



Fall Report

Let's protect the Grand Canyon watershed

Grassroots action to gain new national monument

Over the past few months, Environment Arizona and our allies have redoubled our efforts to permanently protect the Grand Canyon watershed by urging President Obama to designate it as a new national monument.

This special region of Arizona encompasses 1.7 million acres of critical ecosystem north and south of Grand Canyon National Park. It is home to many unique species of wildlife, including the California condor and Kaibab squirrel. The proposed protected area also includes the largest ponderosa pine forest in North America and acts as the watershed for the Grand Canyon and the Colorado River—which provides drinking water to 25 million Americans.

Powered by grassroots support

Since May, when we launched the campaign in communities throughout the state, the results have been tangible.

Our citizen outreach staff and volunteers have had thousands of conversations with citizens and gathered more than 1,300 petitions to President Obama in favor of the proposal to protect this special place.

To show support for the Grand Canyon from small businesses, we've now signed on more than 50 local businesses in favor of the new national monument.

The campaign has also been active in the media. Environment Arizona and our allies have helped to publish favorable opinion pieces from residents and local



Al Hikes AZ / Creative Commons

▲ The Colorado River, which runs through the Grand Canyon

leaders in the Arizona Republic and the Arizona Daily Sun.

Working with elected leaders

In July, Environment Arizona Advocate Bret Fanshaw met with state Rep. Jamescita Peshlakai, whose district covers the Grand Canyon. In the meeting, she reaffirmed her support for the proposal.

“As we continue campaigning to urge President Obama to protect this place, we will also be working with tribes, local elected officials, and members of congress in order to get this important project over the finish line,” said Fanshaw.



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To learn more and take action to protect the Grand Canyon watershed, visit: www.EnvironmentArizona.org

◀ Advocate Bret Fanshaw thanked state Rep. Jamescita Peshlakai for supporting the proposed Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument.



To our members

While talking about the Grand Canyon, Teddy Roosevelt once said, “Leave it as it is. You cannot improve on it. The ages have been at work on it, and man can only mar it.”

Now, as logging and mining companies fight to recklessly log and mine for uranium near the park’s boundaries, Roosevelt’s words couldn’t be more true.

It took millions of years for the Colorado River to form the Grand Canyon. Reckless logging and uranium mining could spoil the area for generations. That’s why Environment Arizona is urging President Obama to protect this special place forever by declaring a new Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument. So far, thousands have joined us in standing up for the Grand Canyon and its watershed. I couldn’t be more proud—and grateful—for your support. Together, we can protect this awe-inspiring natural wonder forever.

With gratitude,

Bret Fanshaw
Advocate

Recent action

Progress made to close Clean Water Act loopholes

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is considering a rule to restore Clean Water Act protections to thousands of waterways across the nation. As a result of court cases brought by polluters, 94 percent of streams in Arizona are at risk of having no protection from pollution under the federal Clean Water Act.

Following years of advocacy by Environment Arizona and its national federation, the EPA recently proposed a rule to close the loopholes that have left Arizona’s waterways at risk and restore Clean Water Act protections. But polluters are fighting tooth and nail to keep the loopholes working in their favor.

“Arizona’s waterways should be clean—for swimming, drinking and supporting wildlife,” said Bret Fanshaw, advocate with Environment Arizona. “But for too long, our waters have been a dumping ground for polluters. The first step to curb this tide of toxic pollution is to restore Clean Water Act protections to all our waterways.”

Clearing pollution at the Grand Canyon

Arizona’s largest single source of air pollution is the Navajo Generating Station. This coal-fired power plant is located just 15 miles from the eastern edge of Grand Canyon National Park, spewing tons of pollution that blocks views for Grand Canyon visitors, impacts public health, and contributes to global warming.

This past year, we’ve urged the EPA to clean up Arizona’s dirtiest power plant in accordance with the Clean Air Act. As expected, the coal industry is doing its best to extend the life of the plant as long as possible, while it continues to pollute our air and threaten public health.

We’ve helped recruit hundreds of Arizonans to turn out to public hearings, submitted hundreds of comments, and refuted the polluters’ misguided claims in the media. A decision from the EPA on the fate of this dirty facility is expected soon.

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▲ Environment Arizona staff prepared to canvass to protect the Grand Canyon.

Report ranks Arizona 1st in the nation for solar

Strong energy efficiency policies drove success

Environment Arizona Research & Policy Center released a new report ranking Arizona first in the nation for solar installed per capita. “Lighting the Way: What We Can Learn from America’s Top 12 Solar States,” emphasizes that effective public policy, more than available sunlight, has helped Arizona capture the virtually unlimited and pollution-free energy from the sun. The report also cautions against taking steps backward in Arizona that would hinder or undo policies that have helped the state become a national solar leader.

