



PENNSYLVANIA'S WATCHDOG



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About PennFuture

PennFuture is leading the transition to a clean energy economy in Pennsylvania, fighting big polluters with legal muscle, enforcing environmental laws, and supporting legislative policy that protects public health. PennFuture is engaging and educating citizens about the realities of climate change, and giving them the tools needed to influence lawmakers on the issues.

About this Annual Impact Report

PennFuture's Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Impact Report is a summary of *program*, *financial*, *and donor* information for the period of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021. For more information about current program activities please visit our website at **pennfuture.org**. Previous annual reports are available at **www.pennfuture.org/financial-information**.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Dear Supporter,

In reviewing my letter in PennFuture's 2020 Annual Impact Report, there was a decided orientation on change and how we navigate it as an organization. Change as influenced by the pandemic and what it has wrought on PennFuture's workplace and culture and the movement we work within; on communities and society; and on us as individuals. Change as it impacts PennFuture's aspiration to become a permanently more diverse and equitable organization, lifting up voices and identities too long at the margins of our organization and environmental movement.

For this Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Impact Report, I choose to focus on the touchstones that have remained solid and stable. For the moment, let's recognize that the "unchanged" is an antidote to the uncertainty of the past two years. And that brings me directly to you, our donors and supporters. The extent to which so, so many of you have remained loyal financial supporters has been both a balm, and a sign of confidence that PennFuture, our staff, board, volunteers and activists are on the right track. Nothing matters more than your investment in our mission, and allyship along the way.

The other constant for me is the natural heritage – the land and water of Pennsylvania – and how it continues to sustain us in ways both obvious and subtle. In reflecting on the past year, by far it was the moments, when in between surges of the pandemic we at PennFuture took small steps to re-establish community and human connections, nearly always outdoors in nature. And so I reflect very fondly on some of those moments that have grounded PennFuture, some during the time covered by this Annual Impact Report, and others more recently:

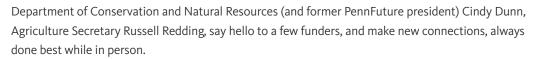
- Late summer, when after nearly 17 months of isolation, most of our staff team met up at Whipple Dam State Park near State College for a get together good food, laughter, a little hiking, paddleboarding, kayaking. Together we enjoyed the day and even had a great talk about all things climate because we were joined too by board member, pre-eminent climate scientist and communicator Michael Mann.
- Our Leadership Council's fall field trip to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, joined by members of our board
 and staff. Even though the weather was not the best for viewing Hawk Mountain's spectacular raptor
 migration along the flyway, seeing so many friends was a joy, as was hearing more about the important
 work at the sanctuary, including by Women In Conservation honoree Dr. Laurie Goodrich.
- A trip to the Lehigh Valley's Macungie Mountain Herb Farm to meet in person for the first time three
 individuals who joined our organization's board during the pandemic Joyce Marin, Dr. Jennifer Swann,
 and Tinku Khanwalkar.
- Erie board member John Vanco's travel to our Harrisburg office to assess a few building matters with me.
- An impromptu meal this spring at the restaurant of past board chair Char Magaro. We gathered with
 John Dawes, one of PennFuture's founding board members, with his spouse Katy, and with a few
 members of our staff and their spouses. While there, we had the wonderful fortune to run into Dr. Jim
 and Sandy Jones, longtime supporters and past board member (Jim) of PennFuture. Jim and Sandy have
 who have given their name to our planned giving program, the Jim and Sandy Jones Legacy Society.
- An early summer bike ride at Lehigh Gorge State Park to orient new board member Ann Foster, and Christmastime hike in the Lehigh Valley with board member Dr. Jennifer Swann.
- A fall trip to Western Pennsylvania and the headquarters of Levin Furniture when Company Chairman (and Leadership Council member) Robert Levin flipped the switch on 1 MW solar system. We were joined there by fellow council member Fred Kraybill.
- Traveling to The Discovery Center in Phildelphia's Fairmount Park to moderate the Civilian Climate Corps roundtable hosted by United States Senator Bob Casey. While there being able to visit with



MATTERS MORE
THAN YOUR
INVESTMENT IN
OUR MISSION,
AND ALLYSHIP
ALONG THE WAY.

NOTHING





- A lunch meeting in the Poconos to recruit esteemed activist Edie Stevens to the Leadership Council.
- Attending the Pennsylvania Society event in New York with Senior Director of Government Relations Ezra Thrush, and reconnecting with key state and federal lawmakers and colleagues.
- Holding small staff gatherings in PennFuture's Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Mount Pocono offices to do planning; and more importantly, to meet in person for the first time new staff who had joined PennFuture during the pandemic; and
- Of course, our eight annual Women In Conservation event that took place partially at Sordoni Gallery of Art in Wilkes Barre, honoring stellar women doing crucial work on behalf of the environment in northeast PA, the Poconos and the Lehigh Valley.

