Your Winter Report

Credit: Junel/Shutterstock

Progress made on campaign to save bees

Your support gives bees a fighting chance

The repercussions of a dying bee population impact our food chain immensely—no other animal species plays a more important role in pollinating the fruits and vegetables we take for granted on a daily basis.

Yet for too long, we've been allowing the use of too many bee-killing pesticides on our farms and fields.

In order to "save" our farms and food from pests, we've risked destroying the bees that make our farms and food possible. How long are we willing to keep taking that risk? Especially when we rely on bees for so much of our food and more bee species are facing extinction?

You can help ban toxic pesticides

Our citizen outreach staff has spoken with more than 833,000 people from Washington state to Washington, D.C., mobilizing more than 330,000 supporters to call on the Environmental Protection Agency to ban the worst bee-killing pesticides.

And we've made progress worth celebrating! Several states have taken action to limit the use of neonicotinoids, or neonics, one of the main chemical threats to bees.

In Maryland, the Pollinator Protection Act limits the use of neonics to those that have been trained to use the pesticide; and last fall Minnesota announced plans to require growers who want to apply neonics to their crops or plants to provide a "verification of need" to the Department of Agriculture before doing so.

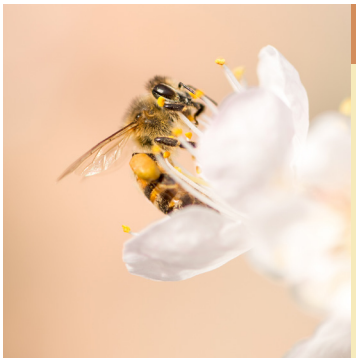
Credit: Jill Hatzai

▲ *Last November, Environment America joined coalition partners to deliver 120,000 public comments from supporters like you to the Dept. of the Interior in support of listing the rusty patched bumble bee as an endangered species.*

The next step for bee conservation

Connecticut, Oregon and other states are also taking important steps, but at the end of the day, we need the EPA to act in order to ensure we aren't killing off bees with unnecessary pesticides. You can help make this a reality with your continued support of Environment Virginia.

You also may have seen the news that seven bee species were added to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's endangered species list for the first time ever. This is just one more sign that we're running out of time to ban bee-killing pesticides and save the bees from extinction.



Credit: bbernard/Shutterstock

take action

We need your help to protect the bees. Take action online to urge the EPA to ban neonics:

www.EnvironmentVirginia.org

◀ *We rely on bees to pollinate most of the food we take for granted every day—from almonds to apples to coffee.*

Credit: Staff

You make the difference

The 2016 election results offer more evidence, as if we needed it, of our divided politics.

But Americans still breathe the same air. We still drink the same water and eat the same foods. We still love the same mountains, rivers, parks, beaches and other special places.

When faced with challenges to our environment, our decisions and actions should be guided by our shared values, our common sense and the best advice our scientists have to offer us. These aren't blue-state principles or red-state principles. They're American principles, shared by tens of millions of people.

In the weeks and months to come, your action and support will be critically important. And we are more grateful than ever for both. Thanks, as always, for making all of this vital work possible.

Sarah Bucci
Campaign Director

Your Impact

A conservation legacy we can all be proud of

Over his presidency, President Obama built up a robust conservation legacy, designating new national monuments and protecting special places across the nation.

We're proud to have supported the president in these efforts by mobilizing members and supporters to stand up for their favorite natural places, and calling for the protection of national and state parks from threats like mining and drilling. And we couldn't have done any of this without the support of members like you.

Last August, on the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, President Obama topped off his legacy by creating the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument to protect more than 87,000 acres in Maine. With your support, we also called on the president to protect the unique natural and cultural heritage of the Grand Canyon from uranium mining. In the new year, thanks to your support, we'll continue standing up for wilderness areas and the range of species living there.

A first for wind, growth for solar

In the past, dirty air and water was the price we were told we must pay for progress. Today, more and more of our country is refusing to pay that price—it's unwise, unfair to future generations, and thanks to renewable power, unnecessary.

The Block Island Wind Farm in Rhode Island is a sign that America is finally getting serious about one of the most abundant renewable sources of energy: offshore wind. And as an Environment Virginia Research & Policy Center report released in October, "Shining Rewards," shows, enough solar electric capacity had been installed around the country through September 2016 to power more than 6 million homes.

We'll continue supporting strong limits on carbon pollution and stronger wind and solar power policies. With your support of our work, you can be sure that you're making a difference in the climate movement.

You should carefully consider the Funds' investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing. To obtain a Prospectus that contains this and other information about the Funds, please email info@greencentury.com, call 1-800-93-GREEN, or visit www.GreenCentury.com. Please read the Prospectus carefully before investing. The Green Century Funds are distributed by UMB Distribution Services, LLC. 11/13.

