



Annual Report

A recap of our work for our members in 2012



To our members

"We'll make sure that generation after generation of Arizonans get to create memories in the many amazing places of our state."



Dear Environment Arizona members,



Bernadette Del Chiaro
Regional Program
Director

I can't pinpoint the exact moment I fell in love with Arizona, but I know it happened sometime during my first trip to the Grand Canyon. We'd been driving most of the day, up through the Painted Desert, past the Vermilion Cliffs, and finally to our campsite, just as the sun was setting on the North Rim. That's a moment I know I will never forget.



Anna Aurillio
Federal Legislative
Director

I know many of you have had similar experiences basking in the incredible beauty of our state. And we want to preserve all the amazing places that leave us standing in awe and proud to call Arizona home. Whether it's keeping the Grand Canyon free from new uranium mining, making sure our state parks are open, or working to combat global warming by transitioning to cleaner sources of energy, we want to make sure that we have a cleaner, greener future.



Monica Flores
Citizen Outreach
Director

Together, we'll pave the way for all of us to live in a clean, healthy Arizona. Together, we'll make sure that generation after generation of Arizonans get to create memories in the many amazing places of our state. This is what keeps me going every day.

Thanks for supporting our work. I'm glad you're with us.


Bret Fanshaw

Fighting Global Warming

Weather headlines from 2012 featuring devastating drought, wildfires and heat-related deaths provided additional evidence that the impacts of global warming are moving even faster than previously predicted. Last year, with the help of our national federation, we collected 3 million comments to the Environmental Protection Agency to finalize the first-ever carbon pollution standards.

Historic action taken to reduce carbon pollution

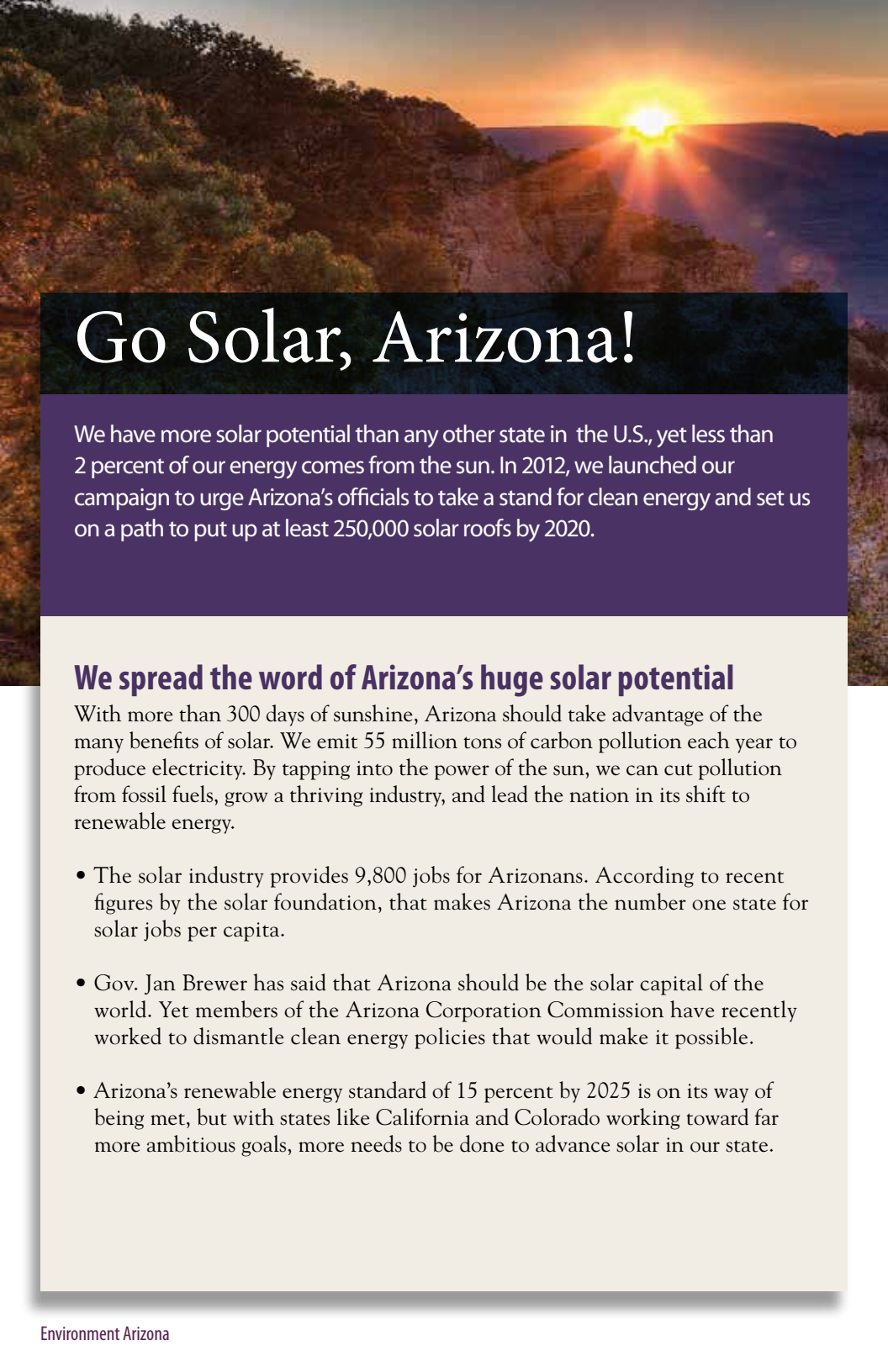
Carbon pollution spewing from power plants threatens Arizonans' health. Doctors, nurses and scientists warn that it fuels global warming, which triggers poor air quality, contributes to thousands of asthma attacks, heart attacks and other health problems. Scientists also warn that global warming is expected to lead to more devastating floods, heat waves and storms.