Yes, other things remain constant, and while there is never a guarantee, PennFuture's impact holds strong as we defend environmental laws under constant attack, and fight hard to break through with new laws that protect our water, and facilitate a transition to cleaner energy and a healthier climate. Pennsylvania's legislature remains a mixed bag for championing our environment and that is why in the coming years, more and more people must vote for climate, and vote for healthy communities, and vote for the integrity of our very democracy. Our civic engagement and field teams have that top of mind as they engage communities, especially overburdened ones. Our campaign teams, legal and government relations staff bring our mission to life with coalitions, clients, partners, the legislature, and of course our members, supporters and advocates.

Still, the theme of change will emerge as one of the defining dynamics of this epoch of pandemic, racial reckoning and upheaval within American Democracy. About change, my 10-year-old self (because I do indeed trace the seedlings of my personal activism to the "60's") would have said, "Bring it on!" And on balance that's still my same philosophy.

But in my role as leader of PennFuture my world view is slightly nuanced, and even measured. I find myself asking "To what degree leaders should endeavor to manage change, if that is even possible?" Over the course of my career, I have been hired into organizations as a change agent. Those that hired me, and I myself, was always confident the change I might help create would be to a positive end. When I was brought on at PennFuture in 2015, I was to lead by helping stabilize and professionalize the organization. Success in those dimensions of the organization have laid the foundation for the growth the organization is experiencing, and growth creates change! So change remains a constant too.

From our first ever \$4 million budget, to the expansion of our Democracy for All program into Western Pennsylvania. To sitting at new tables where environmental justice leaders join with more privileged and mainstream groups on common interests. From gaining the support of new funders, to the steady investments of existing ones. From every donor – small, or large – to every action taken by an advocate...with your help, PennFuture is on the move, a force for good and positivity in Pennsylvania. Thank you for believing in our team.

Jacquelyn Bonomo

President and CEO

jbonomo@pennfuture.org

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD

Wow, what a year it has been. From Covid to massive weather disruptions, it has been anything but a normal year. Throughout it all, one constant has been PennFuture's relentless focus on their mission of protecting our environment, doing DEIJ work and promoting democracy and candidates who support those values. The importance of this work has never been greater and the urgency never more obvious. This is why it is my great pleasure to be associated with PennFuture as their great staff and leaders work tirelessly at this cause.

There are so many examples I can think of to illustrate my above statements, but I will try to pick a few of them to further the point. One of my favorite events is always the Women in Conservation event. I was especially moved by the event in Pittsburgh in 2020, as I knew many of the women who were honored. I have seen them work tirelessly, humbly and with no expectation of recognition for many years. To see their hard work honored was a thrill.

Another example is in March of 2021 PennFuture's President and CEO, Jacquelyn Bonomo, in her monthly blog wrote about a new report released by PennFuture that shows the depths Pennsylvania goes to subsidize the fossil fuel industry: \$3.8 billion in 2019, to be exact, which equates to \$296 per Pennsylvania resident. I don't know about you, but this information was shocking to me. I believe that this report helped to open people's eyes to how much money the fossil fuel industry gets and to the importance of promoting green alternatives.

My last example is the Democracy For All work as well as the work that we are doing in concert with Conservation Voters of Pennsylvania (CVPA). I believe that promoting civic engagement and protecting our fragile democracy are both vital to the ultimate mission. If we don't protect and promote these values, what good will the environmental work be that we are doing?

I could go on and on about the amazing work that this organization does every day. All this work would not be possible without our incredible supporters. So I want to end by thanking you for everything that you do to allow all of this great work to happen.

Scott E. Tobe, CAP® Chairperson PennFuture



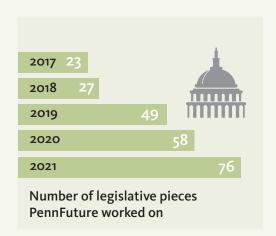
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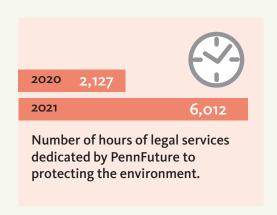
Platinum Transparency **2022**

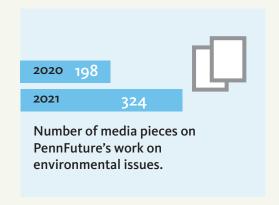
Candid.

In 2022 PennFuture again achieved the GuideStar/Candid Platinum Seal of Transparency. This is the highest recognition by GuideStar/Candid, the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations, of our commitment to transparency and accountability to our supporters. Four of the impact metrics we are currently reporting on GuideStar are:









For more information about PennFuture, visit our listing on GuideStar.org.

FROM PENNFUTURE'S BLOG

Every year PennFuture publishes dozens of blogs by staff and invited writers. Here are excerpts of some of our favorites for the fiscal year, July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

You can read the complete blogs online at https://www.pennfuture.org/blog



PennFuture releases "A Green Stimulus and Recovery Platform for Pennsylvania" Report

July 28, 2020 Jared Stonesifer, Director of Media Relations

A rampant global health pandemic. A deep and rapid decline in Pennsylvania's economy that is nearly double that of the Great Recession of 2008. Rising racial inequality. Nearly 3 million Pennsylvanians seeking unemployment benefits since mid-March. Small businesses shuttered—some permanently—as Pennsylvania's economy struggles to reopen.

