and action alerts that resulted in many calls to legislative offices.

Recognizing that the transport of fossil fuels presents significant environmental and public health risks, PennFuture accepted one of only a few seats for environmental organizations on Gov. Tom Wolf's **Pipeline Infrastructure Task Force**. We advocated for increased protections for area waterways while supporting federal legislation to toughen regulations on oil trains, which run through communities and metro areas across the state.

PennFuture also waged a major policy fight to **stop legislative attacks on updated oil and gas regulations (Chapter 78 and 78a)**. During the past five years, these revisions were the subject of more than 28,000 comments and numerous public hearings. This outsized public participation is one indication of how important these regulations are to improving public health and the environment. We celebrated when the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) committee voted to uphold the updates. PennFuture mobilized as one of only a few environmental organizations to directly contact legislators and sound the alarm when the General Assembly tried to pass obstructionist bills. Our fight continues.

**Climate &  
Clean Energy** CONTINUED

## **Ensuring Clean Water**

PennFuture led and participated in numerous coalitions to maximize our effectiveness, including serving as the state lead for the **Choose Clean Water Coalition** (CCWC) and the **Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed** (CDRW).

Flowing through New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland, the Susquehanna provides half of the freshwater to the **Chesapeake Bay** and Pennsylvania has a major role to play in cleaning up both the river and the bay. PennFuture supports the **multiagency "reboot" strategy** and is working to make sure clean water advocates voice the need for support and funding to the farmers and county conservation districts. We also filed a brief supporting the EPA's **Chesapeake Clean Water Blueprint** that was recently upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

PennFuture is launching a **PA Clean Rivers to Bay campaign**, which includes four elements: holding state agencies accountable for their obligations to clean up our waters; educating legislators about the commonwealth's polluted waters as well as state and federal funding issues; working with conservation and agricultural organizations to reduce pollution from agricultural operations; and communications and information sharing with the public.

PennFuture supports **House Bill 48**, a bipartisan bill which would implement national **well water standards** in Pennsylvania for the first time. Our efforts include a letter to legislators and a state-wide opinion piece that ran in nine newspapers, statewide.

PennFuture **settled an important legal case with the City of Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority**. Future development projects receiving substantial public funds must now use green infrastructure and low-impact management practices to handle stormwater and prevent off-site discharges that commonly often carry pollution to nearby streams and rivers.

In **Confluence**, we settled with the borough's Municipal Authority to remove polluted discharge from a portion of the Youghiogheny River, which runs through Ohiopyle State Park and is known for its high water quality and trout fishing habitat.

# **Environmental Protection**



## **Improving Air Quality**

In January 2016, **PennFuture issued a notice of intent to sue U.S. Steel** after discovering approximately 67,000 air emission violations at Clairton Coke Works over a three and a half year period. Unfortunately, as the deadline approached, U.S. Steel and the Allegheny County Health Department settled without including PennFuture in the negotiations. We produced a documentary, distributed through social media, which shows the human side of unchecked air pollution to generate public support. As PennFuture plans our next action, we'll continue to work with residents, organizations, and health advocates on air quality concerns.

## **Protecting Public Lands & Wildlife**

PennFuture founded the **Save the Loyalsock Coalition**, made up of more than 20 organizations representing over 100,000 Pennsylvanians. The coalition works to prevent gas development in the sensitive 25,000 acre Clarence Moore Lands of the Loyalsock State Forest in Lycoming County.

PennFuture settled with Anadarko E&P Onshore LLC over stormwater plans we challenged as inadequate. Our victory requires DEP to improve its permitting process and protects the high water quality of Frozen Run, which is adjacent to Anadarko's access road within the Loyalsock State Forest.

Fighting the destruction of valuable wildlife habitat, species, and watersheds, PennFuture is challenging the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission's plans to abandon the **Allegheny Tunnel** and cut through the Allegheny Mountain. We are currently seeking document access granted by the state's Office of Open Records.

**Environmental**  
**Protection** CONTINUED

## **Ensuring a Just Transition**

As renewables reach grid parity with fossil fuel energy sources and renewables and energy efficiency increases, we want to make sure that no workers are left behind. We are strengthening our partnerships and growing our environmental justice work to become nimble and prepared to ensure a just transition for fossil-fuel dependent communities.

We also are working to forge relationships and make the case for why Pennsylvania can and must lead on clean energy jobs.

## **Protecting Public Health & Safety**

Public health and safety are at the heart of what we do. From reviewing permits and mounting legal challenges against polluters to advocating for science-based, environmentally sound legislation at the local, state, and federal level, PennFuture not only protects our air, water, land, and wildlife. We protect people and communities.

