



Fall Report

Lawmakers keep fracking moratorium

Our supporters rise to the occasion in the 11th hour

Backing down from earlier versions of a sweeping measure on oil and gas extraction in North Carolina, the N.C. General Assembly voted in July to retain the state's moratorium on fracking, the controversial form of gas drilling that has long been prohibited in the state.

Fracking, short for "hydraulic fracturing," is the process by which large volumes of water, sand and toxic chemicals are injected into horizontal wells at high pressure, in order to extract shale gas. A July poll showed that a majority of North Carolinians oppose allowing the practice.

Hours after lawmakers voted to keep the moratorium, the governor teamed up with the pro-fracking Senate leadership to lobby House members to speed up fracking permits as part of an unrelated bill.

100 calls in 24 hours

Environment North Carolina supporters rose to the 11th-hour challenge, with more than 100 calling N.C. House Speaker Thom Tillis in less than 24 hours to urge the speaker and the rest of his house colleagues not to back down.

N.C. House members stood their ground, and the bill that lifted the moratorium did not receive a vote before lawmakers adjourned their 2013 session.

"Kudos to House members for listening to their constituents, and not allowing these last minute end-runs around the legislative process," said Elizabeth Ouzts, state director.



▲ Fracking wastewater containment pond in Pennsylvania

When S.B. 76 cleared the Senate in February, it lifted the state's moratorium and contained a host of other incentives for oil and gas companies, including allowing the injection of toxic chemical waste underground and prohibiting local governments from taxing energy developers.

Environment North Carolina credited a rare alliance of House Democrats and a number of Republicans, led by Reps. Mike Stone and Jamie Boles, for retaining the

moratorium and preventing the injection of toxic wastewater underground in the final version of S.B. 76.

"Lawmakers have lived up to their promise not to consider fracking until rules have been proposed, and that's great," said Ouzts. "Next, we hope state leaders will see that the only way to fulfill their promise to protect our water and our air is to make our fracking moratorium permanent."



take action

To learn more about the dangers of fracking and to take action to make the moratorium permanent visit www.EnvironmentNorthCarolina.org

◀ Leah Catotti petitioning against fracking at June's health and environmental justice themed Moral Monday



To our members

If you just joined us this summer to help push forward our Clean Farms campaign, or if you've been with us over the years, thank you for all your support—it couldn't have come at a more important time.

The N.C. General Assembly leadership, backed by big developers and polluters, have launched an assault on the places we love and the environmental values we share. In some cases, your support has helped us push back against the very worst of these ideas. Our renewable law remains in place. Despite an extraordinary, last-minute lobbying attempt by Gov. Pat McCrory himself, lawmakers retained our moratorium on fracking.

This fall, I'm thankful to have you at my side to keep defending our state against these attacks, while pushing forward new solutions for combating global warming and promoting local, sustainable farms.

Thanks,

Elizabeth Ouzts
State Director

Recent action

General Assembly fails Jordan Lake

Pollution will increase into Jordan Lake, a major source of drinking water for the Triangle area, under two bills adopted by the General Assembly in the waning hours of their 2013 session.

"The General Assembly put the interests of big developers over the public's water," said Elizabeth Ouzts, state director for Environment North Carolina.

Development upstream of Jordan Lake is a major cause of pollution that has caused the reservoir to fail basic water quality standards since 1997. Lawmakers made the problem worse by delaying a 2009 law that required pollution reductions of up to 35 percent. In a separate bill, the legislature voted to require the City of Durham to provide water services to a controversial development next to the lake. The City Council had twice voted against the 751 South project.

Conservation budget a mixed bag

The budget adopted by lawmakers in July was a mixed bag for conservation, slightly increasing the funds available for preserving lands along the Blue Ridge Parkway, but raiding important dedicated streams of revenue for our state parks and natural areas.

Last year, Environment North Carolina and the Land for Tomorrow Coalition identified nearly 400,000 acres of stream buffers, trails, farmland, and wildlife areas along the Parkway and across the state that need preserving. The state has programs to buy up and protect these areas, but lawmakers have cut these funds by more than 85 percent over the last three years.

In addition to beginning to reverse this trend, House and Senate budget writers, led by Sen. Harry Brown and Rep. Chuck McGrady, streamlined the Clean Water Fund and Parks Fund to increase the focus on conservation, and rejected attempts to cap land acquisition programs.

The climate is changing –
are your investments?