It's abundantly clear that these are unprecedented times, and that our leaders in all levels of government will have to spend the next several years advancing economic and public

health solutions that spur our economy towards recovery.

That's why PennFuture released today a strategic roadmap to guide our leaders to implement a green stimulus recovery plan for Pennsylvania.

This 50-page report lays out specific policy recommendations that leverage Pennsylvania's growing nature-based, clean energy, and low-carbon industries to put people back to work and build a more resilient and sustainable economy.

The report has four overarching goals that guide each recommendation made within the document: safely restart Pennsylvania's economy in a way that reduces pollution and is protective of human health, avoid state budget cuts that will harm our businesses and slow recovery, target short-term investments that provide family-sustaining wages, and advance long-term investments to support sustainable infrastructure and industries that contribute to resilient, clean and profitable communities.

All told, PennFuture's policy platform is estimated to amount to \$2.8 billion in investments, which would preserve or create as



many as 389,000 jobs in the Commonwealth, including nearly 37,200 shovel-ready jobs, while also reducing pollution, promoting our natural resources, and advancing public health.

There is evidence to back up the necessity of our green stimulus and recovery platform.

According to a recent study from Oxford University that analyzed 700 separate stimulus policies from the Great Recession, projects that focus dually on economic recovery and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions deliver higher returns on government spending both in

the short and long term.

Our leaders also cannot turn to industry to jumpstart this recovery. Carbon dioxide emissions skyrocketed by 5.1 percent in 2009 when America's economy finally started to bounce back from the Great Recession. It is indisputable that Pennsylvania, similar to the rest of the world, is at a critical juncture where we must make concerted and dedicated efforts to drastically cut our carbon footprint immediately.

Pennsylvania is at an inflection point. We either pursue old and tired methods of recovery that rely on slashing budgets and public sector jobs, or we chart a new direction that creates a new and sustainable economy while serving the dual purpose of addressing the climate crisis.

The choice is ours, and the chance to emerge from this historic challenge as better, cleaner, more resilient Pennsylvania is at our fingertips. Here's to hoping our elected officials are listening.

To read our Green Stimulus report go to www.pennfuture.org/greenstimulus. When you do, please feel free to share it widely with friends, family or your elected officials in Harrisburg.



PennFuture's "Democracy for All" Program At Work in Pennsylvania

July 30, 2020 • Emily Gale, Director of Civic Engagement

t is a fact that communities of color are disproportionately impacted by climate change and pollution, and that is not accidental.

Historically, the burden of polluting factories and industries has been placed directly on low-income communities and communities of color, which in turn exacerbates the impacts of climate change on these communities.

These communities not only shoulder outsized burdens from pollution and climate change, but they are often overlooked and underrepresented in all levels of our government and democracy. We steadfastly believe that the key to helping these communities fight for environmental justice is to maximize their power in our democracy.

Too often, environmental organizations just move pollution from one person's backyard to another's. To win this fight, we need to keep the chemicals and pollutants that cause asthma, cancer, and climate change out of Pennsylvania entirely, and we need to amplify the voices within our communities of color to accomplish that.

PennFuture has always focused on protecting our air, water, and land, and empowering all Pennsylvanians to build sustainable communities for future generations. Civic engagement can be the first step in that empowerment, which is why our Democracy For All—PennFuture program seeks to register many new voters in 2020, primarily in communities of color.

Due to the pandemic, we have had to get creative in how we engage and register new people of color. Not being out in the field has dampened the number of people we can physically register. Not to be deterred, we have gone digital! Our canvassers are all digitally focused on phone banking, texting, and relational texting.

Our Area Directors, while managing the canvassers, will also be focusing on developing relationships with organizations. They will also be encouraging organizations and local events to utilize our tablets to register their members to register to vote.

Our social media strategist will work to develop social media content for the newly formed civic engagement page, our Facebook and Instagram pages as well as creating online events. She will be working closely with PennFuture staff to make our reach as far as possible.



My long term goal for Democracy for All is to be a program that continues to register new people to vote, educates people about the importance of voting, and empowers people to empower themselves.

I would like to introduce you to the Democracy for All team:

- Shavon Ferguson Area Director for northeast Pennsylvania with a focus on Lackawanna, Schuylkill, Monroe, and Luzerne counties.
- Josie Lopez Area Director for southeast Pennsylvania with a focus on Northampton, Lehigh, Dauphin, and Berks counties.
- Carrie Myers Social Media Strategist with a focus on branding the Democracy for All - PennFuture name and engaging audiences on social media and other platforms.
- Erlinda Aguiar Quality Control/Quality Analyst will be making sure that we are compliant on all fronts and analyzing data to see how well we are digital engaging with targeted communities.

Despite the ongoing coronavirus pandemic upending our plans for the Democracy for All program, we are forging full-steam ahead with this important and crucial work!

Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay up-to-date with the latest news from the program!