3 million comments collected

In June, a broad coalition of groups supporting clean air safeguards delivered many of the 3 million comments in support of the Environmental Protection Agency's carbon pollution standard, which limits industrial carbon pollution from new coal-fired power plants. The comments, totaling more than 3 million, is the largest number ever submitted to the EPA during a public comment period, and far exceeds the number of comments the EPA has ever received on any prior issue.



Above, The Navajo Generating Station is Arizona's single largest contributor to global warming pollution.



Go Solar, Arizona!

We have more solar potential than any other state in the U.S., yet less than 2 percent of our energy comes from the sun. In 2012, we launched our campaign to urge Arizona's officials to take a stand for clean energy and set us on a path to put up at least 250,000 solar roofs by 2020.

We spread the word of Arizona's huge solar potential

With more than 300 days of sunshine, Arizona should take advantage of the many benefits of solar. We emit 55 million tons of carbon pollution each year to produce electricity. By tapping into the power of the sun, we can cut pollution from fossil fuels, grow a thriving industry, and lead the nation in its shift to renewable energy.

- The solar industry provides 9,800 jobs for Arizonans. According to recent figures by the solar foundation, that makes Arizona the number one state for solar jobs per capita.
- Gov. Jan Brewer has said that Arizona should be the solar capital of the world. Yet members of the Arizona Corporation Commission have recently worked to dismantle clean energy policies that would make it possible.
- Arizona's renewable energy standard of 15 percent by 2025 is on its way of being met, but with states like California and Colorado working toward far more ambitious goals, more needs to be done to advance solar in our state.

Goal set: Quarter million solar roofs by 2020

If Arizona has more solar potential than any other state in the nation, why are we getting so much of our energy from coal and gas, which pollute our air, threaten the health of our kids, and fuel global warming? We have put a plan in place to change that and see a quarter million solar roofs in Arizona by 2020.

- We've asked Arizona's decision makers to endorse our goal of 250,000 solar roofs and started working locally with cities to help reach this goal
- We've conducted research, highlighted the benefits of solar in the media, met with city councilors, mayors and legislators in Phoenix and advocated for clean energy policies at the Arizona Corporation Commission.
- Our staff have been knocking on thousands of doors to educate the public about the potential for rooftop solar power. We signed on nearly 50 local businesses and elected officials in support of our campaign for 250,000 solar roofs and pushed for action by Tucson city officials.



Left, A rooftop solar installation on a home in Phoenix. Right, Environment Arizona Field Associate Katie Radosovic spoke at a press event in front of the Arizona Corporation Commission to oppose drastic cuts to solar.

Wind Works for Arizona

Last year, Hurricane Sandy and its aftermath and the overall rise in extreme weather across our state prompted more Arizonans to call for action to invest in all forms of clean energy and tackle global warming. So in response, Environment Arizona got to work encouraging the use of Arizona's wind power potential.

We helped renew critical wind tax credits

We know how much wind power the northern part of the state can and should produce, and so throughout 2012, we fought alongside our national federation to drum up support for this clean energy. When critical tax credits for wind power were set to expire at the end of the year as part of the fiscal cliff, we jumped into action producing research and contacting our leaders.

In November, we released a report, "Wind Power for a Cleaner America" showing that wind energy in Arizona prevents as much global warming pollution as taking 28,000 cars off the road each year.