Arizona’s current commitment to solar helped fuel a tripling of solar energy nationwide between 2011 and 2013. Last year, solar capacity in Arizona grew, bringing total capacity to 1,821 megawatts.

“Solar energy is emerging as a go-to energy option here in Arizona and across the country,” said Bret Fanshaw, advocate with Environment Arizona. “Thanks to the commitment of Arizona’s leaders, this pollution-free energy option is poised to play a major role in helping to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality.”

120-fold increase in 10 years

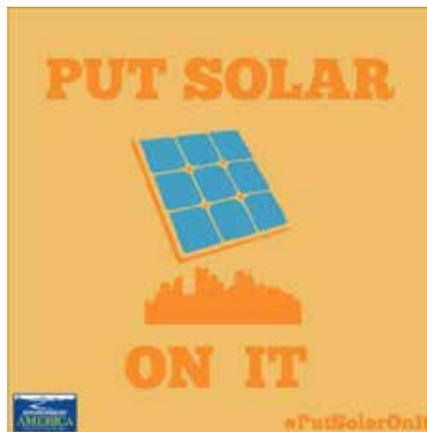
As the solar industry grows, the cost for installed solar decreases, making it more accessible. The price of installed solar systems fell 60 percent between the beginning of 2011 and the end of 2013. Jobs in the solar industry are also growing rapidly. In 2013, there were more than 140,000 solar jobs in the U.S., including 8,558 in Arizona.

Solar in the United States increased more than 120-fold in the last 10 years. In the first quarter of 2014, solar energy accounted for 74 percent of all the new electric generation capacity installed in the United States. The top ten states for solar installed per capita have 89 percent of the total solar installed in the U.S.

Utilities threaten progress

However, the report noted recent setbacks at the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC), the state’s public utility commission. In early 2013, the ACC eliminated commercial solar incentives and reduced residential solar incentives. Last fall, the commission approved a plan promoted by the state’s major utility, Arizona Public Service, which increased costs of new solar systems to consumers. The commission is also considering proposals to eliminate the solar roof carve-out in the state renewable energy standard.

“While many Arizona officials deserve tremendous credit for recognizing the environmental and economic benefits of solar and taking action to make it a reality, we need more leaders to continue moving solar forward, not taking steps back to the old days of fossil fuel energy,” said Fanshaw.



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Tempe sets 20 percent clean energy goal

In June, the City of Tempe took a step forward by setting a baseline clean energy goal of 20 percent by 2025.

Environment Arizona has been working with cities across Arizona to increase solar energy, alongside the Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal Campaign and with local residents.

Like much of Arizona, Tempe has vast untapped solar resources and benefits from more than 300 days of sunshine each year. Yet the majority of the city’s energy currently comes from sources like coal and gas that contribute to air pollution and global warming.

“Increasing Tempe’s use of renewable energy will make the city even more efficient and effective in providing services for our community,” said Vice Mayor Onnie Shekerjian in a press release outlining Tempe’s clean energy goal.

The goal is a first step for the city, which plans to periodically revisit and potentially increase its goals for clean energy production.

Environment Arizona and our members and allies in Tempe, Phoenix, Mesa and Tucson have all encouraged their local leaders to move solar along in their cities by setting goals and making it easier for residents to take advantage of clean, solar energy.



For more information on our work to help Arizona go solar, visit:
www.EnvironmentArizona.org

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Environment Arizona

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 Arizona. We focus exclusively on protecting Arizona'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.

A groundbreaking step on global warming

On June 2, the Environmental Protection Agency proposed a Clean Power Plan that sets targets for states to reduce global warming pollution by limiting carbon from dirty power plants, and shifting to clean energy. Leading up to the announcement, Environment Arizona organized more than a dozen Arizona legislators and local leaders to sign a letter encouraging the president to take action on climate, and delivered thousands of comments from Arizonans directly to the EPA in favor of reducing carbon pollution from power plants.

"Once implemented, this will be the biggest step the U.S. has ever taken to cut global warming pollution," said Bret Fanshaw, Environment Arizona advocate. "This is a huge deal. But it's not yet a done deal. The polluters are spending millions to oppose the EPA's commonsense action. That's where our campaign comes in—to ensure this critical step is taken."



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Take action and join our fight against global warming at: www.EnvironmentArizona.org

◀ Environment Arizona Advocate Bret Fanshaw and allies called on state leaders to support the EPA's Clean Power Plan.