Building the United States' Green Economy Future through Appalachia

December 2, 2020 Jacquelyn Bonomo, PennFuture President and CEO



hen I returned to environmental work in Pennsylvania in 2015, after five years working in Maryland for the Audubon Society, I was struck by how much the fracked gas industry's influence was able to dominate policy and policymakers here in the Commonwealth. The firm grip the coal industry had on the legislature for nearly a hundred years had been supplanted by frackers.

Lobbying became a growth industry. New government relations and PR firms occupy Harrisburg offices and real estate, all to help out with the influence peddling and promotion of friendly legislation the industry would need to optimize gas in the Marcellus and Utica shales, and turn it into profits. Regulation was at best weak—Act 13 left a lot of loopholes and wiggle room for industry to pollute. And the state budget allocations that our regulatory agencies need as their lifeblood to provide oversight of this polluting and secretive industry were squeezed to a drip—a circumstance our legislature continues today.

With few exceptions, this industry and its political machine has maintained a stranglehold on many elected officials. The industry's playbook disburses campaign contributions throughout the state regardless if a legislative district contains gas, because in Harrisburg, sometimes, every vote counts. Just as dangerous, the frackers' public relations firms spin out jobs numbers and promises that any legislator or work-hungry labor union ignored at their peril. The industry created a near unsurmountable ring of self-interest.

It's just a fact of life for us that PennFuture's energies are spent defending the environmental protections we fought hard to win in the past. We fight legislative attacks on industry regulations session after session, year after year, and sometimes multiple, identical attacks in any given time period. It became evident to me back then that we'd be fighting in the legislature for a few more years at best. The majority of our state legislators embrace the status quo.

The people's house in Harrisburg cannot be relied upon for leadership to transition away from fracked gas, a transition that must happen if we are to reckon with our climate, race, economic and public health crises that are all crashing into each other at the moment.

When I became president of PennFuture, I felt strongly that one of the most important proactive things that needed to happen if this state is to ever break away from the grips of fossil fuels, fracking, petrochemical and plastics was the creation of an alternative economic development and job creation strategy for our state. It was incorporated into our strategic plan, but the question remained about the suitability of an environmental policy and advocacy shop like PennFuture to tackle this. We kept talking it up, particularly to our funders, and to potential partners who also occupied the policy space but with more substantial chops in economics.

The looming build-out of the so-called Appalachian Storage Hub in the Upper Ohio River Valley became a catalyst for concerned groups from Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, and Kentucky to talk about defending our region from it. Eventually that talk turned to offense and the urgent need to develop an alternative economic and jobs strategy. That economic and jobs blueprint is now encompassed by the campaign called Reimagine Appalachia, in which PennFuture participates.

Reimagine Appalachia has produced the vision and economic substantiation to turn the region into a nexus for investments that create a regional economy that is sustainable and adapted to the realities of climate change. Characterized by modernizing infrastructure, greening manufacturing, restoring and managing lands decimated by legacy pollution into wide swaths of carbon storing acreage, and by jobs programs that can employ a diversity of people currently finding working difficult due to a variety of factors, this platform will produce 250,000 jobs in Pennsylvania alone.

This past spring, PennFuture staff, who were veterans of the 2008 recession and well-acquainted with the stimulus investments that were made to get a faltering country back on its feet, issued our Green Stimulus and Economic Recovery Platform for Pennsylvania. We were able to leverage our knowledge about the inherent strengths of Pennsylvania's economy that were not linked to fossil fuels and put forth investment ideas for those sectors. Bolstering the strength of what we refer to as nature-based economic sectors, such

as outdoor recreation and agriculture, and the network of small businesses that support these sectors, PennFuture argues for targeted investments to bridge the impacts of the pandemic and diversify the state economy.

Like Reimagine Appalachia's platform, we see real opportunities in a green jobs program. We see jobs to restore land and water impacted by not only past pollution, but jobs installing projects that the state is relying on to meet water pollution reduction requirements, and that are in need of funding that stimulus funds can provide. Our Green Stimulus proposals call for investments in bold clean energy projects as well as energy efficiency retrofits for residences and businesses.

In total, through \$2.83 billion in annual investments for the duration of the pandemic and the recession it's caused, we estimate the state will preserve or create over 389,000 jobs. Additional economic benefits would come from embracing recommendations on growing and transitioning to a clean energy economy, similar to the aspirations of Reimagine Appalachia.

Another exciting breakthrough came just last week when mayors of eight leading cities in the Ohio River Valley—the identical geography of Reimagine Appalachia—including Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto, issued a Marshall Plan for Middle America. The plan deftly proposes to position the region for national and international competitiveness, and at the same time addresses regional economic and other disparities, by transitioning into a center for renewable energy infrastructure, and manufacturing and infrastructure innovations, among other proposals.

And so this politically influential region has emerged from the weight of 2020 and has articulated through these three documents a similarity of vision, intention, and determination of where this region wants to go, and must go. And while these are intended as roadmaps for a region, and one that too often has been left behind, therein are opportunities and ideas for the nation. But our climate justice and clean energy future must begin here in Appalachia, whose people, land and water have paid a dear price for powering the nation and world for almost two hundred years.

Finally, the alternative vision that can make a difference.