## **Preserving Quality of Life**

PennFuture recognizes regional champions for their work in their community and across the state on environmental and climate issues. In partnership with National Wildlife Federation, PennFuture presented Sister Pat Lupo of Erie with its annual **Celebrating Women in Conservation Award**.

Through our legal, policy, and advocacy efforts, PennFuture continues to ensure that parks, trails, streams, and other natural treasures are preserved and protected for you and future generations to enjoy.

## **Assisting Communities & Fostering Sustainable Development**

Pennsylvania is, in large part, still operating under 2009 building codes, which fail to reflect public safety improvements and energy efficiency opportunities. PennFuture supports legislation to fix the state's broken system for updating building codes.

In the wake of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court's *Robinson Township* decision, PennFuture has and will continue to review local zoning laws and file challenges when necessary to protect the environment and public health.

# **Sustainable Communities**

## Statement of Activities

July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015

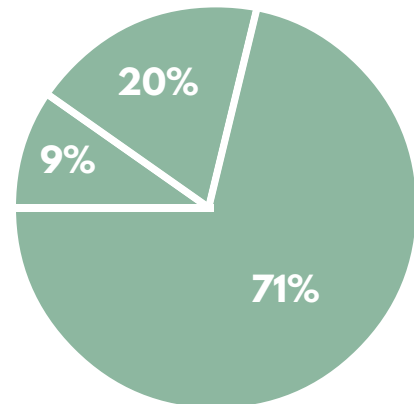
<b>TOTAL REVENUE &amp; SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$2,627,231</b>
<b>FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES</b>	
Programs and Services	\$2,203,111
Management and General	\$624,194
Fundraising	\$261,461
<b>TOTAL FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$3,088,766</b>
<b>DEFICIT OF REVENUE &amp; SUPPORT OVER FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>(\$461,535)</b>

## Statement of Financial Position

June 30, 2015

<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$544,532</b>
<b>NONCURRENT ASSETS</b>	
<b>TOTAL NONCURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$2,204,201</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$2,748,733</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$250,906</b>
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$2,497,827</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$2,748,733</b>

## FY 2014-15 EXPENSES



**71%** Programs & Services  
**20%** Management & General  
**9%** Fundraising

**PennFuture is adapting to a changing funding landscape by diversifying its funding streams, which will result in balanced budgets in the future.**

While legal and policy work is at the heart of PennFuture's efforts, we know that we need to make investments in building citizen advocacy and engagement to have maximum impact. This—along with our renewed focus on clean energy, clean air, and clean water for all Pennsylvanians—positions us for maximum relevancy and effectiveness, and enables us to remain **the state's premier advocate advancing a transition to a clean energy economy.** Utilizing new communications resources, smart business infrastructure and systems, and a focus on relationship building with our donors, **PennFuture is well positioned for financial stability and calculated growth.**

# Annual Financials FY 2014-2015

## **STAFF**

**Larry J. Schweiger**, president and CEO

**Jacquelyn Bonomo**, vice-president and COO

**Rob Altenburg**, director, Energy Center

**Jay Andrews**, director of outreach

**Alice Baker**, staff attorney

**Susan Chopp**, information and resource manager

**Zakia Elliott**, southeast PA outreach coordinator

**Lauren Fraley**, director of communications

**Michael Helbing**, staff attorney

**George Jugovic, Jr.**, chief counsel

**Jennifer Quinn**, central PA outreach coordinator

**Annie Regan**, western PA outreach coordinator

**Matt Stepp**, director of policy

**Kurt J. Weist**, senior attorney

**Susanne Whitehead**, director of donor relations

**Ellen Zeph**, grants administrator

## **OFFICES**

**Central:** 610 North Third Street, Harrisburg, PA 17101 • 717-214-7920

**Northeast:** 8 West Market Street, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701 • 570-208-1757

**Southeast:** 1429 Walnut Street, Suite 400, Philadelphia, PA 19102 • 215-545-9637

**Western:** 200 First Avenue, Suite 200, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 • 412-456-2780

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**David A. Lane**, chairperson  
Philadelphia

**Char Magaro**, vice-chairperson  
Enola

**John R. Detweiler**, treasurer  
Camp Hill

**Georgia Berner**  
New Castle

**Tim Fulton**  
West Manchester

**Dr. James E. Jones**  
New Cumberland

**Brian Lang**  
Charleroi

**Thomas B. Schmidt, III**  
Harrisburg

**Bonnie Smith**  
Thornhurst