Credit: Deepwater Wind

▲ *Thanks in part to years of demand for climate solutions from our members and supporters, we celebrated our nation's first offshore wind farm off the Rhode Island coast last summer!*

Fracking threatens our vulnerable populations

Credit: Meredithw via Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 3.0

American society aspires to protect children, the sick and the elderly. With fracking, we've sunk to putting vulnerable populations at risk instead of making the wholesale shift to conservation and renewable energy.

In nine of the most heavily drilled states—Arkansas, California, Colorado, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and West Virginia—oil and gas companies have drilled at least 160,000 fracked wells since 2005.

An Environment Virginia Research & Policy Center report released in October, "Dangerous and Close," reveals that there are 1,947 child care facilities, 1,376 schools, 236 nursing care providers and 103 hospitals within a one-mile radius of fracked wells in those nine states.

More than 650,000 children at risk

One of the most shocking findings from the report is that more than 650,000 kindergarten through twelfth grade children attend school within one mile of a fracked well—within two miles, that number is more than 1.4 million. This is simply inexcusable, especially considering that children's developing respiratory, immune and nervous systems are more susceptible to damage from toxic chemicals than adults.

And it's not just toxic chemicals; fracking creates a range of threats to public health and safety. These include explosions at well sites; the potential for spills and well failures that can contaminate drinking water; soot and smog pollution that reduces lung function among healthy people, triggers asthma attacks, and has been linked to increases in school absences; and much more.

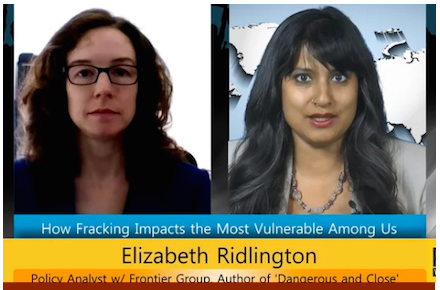
Something this dangerous has no place in our country. The fact that it's happening so close to our most vulnerable populations makes it clear that we need to ban fracking altogether.

You can help ban fracking

Until fracking ends, state and federal officials should take action to protect public health and the environment from the impacts of fracking. Existing fracked wells should be closed, and the federal government should close loopholes that exempt the fracking industry from key elements of our best environmental laws.

At the same time, all levels of government should act to accelerate our transition to renewable energy, including investments in energy efficiency and increasing development of clean, renewable energy sources. By supporting Environment Virginia Research & Policy Center, you're standing with members and supporters across the country in calling for a 100 percent renewable energy future.

The legacy of hydrocarbon extraction and the rapid spread of fracking across the U.S. over the last decade have caused widespread harm to our environment and our health. By limiting fracking and ensuring that all oil and gas production is tightly regulated, the nation can take the first steps toward healing the damage.



Credit: Rising Up with Sonali

Explore more online

▲ *Frontier Group Policy Analyst Elizabeth Ridlington, coauthor of Environment America Research & Policy Center's "Dangerous and Close" report, explores the report's conclusions on Pacifica TV in October. Read the full report at:*

www.EnvironmentVirginiaCenter.org

Dangerous & Close

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33 S 13th St., 3rd Fl., Ste. B
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(804) 716-7032

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ENVIRONMENT VIRGINIA
Clean air. Clean water. Open space.

Your Winter Report

VOLUME 8 | NO. 1 | 2017

Environment Virginia

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.

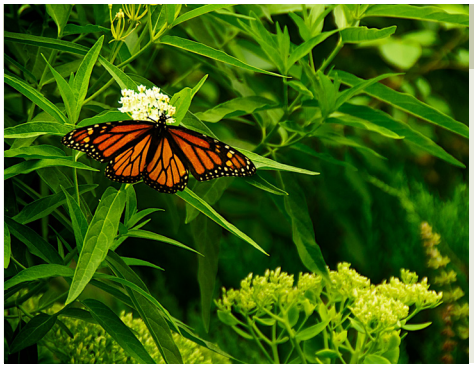
That's the idea behind Environment Virginia, Inc., a project of Environment America, Inc. We focus exclusively on protecting Virginia's air, water and open spaces. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

Go the extra mile for the monarch

Last fall, monarch butterflies made their amazing 3,000-mile winter migration. Unfortunately, in recent years, monarch populations have decreased by 90 percent since their peak in the mid-90s. To make sure this migration won't be one of their last, we all need to go the extra mile for these beautiful creatures.

One cause of this decline is the destruction of milkweed, the monarchs' habitat and main food source, due to increases in the use of toxic herbicides like Roundup. To protect monarchs from this chemical threat, Environment Virginia is calling on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list them as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act—a strategy that has a 99 percent success rate.

We've had great success with the campaign so far-with more than 30,000 people joining us in taking action online and reaching more than 400,000 people on Facebook—and we've only just begun. If we build enough public support, we can give the monarchs a fighting chance.



Credit: bark via Flickr, CC BY 2.0

Support our efforts

Join the million monarch migration: www.savethemonarch.org

Donate online at: www.EnvironmentVirginia.org

Help us spread the word about the monarch's decline so we can give this beautiful creature a fighting chance.

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