PennFuture Releases Blueprint to Protect Pennsylvania's Lake Erie Watershed

December 3, 2020 Sarah Bennett, Campaign Manager for Clean Water Advocacy

Today, PennFuture's Erie office publicly released Our Water, Our Future: A Common Agenda for Protecting Pennsylvania's Lake Erie Watershed.

This comprehensive document describes the major threats to Pennsylvania's Lake Erie watershed and recommends several solutions to those threats. The Erie region relies heavily on its water resources to attract people to live, work, and play in Erie County. However, the use of those resources and development decisions that are made can lead to their eventual degradation. This Agenda recommends

many ways that Erie's decision makers can develop in an equitable, sustainable way, while continuing to benefit from its abundant water resources.

This Agenda was developed by convening local and regional environmental, wildlife, and civic organizations. Twelve partner organizations signed on to the Agenda but at least ten more were engaged in the process of developing it. We met several times via Zoom throughout Summer 2020 to identify threats, prioritize them based on their impacts to human health, the natural environment, and the economy, and brainstorm solutions. A technical advisory committee of non-governmental organizations and several regional scientists was engaged to ensure that the document was technically sound and well-informed. We also sought to ensure that the document made a strong call for racial equity and inclusion, made even more important by Erie County's declaration that racism is a public health crisis.

Three organizations acted as social justice consultants by reviewing the Agenda and making recommendations for strengthening the message of equity and inclusion in decision making. The result of these collaborative efforts is a forward-thinking agenda calling for local, county, state, and federal policies that protect our vitally important water resources and promote sustainable development that will improve quality of life for all current and future Erie County residents.

The water quality threats that Common Agenda partners identified are surface runoff including stormwater, agricultural runoff, and sewage, climate change, fossil fuels and plastic





pollution, invasive species, and legacy pollution. While the solutions to these threats vary, they all require that municipalities and Erie County embrace the responsibility of being communities on the Great Lakes. This will not only lead to better protected water and healthy communities, it can also stoke the flames of a blue economy in the region.

Among the recommendations are calls to improve collaboration and communication throughout decision-making processes. The social unrest that Erie and the nation have experienced calls everyone to develop new

ways of doing things that will not perpetuate persistent inequities and injustice. This agenda invites regional residents, businesses, and government leaders to use the issue of water protection to develop county and municipal level committees that increase resident engagement in decision making. For example, it recommends that Erie County Council establish an Environmental Justice Committee that monitors and responds to disproportionate impacts of pollution on historically burdened residents.

The Erie region is rich in water resources and its current revitalization efforts have relied heavily upon that premise. However, this revitalization will be short lived if it fails to protect these assets and water quality declines. The region needs sustainable transformational change that can only be achieved through inclusive collaboration, equitable decision making, and policies and practices that protect natural resources. This agenda provides a blueprint for all three of these necessities.

PennFuture and its partners will move this agenda forward by meeting with regional stakeholders and government officials to discuss water protection policies and practices and advocate for more inclusive decision-making processes. These collaborative efforts will bring new and important voices to the table and add value to the region's revitalization efforts.

PennFuture and our partner organizations are very proud of this document, and we hope you will take some time to read it on our website. You can also watch a video of the virtual press conference held on Dec. 3 to unveil the Agenda.



March 2, 2021 Jacquelyn Bonomo, PennFuture President and CEO

In her monthly blog, PennFuture President and CEO Jacquelyn Bonomo writes about a new report released by PennFuture that shows the depths Pennsylvania goes to subsidize the fossil fuel industry: \$3.8 billion in 2019, to be exact, which equates to \$296 per Pennsylvania resident.

PennFuture has published the third edition of a Fossil Fuel Subsidy report that first appeared in 2011. The 2021 version is entitled "Buried Out of Sight: Uncovering Pennsylvania's Hidden Fossil Fuel Subsidies."

Our report reveals that Pennsylvania's fossil fuel subsidies total \$3.8 billion, with 52 percent of that amount benefitting fracked gas and petrochemicals. At a time of a climate emergency, pandemic, racial reckoning and an economic downturn that somehow is building extravagant wealth for billionaires while others struggle to make rent and buy food, the inequity and cronyism behind these subsidies strikes one as especially appalling.

The report is having an impact.

We've heard from many throughout the state who are dismayed over the findings, but who are glad the information is seeing the light of day. They are reacting most to the figure that when spread across all residents of Pennsylvania, these subsidies amount to \$296 per person living here.

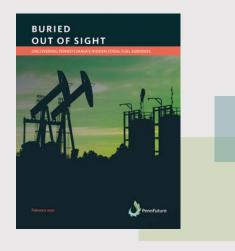
Boosters of fracking, petrochemicals and plastics want to keep this information hidden from the public.

The report has hit a nerve over at Frack Central—the cabal of trade associations and companies that coordinate their advocacy to protect these subsidies—whose public relations machine is churning out messages accusing our meticulously researched report as sloppy. They falsely argue that our commonsense recommendations to have polluters pay their fair share to do business in our state is the equivalent of calling for your taxes to be increased.