Our research also showed that if wind development continues at a pace comparable to that of recent years through 2016, Arizona would reduce global warming pollution by as much as taking an additional 47,000 cars off the road. It would also save enough water to meet the needs of an additional 1,800 Arizonans.



Worker installs a wind turbine



Save Oak Flat

Just past the Superstition Mountains and 60 miles east of Phoenix, a beautiful stretch known as Oak Flat could become the site of the nation's largest copper mining operation. But in 2012, Environment Arizona stepped into the fight with full force, contacting decision makers, writing letters to the editor, and reaching out to citizens across the state to save this incredible place.

We helped protect Oak Flat from mining

The plan, put forth by Rio Tinto and Resolution Copper, would create an underground copper mine a mile wide and a half-mile deep. This mine has the potential to significantly disturb the land and water near the city of Superior and disrupt sensitive areas for species like bears and bobcats, as well as sacred tribal land for Western Apache, Yavapai and other tribes.

Last year, Environment Arizona joined the Arizona Mining Reform Coalition—a group of dedicated conservation organizations—to strengthen opposition to the project. The mission of the coalition is to ensure mining is done responsibly, with net benefits to Arizona.

Oak Flat is currently protected as federal land, but a bill to exchange the land with the mining company passed the U.S. House of Representatives for the first time last year. We want to see Oak Flat protected from this threat and decision makers need to stand up for our special public lands.



Black bear cub. Wildlife would be at risk if Oak Flat is opened up to the copper industry.

Save Our State Parks

From Sedona's Red Rock to the Catalina Mountains, our parks make life better. They provide habitat for some of our most wondrous wildlife and keep the water we depend on clean. That's why when budget tricks in Phoenix threatened to close half our parks, we jumped into action and shined a spotlight on the need to preserve the best of Arizona.

Actions taken to stop the raiding of park funding

They may not enjoy the iconic status of a Grand Canyon or Yosemite, but our state and local parks enrich the daily lives of thousands of Arizonans. But for years, steep budget cuts have threatened the future of some of the most incredible places in Arizona. In the last four years, the Legislature has raided more than \$80 million from the parks' coffers—including admission fees collected at the parks' gates.

Call issued to keep the "best of Arizona" open for us all

Two years ago, Gov. Jan Brewer threatened to close two-thirds of Arizona's state parks and privatize others. Today, 16 parks are operating with help from local governments and nonprofits under temporary agreements that will soon expire. The state Legislature must solve this problem once and for all by creating a stable source of funding for our parks, so that they remain safe and open to the public, no matter what happens with the budget in Phoenix.

- We've gathered thousands of signatures on our petition to the Legislature to keep our parks open and protected. This is a huge accomplishment and plain and simple proof that Arizonans do not want their parks to close.
- We are pushing for the Legislature and Gov. Brewer to pass a bill ensuring that our parks can keep the money that they collect.



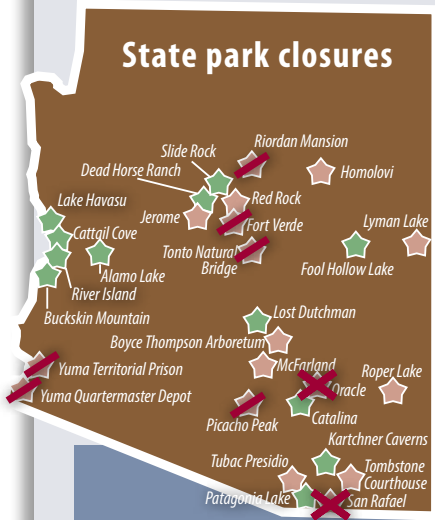
Thousands band together to find permanent solution

By knocking on doors, gathering thousands of petition signatures, and mobilizing public support across the state, we're urging our leaders to keep all of our state parks open by supporting viable public funding efforts—and reject any measure to sell or lease state parks.

Keeping our state parks open should be an economic priority for the Legislature. We can't afford to shut the gates: State parks bring in more than \$266 million in tourism revenue to local communities each year.

Furthermore, leasing our parks to private owners could threaten the integrity, safety and longevity of the state park system. Revenue made on public lands should go to the public, not to private owners.

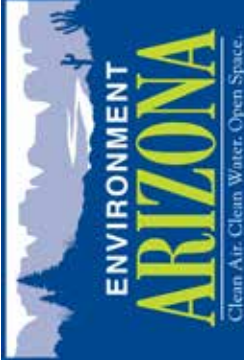
State park closures



- Park Closed
- Limited Access
- At risk of closure
- Park Open

▲ With nearly half of our state parks at risk of closure, Environment Arizona is building support to save Arizona state parks from the budgetary chopping block.

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2012 Annual Report

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