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▲ Jordan Lake



DOENNEL

Goal: 700,000 solar roofs in N.C. by 2030

Solar power has increased exponentially in North Carolina in the last several years. In fact, our state ranked fifth nationally for solar power installations in 2012 and is expected to move up to fourth place by the end of 2013.

Our explosive growth in solar power didn't just reduce our dependence on dirty fossil fuels. It has also marked a bright spot in our economy. Since 2007, solar energy, energy conservation, and other green energy technologies created more than 20,000 job years and reduced government energy use, saving taxpayer dollars.

"The growth of solar in N.C. has been unprecedented," said Dave Rogers, field director with Environment North Carolina. "It's been benefiting our economy and environment for some time and we know there's now a foundation for more to be done."

10 million metric tons of pollution

With solar panels on 700,000 roofs across the state by 2030, we could derive 14 percent of our energy from solar power.

That would prevent 10 million metric tons of global warming-causing carbon dioxide pollution—the same amount as produced by 680,000 cars and trucks in a year—and create more than 28,000 jobs.

Growing solar since 1977

North Carolina's surge in solar installations was no accident. Since 1977, the state has offered some of the nations most generous tax incentives for investments in renewable energy. In 2007, North Carolina became the first state in the Southeast to require a certain percentage of its power come from solar, wind, and other forms of clean energy.

By increasing solar requirements, continuing our solar incentives, and allowing industries, besides just Duke Energy, to sell solar power on a large scale, North Carolina leaders can continue the state's progress toward a clean energy future.

Don't go backwards

This year, a few powerful members in the N.C. General Assembly were determined to take the state backwards when it comes to clean energy and clean jobs, introducing laws to repeal the state's clean energy standard.

But clean energy businesses, farmers, and groups like Environment North Carolina pushed back. Thanks to that work and support from leaders in the General Assembly, including Reps. Tom Murry and Ruth Samuelson, lawmakers voted down Rep. Mike Hager's attempt to repeal our clean energy law in committee this summer.

"We obviously still have a long way to go until we realize our solar potential, but we have to keep moving forward to get there," said Rogers. "We'll do anything and everything that we have to in order to make sure that solar continues to provide jobs and clean energy to N.C."



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take action

▲ University of North Carolina at Charlotte student installing panels on model solar home

Tell your state legislators not to roll back N.C. solar: www.EnvironmentNorthCarolina.org



Daniel Borman

Obama tackles climate change, lays plans for future generations

On June 25, President Obama announced a climate plan that will set limits on carbon pollution from power plants, advance energy efficiency and increase the nation's commitment to renewable energy. In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, record drought and sea level rise, Environment North Carolina applauded this move.

"All of us who have felt the effects of global warming, or simply worried about what's in store for our kids, can take comfort in knowing that President Obama has put the nation on a path toward a cleaner, healthier and safer future," said Dave Rogers, field director.

In response to this threat, the president's plan contains several key components. It will:

- Limit carbon pollution from new and existing power plants.
- Invest in energy efficiency.
- Build more renewable energy.
- Support affected communities.
- Rebuild U.S. leadership internationally.

"Carbon pollution from power plants is a huge part of the global warming problem. President Obama acknowledged this and mapped out a plan for cleaning up this pollution," said Rogers. "We also know that this plan is just one important step in a multi-year effort, and that the proof of the plan's success will be in the pudding."

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Environment North Carolina

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Environment North Carolina

Our mission

We all want clean air, clean water and green 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 North Carolina. We focus exclusively on protecting North Carolina's air, water and green spaces. We speak out and take action at the local, state and national levels to improve the quality of our environment and our lives.

8,000 strong for clean, local farms

This summer, we began our campaign to support sustainable farms throughout North Carolina. We were driven by the idea that we should grow our food in ways that don't damage our environment, but preserve and protect it instead. Unfortunately, despite the fact that North Carolina has more farmers' markets and organic farms than any other state in the Southeast, the majority of our food still comes from polluting, out-of-state factory farms.

In just a few months, Environment North Carolina canvassers gathered more than 8,000 signatures and talked to more than 20,000 Tar Heels to build support for the campaign.

"Since we began, we've seen an outpouring of support from people across the state who want to bring more fresh, local, healthy food to restaurants, schools and families," said Liz Kazal, field associate. "It's clear that North Carolinians don't want food that comes from agribusinesses that pollute our air and water."



more inside

Lawmakers retain fracking moratorium; 700,000 solar roofs by 2030; General Assembly fails Jordan Lake, and more

◀ *Red barn at Warren Wilson College in the Swannanoa Valley outside Asheville, N.C.*