Organizers of Frack Central, like the Marcellus Shale Coalition, are singularly focused on attacking the report. This includes their lazy messaging that distorts and simplifies our very sophisticated analysis.

Our most basic recommendation is that state agencies be charged with transparency and that they make subsidy information publicly available on a regular basis.

These distortions by industry spin doctors will not be an effective rebuttal of our report's analysis and our daylighting



of the facts and figures that make up the tangled and hidden truth behind these \$3.8 million in subsidies. Frack Central's smear campaign has traction, though, when it gets amplified by its friends in the legislature, and elsewhere, and this is happening.

I invite you to review the dense report, with an eye to the chart on page 4. There, you can see for yourself the long list of offending exemptions from taxes that the rest of us are subject to, and that can produce tax revenues, including for local governments and services.

The fact is the financial largesse of subsidies shown to the fossil fuel industry is hurting our state's bottom line. Let's remember these subsidies are provided with the blessing of many state elected officials, and the Governor, who are often at odds with each other on the topic of how to generate much needed new revenues in our state. So why make the money matter worse through these goodies to the fossil fuel industry?

The fact is that these subsidies are robbing our state of \$2 billion annually in foregone revenues. If the majority of subsidies could be abolished, we can level the playing field between frackers and fossils, and pretty much everyone else including taxpayers, small businesses and other less-favored business sectors who have many fewer lobbyists in Harrisburg pleading their case.

The time has come for the fossil fuel industry to pay its fair share and its most egregious subsidies terminated. This includes



paying even the most basic taxes from which frackers and crackers are exempted, namely paying property taxes.

Lastly, since PennFuture's report is based on the most recently available information from 2019, it discusses, but does not calculate, the financial impacts and lost revenues associated with two recent subsidies directed toward petrochemical development.

First is the subsidy package totaling \$1.6 billion in grants, tax exemptions and other programs offered to Royal Dutch Shell for its ethane cracker in Beaver County. According to Good Jobs First Subsidy Tracker, Shell ranks seventh among the companies that have generated the most public subsidies in the United States, totaling more than \$2.04 billion, with other support also coming from places like Louisiana and Texas. The \$1.65 billion package Pennsylvania offered Shell is over 15 times the size of the next largest corporate subsidy offered here. The second largest was a \$100 million package granted to Volkswagen in the late 1970s for a manufacturing plant in Westmoreland County. The 2.8-million-square foot plant is now closed.

Second are the subsidies recently approved in July 2020 (House Bill 732) for petrochemical facilities. This legislation includes tax credits – in place for 26 years and adding up to over \$693 million in foregone tax revenue – and is made available for up to four facilities that manufacture only petrochemicals and fertilizers using fracked gas.

In other words, in a couple of years it's very possible Pennsylvania's fossil fuel subsidy package will balloon from \$3.7 billion to almost \$6 billion. Yet, Pennsylvania legislators argue nearly every spring about Pennsylvania's budget deficit or high taxes when one of the reasons for these perpetual challenges is their own doing.

PennFuture hopes that by bringing sunlight to this growing subsidy problem in Pennsylvania, better policy making can happen in the future. The perpetual cycle of subsidies, boom, and bust fossil fuel industries is a detriment to the Commonwealth. Breaking this feedback loop is one of the keys to a better future.



PennFuture Releases New Report to Save Chesapeake Bay

April 8, 2021 • Renee Reber, Campaign Manager, Watershed Advocacy

We are at an inflection point for Pennsylvania's efforts to save the Chesapeake Bay.

What policymakers in the Keystone State do—or more importantly, what they do not do—over the next five years will determine not only the fate of many of the Commonwealth's rivers and streams in the Susquehanna and Potomac River Basins, but also the fate of America's largest estuary and third largest in the world.

There are more than 15,000 miles of polluted streams within Pennsylvania's portion of the Susquehanna and Potomac River basins. The Susquehanna River itself is the source of drinking water for 6.2 million people. This pollution impacts how we use our water—whether it's fewer opportunities for fishing, unsafe waters for recreation, or high costs for using it for drinking and business.

The river's pollution stretches well beyond our state borders. Half of all the freshwater that comprises the Chesapeake Bay comes from Pennsylvania, which means Pennsylvania plays an important role in ongoing efforts to clean up the polluted bay.

While Pennsylvania isn't the only culprit—five other states and Washington, D.C. also contribute to the problem—our contributions are among the highest, especially for nitrogen. The dirty water in the basin is so dire that Pennsylvania has been placed under a so-called "pollution diet" by the Environmental Protection Agency meant to limit the amount of pollution we send down into the Susquehanna and Chesapeake Bay.

With that sense of urgency in mind, PennFuture today released a policy agenda designed to give Pennsylvania lawmakers a roadmap to fund clean water programs and to get us back on track toward meeting our obligations to clean up the bay.

The report, "Underfunded and Polluted: Solutions to Fund Clean Water in Pennsylvania and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed," puts forth a legislative agenda that, if acted upon, would provide the technical assistance, agency support, and public investments needed to put Pennsylvania on the path toward meeting our "pollution diet" goals by the 2025 deadline.

