



ENVIRONMENT
MARYLAND

Clean air. Clean water. Open spaces.

2008 ANNUAL REPORT



From our staff



Brad Heavner
State Director



Tommy Landers
Policy Advocate



Mike Sherling
Policy Advocate



Anna Aurilio
Federal Legislative
Director

Dear Environment Maryland Members,

I will long remember 2008 as a tumultuous and historic year. The national election garnered more attention and excitement than any in recent memory. Voters across the country wanted change and elected Barack Obama and a more pro-environment Congress.

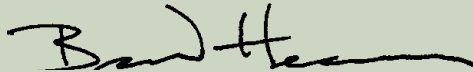
I was able to break away from Environment Maryland for a month to do election work, and other staff each spent two months on the election. We did work in Virginia, Ohio, Colorado, Iowa and New Hampshire. We also helped elect Frank Kratovil in Maryland's First Congressional District.

We have high expectations for these electoral victories to lead to real change in Washington. We look forward to capitalizing on new opportunities this year and beyond.

In recent years, we have spent the majority of our time helping to pass precedent-setting state level policies while spending smaller amounts of time fighting rollbacks of existing environmental protections at the national level. In Maryland, we were successful at passing the Healthy Air Act, the Clean Cars Act, the Stormwater Management Act and other groundbreaking new laws.

In the coming years, we plan to split our time more evenly between continuing to make Maryland a leader and winning real victories in Congress. We look forward to the challenge.

*Sincerely,
Brad Heavner*



State Director



A new energy future

Maryland becomes a national leader

Environment Maryland was successful in its multi-year effort to increase the state's renewable energy standard and create a major new statewide energy efficiency program. Gov. Martin O'Malley championed this legislation last year, and the General Assembly passed it overwhelmingly.

Maryland now has a model program requiring the utilities to manage sweeping energy efficiency programs. We are also auctioning emission permits to power plants and using the revenue to invest in building renovations and other ways to reduce our energy use. The state has a goal of helping to make improvements to every home in Maryland in the coming years.

We also helped pass legislation that increases the grants for solar panels on homes and businesses, and requires new government buildings to be energy efficient.



A successful energy program combines energy efficiency with new clean energy technologies, such as wind and solar.



Protecting our waterways

Preventing Chesapeake Bay pollution

Two major policies moved forward this year to protect the Chesapeake Bay from the impacts of development. The Critical Area Act, first passed in 1984, limited development within 1,000 feet of the bay but was riddled with loopholes and inadequate enforcement. This year, successful legislation made it more difficult for developers to get exceptions from the law to build along the shoreline.

Implementation of the Stormwater Management Act that was passed in 2007 is moving slowly but should ultimately yield one of the best programs in the country. It requires developers to take all reasonable steps to limit runoff pollution from pavement and rooftops. We've been asked to compromise a hundred ways during the regulatory process, but we are urging state officials to stand firm and follow the letter of the law.



Chesapeake Bay shoreline in Maryland

Report: Failures in limiting development



Unprotected Shoreline: Failures in Limiting Development along the Chesapeake and Coastal Bays

February 2008

Environment Maryland released a report chronicling case studies of developments that were allowed to proceed despite being inconsistent with the intent of the Critical Area Act which limits development along the shoreline of the Chesapeake Bay.

In some of the cases, developers were arbitrarily granted exemptions from the law. The GlenRiddle development in Worcester County includes 600 homes and two golf courses on environmentally sensitive land. The Villages at Swan Point in Charles County will destroy a blue heron nesting site and 203 acres of forested bird habitat.

In other cases, developers pressed courts to reinterpret the law. Construction at the Belvoir Farms subdivision near Crownsville got approval from the courts even when the Critical Area Commission attempted to deny permission.

Some controversial developments have been blocked only after tremendous public outcry and painful legal wrangling. A hunting lodge in Wicomico County will be torn down due to flagrant violations, but it took seven years in court and may take decades for environmental conditions to fully recover.

Global warming

Maryland's role in stopping global warming

The Maryland Commission on Climate Change released its final report last year, recommending ambitious but achievable cuts in the state's global warming pollution. The official "Maryland Climate Action Plan" puts the state on track to lead the nation in clean, efficient energy while spurring economic growth. Environment Maryland participated in the commission as a member of three technical workgroups. Our staff participated in more than 40 meetings and conference calls to help develop the report.

The report demonstrates the feasibility of aggressive reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, including reductions of at least 25 percent below 2006 levels by 2020. The commission recommended 42 separate policies to advance clean energy and smart transportation. Most notably, the report found that the policies as a whole will actually save Maryland money.



Brad Heavner, Environment Maryland State Director, addresses a crowd at a global warming rally.



Successful cap and trade auctions

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is a collaboration of ten Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states that have united to establish a program to limit carbon dioxide emissions from power plants. A key feature of the program is the pollution credit auction, which generates revenue for the state to promote clean energy. The program got off the ground last year with the first two auctions.

Environment Maryland has been deeply involved in creating this successful program. The auction is expected to generate \$70 million per year to fund energy efficiency retrofits in homes and commercial buildings, renewable energy projects, “green collar” workforce training and clean transportation initiatives.