Specifically, we recommend policy solutions and funding amounts that would result in the reduction of pollution from its major source—agriculture lands—as well as stormwater runoff and forestry-related practices. We also recommend that our state agencies are funded properly and operating with sufficient



capacity to carry out the programs and assistance needed to accomplish state pollution goals.

The report also identifies funding mechanisms that are available to state legislators to help achieve these policy goals, including a severance tax on natural gas extraction, eliminating the sales tax exemption for bottled water, levying a fee on single-use plastic bags, and establishing a water use fee for large commercial operations in Pennsylvania, among others.

The pathways spelled out in our report complement efforts already underway in the state Capitol, as two bills with bipartisan support could soon come up for a vote in Harrisburg.

The first is SB 251 which seeks to implement new standards and regulations on lawn fertilizer application across Pennsylvania, while SB 465 would create a statewide Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program to help more farmers and landowners implement practices to combat nonpoint source agricultural runoff to our streams, creeks, and rivers. We will be watching these bills closely and doing our part to support them.

Properly funding clean water initiatives isn't just the right thing to do, it's the smart thing to do. Clean water is a critical component of Pennsylvania's thriving recreation economy, which is the 6th largest in the country and produced \$13 billion in revenue, according to 2019 figures. It's also a critical investment in our farmers, one of Pennsylvania's top economic sectors accounting for approximately \$83.8 billion in direct economic output and over 280,500 jobs.

Now is a critical time for state policy leaders to show its residents that they're upholding their right to clean water and good health as well as strongly support its recreation businesses and farmers.

Now is the time to invest in our waterways.

To read our report, please visit our website.





Regulatory Reforms Would Roll Back Environmental and Health Protections

May 19, 2021 ■ Ezra P. Thrush, Senior Director of Government Affairs

Pennsylvania's legislators appear eager to overhaul how the Commonwealth reviews and implements state law. Don't be distracted. The winners of their latest proposals would likely be polluters — at the expense of public health and the environment.

Too often, regulations get a bad rap. Seen as burdensome to some, in truth, regulations are merely administrative tools to achieve the General Assembly's policy goals. Regulations allow us to adapt laws to changing times and to ensure new laws are implemented in ways that are safe, fair and legal.

Permits seem to be in their crosshairs as well. Onerous "red tape" to some, in fact, permits are designed to ensure state laws are respected and enforced equitably and effectively. Undermining the process to develop new regulations and implement permits puts Pennsylvania's air and water, workers, consumers, health and economy at risk. That's why the latest proposals are so worrisome.

HB 139 (Rothman – R, Cumberland County) mandates that state agencies contract with third-party "professionals" to review certain permit applications. In practice, the bill would force the already time and cash-strapped Department of Environmental Protection to create a third-party review program.

Instead of expediting the review process, this would simply undermine it. Outsourcing reviews of federally delegated permits would likely be illegal. And, given the lack of any conflict-of-interest provisions, the legislation would enable polluters to review their own requests to go on polluting.

HB 288 (O'Neal – R, Washington County) would require agencies designate a "regulatory compliance officer" empowered to establish guidelines for waiving fines or penalties. A polluter would simply need to self report their own violation prior to being penalized. Waiving fines and penalties may be appropriate in some circumstances. But those decisions should be made using a thorough and transparent process by agency officials who are publicly accountable. Otherwise, this proposal risks creating a simple get-out-of-jail-free card for anyone who pollutes.

HB 939 (Klunk – R, York County) is another regulatory rollback that, last year, PennFuture and other environmental groups across the state helped to defeat. In this year's version, the bill



would add another layer of bureaucracy to the General Assembly by creating a new review board, potentially creating tension with the current committee system. Originally, this bill would have also established a nonsense rule that, for every new regulation promulgated by an agency, two existing regulations would need to be repealed. Due to widespread public pushback, the prime sponsor of the bill amended out this dangerous provision to make it more palatable for the House to pass.

Other proposals we're fighting back against include two proposals that we consider unconstitutional attempts to take power from the executive branch. HB 72 (Keefer – R, York and Cumberland Counties) would require House or Senate approval of final-form regulations, essentially giving each chamber a veto over new regulations if they cost more than \$1 million to implement the protection. HB 950 (Metcalfe – R, Butler County) would weaken permitting and rulemaking abilities by prohibiting state agencies from reissuing regulations.

Too often, leaders in the General Assembly decry the overreach and burden of regulations and permits. But at the same time, budget cuts and wrongheaded legislative proposals limit the abilities for our state agencies to do their job.

Rather than helping to create more efficient and effective government, these latest proposals create extraneous and added layers of bureaucracy, impede the roles of our executive branch agencies, and undermine the protections enforced and implemented by our state government.

PennFuture will continue to post updates as these counter-productive proposals make their way through the General Assembly.



The Plastics Problem: More False Strategies – Statewide Preemption

June 15, 2021 Jessica O'Neill, Senior Attorney

Regular readers of this blog will be familiar with the Pennsylvania Legislature's attempts to stymie advances in environmental protection and efforts to deny the realities of climate change.