State and federal pollution caps

In 2008, Congress took the issue of global warming more seriously than ever, and the Maryland General Assembly came close to passing a state-level pollution cap.

The U.S. Senate debated legislation to establish a national cap-and-trade program for global warming pollution. It did not come up for a vote on the Senate floor, but it was only through extensive lobbying and grassroots outreach that it advanced as far as it did. The momentum created will help its future prospects.

In Maryland, an emission cap passed the state Senate but failed in the House. In the fall, Environment Maryland took a lead role in the stakeholder process that resulted in Gov. Martin O’Malley making the emission cap bill part of his legislative package. A strong Maryland bill will help the state stay ahead of the curve on clean energy and push the federal government to act.



Protecting Maryland's treasured places

Fighting to stop needless sprawl

When local officials approved a 4,000-home subdivision right between a state forest and a wildlife refuge, local citizens challenged the decision in court but lost. The proposal was in direct conflict with the local growth plan, but the judge said that didn't matter. Environment Maryland then organized to help change the law that makes such a proposal possible.

A main focus of our grassroots outreach and coalition building in the past year has been centered around changing the law so the local growth plans are legally binding. More than 7,000 people expressed their support for this change to their state legislators.

In this time of reduced state revenue, Environment Maryland has also been engaged in the budget process to push the state to re-prioritize infrastructure funding so that we are not using taxpayer dollars to subsidize sprawling development.





Coal ash dumping

Still cleaning up

When a coal ash holding pond in Tennessee failed in December, it spilled more than a billion gallons of toxic sludge across 300 acres and multiple watersheds. Here in Maryland, we had already been living with our own coal ash disaster—a pit in Gambrills that had been operating for ten years without a liner and contaminating local drinking water wells with toxic metals.

Last year, Constellation Energy reached a \$54 million settlement with people living near the Anne Arundel County dumpsite. Environment Maryland provided data for that case.

We also worked closely with the Maryland Department of the Environment as it finalized an initial set of regulations covering coal ash disposal. Other aspects of coal ash dumping still need to be addressed, so we will be supporting legislation making sure any new dumpsite is safe for nearby residents and the environment.



Coal ash disposal pits are frequently unlined and can leach toxic chemicals into the ground.



Environment Maryland Supporters

Citizen support is the cornerstone of Environment Maryland and the Environment Maryland Research & Policy Center. Thousands of Maryland citizens supported Environment Maryland by making membership contributions in 2008. The members listed below were particularly generous in backing the organization's research and advocacy. Names that appear in italics denote Monthly Supporters. These members provide stability to the organization's resources through our monthly giving program.

Foundation support

The Environment Maryland Research & Policy Center is a 501(c)(3) organization, and conducts research and public education on emerging environmental issues. Contributions to the Environment Maryland Research & Policy Center are tax-deductible. To find out more, contact Brad Heavner at (410) 467-0439.

The Environment Maryland Research & Policy Center would like to thank the following foundations for supporting our work in 2008:

Abell Foundation • Clayton Baker Trust • Educational Foundation of America • Energy Foundation • Fund for Change • JDRV & ETR Fund • Keith Campbell Foundation for the Environment • Mertz Gilmore Foundation • Oak Foundation • Rauch Foundation • Town Creek Foundation, Inc. • Zanvyl & Isabelle Krieger Fund

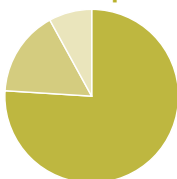
Planned giving

Growing a Greener Maryland. Environment Maryland gratefully accepts bequests and gifts of securities to support our work. Your gift will assure that we can continue to protect Maryland's air, water and open spaces for future generations. For more information, call 1-800-841-7299 or email Plannedgiving@EnvironmentMaryland.org.

Financial information

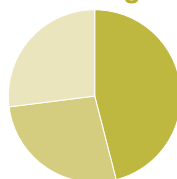
Charts reflect combined financial information for the environmental work conducted by Environment Maryland, the Environment Maryland Research & Policy Center and Environment Maryland's citizen outreach programs.

FY08 Expenses



- ◆ Program **76%**
- ◆ Fundraising **16%**
- ◆ Administrative **8%**

FY08 Programs



- ◆ Global Warming **46%**
- ◆ Land Preservation **27%**
- ◆ Chesapeake Bay **27%**

Photo Credits

Cover: Andrew Williams*; (From top left) P. 1: William Kazmierski*; P. 2 Poul E. Peterson*, Mes Solar LLC, P. 3: Mark plummer, Vegan StraightEdge**; P. 5: Staff; P. 7: Gary 718*, Bulls Eye Arts*; P. 8: Lauren Weinhold*, Sloba*; P. 9: JustASC*; Back:C. Kurt Holter*.

* Shutterstock.com, ** Creative Commons.



Environment Maryland
3121 St. Paul St., Suite 26
Baltimore, MD 21218-3857

Address service requested

Nonprofit
org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
BROCKTON, MA
Permit No. 430