Our Legislature has been employing a new strategy when it comes to promoting plastics and petrochemicals, and it is just as problematic. That problematic strategy is known as "preemption."

Preemption is the legal concept that a higher-level governmental body can prevent or overrule the actions of lower-level governmental bodies. For example, the federal government can pass laws or regulations that stop a state from passing

different laws on a specific issue, or that override laws previously passed by a state on an issue. Similarly, a state legislature can pass laws that stop or override municipalities in that state from enacting laws or override laws that the municipality has previously passed.

Preemption is not, in the abstract, necessarily a bad thing. There are reasons why a state

might want to have a whole-of-state approach to a certain issue, rather than having piecemeal regulation by different municipalities across the state.

For example, the state may want to have – and indeed does have! – uniform rules on how drivers' licenses are issued because there is a reasonable interest in having statewide uniformity in requirements for testing and licensing procedures, rather than having each town or city design its own rules for allowing drivers on the roads.

Here, however, the Legislature is not trying to make uniform rules across the Commonwealth for safety reasons, or to lessen the burden on municipalities, or to benefit a statewide goal. Here, the legislature is trying to stop municipalities from taking environmentally-beneficial actions in order to protect the fossil fuel and petrochemical industries.

The first example is the Legislature's action to prevent municipalities from banning single-use plastic bags.

In June of 2019, the Pennsylvania Legislature passed a fiscal code amendment (SB712) that included, as an add-on provision unconnected to the rest of the fiscal code, a prohibition which states: the "General Assembly or a local governmental body or agency may not enact a law, rule, regulation or ordinance imposing a tax on or relating to the use, disposition, sale, prohibition or restriction of single-use plastics, reusable plastics, auxiliary containers, wrappings, or polystyrene containers" until a report on the economic and environmental impact of plastics on the Commonwealth was submitted.



This report was submitted in June 2020. Around that same time, in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Legislature again used the fiscal code to effectively delay implementation of any current plastic bag bans at least until July 1, 2021, or six months after the COVID-19 state of emergency is lifted.

Why would the Legislature

do this? In order to promote uniform plastics laws across the Commonwealth? This cannot be the case, because there are no other statewide plastics laws in Pennsylvania. In fact, the Legislature here is not acting to promote positive statewide regulation at all, but instead to promote the petrochemical industry.

The state's own report on "The Economic Impacts of Regulation of Single Use Plastics" is very clear: "The regulation of single-use plastics could also have indirect implications for the prospective clustering of petrochemical manufacturing facilities in the state. Pennsylvania is the second-largest producer of natural gas in the U.S. and the state's capacity for natural gas production and proximity to major markets make it an attractive location for new petrochemical facilities...Industry representatives noted that single-use plastics regulation could make the state a less



viable option for prospective petrochemical and plastics manufacturers:" Economic Impact Report at page 33, 35.

Municipalities, of course, have taken a different view. Municipalities across the state have considered banning or otherwise regulating single-use plastics. The City of Philadelphia, Narbeth, and West Chester have passed ordinances doing so. Other municipalities, such as Ferguson Township in Centre County, the City of Bethlehem, and the City of Pittsburgh have actively considered doing so. These local government entities have pointed to plastic bag litter in their borders and clogging their waterways as reasons to pass these ordinances.

The second example is the Legislature's ongoing attempt to prevent municipalities from restricting the types of energy used in buildings. Again, why would the legislature do this? To promote a uniform energy policy across the state? No, it is clear that the Legislature wants to promote the use of fracked gas.

The legislature previously tried, through Act 13 in 2013, to specifically eliminate the ability of municipalities to regulate the development of oil and gas resources. The PA State Supreme Court struck down this provision as a violation of the Environmental Rights Amendment of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

The Legislature is currently trying to enact very similar legislation targeted at utility services rather than gas development companies, but the effect would be the same, and by focusing

only on utility services the proposed legislation would give preferential treatment to the polluting gas industry.

In the City of Philadelphia, the Office of Sustainability is conducting a study about how the gas utility, Philadelphia Gas Works, can transition away from being an entirely gas-driven utility, in line with Mayor Jim Kenney's commitment that Philadelphia will achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 in alignment with the Paris Agreement. The Legislature's preemption attempt here would stop this work in Philadelphia in its tracks.

To be fair, the Pennsylvania Legislature is not alone in attempting to stop the municipalities in its state from making positive environmental changes. This is a strategy that national antiregulatory groups are pushing to state legislatures nationwide to prevent local governments from taking the initiative to solve their own problems.

The real problem with this sort of preemption is that it doesn't solve any problems – it just puts up roadblocks to creating meaningful policy change.

The Legislature is not pushing solutions or enacting statewide policies; instead, it is just telling municipalities that they are prevented from the sort of creative problem solving that the American system of federalism is supposed to promote. When it comes to the problem of plastics, we need real solutions, not roadblocks.





Introduction: An Intersectional Approach to Fighting the Petrochemical Buildout in Pennsylvania

June 23, 2021 John Ukenye, Policy Analyst



Modern-day Pennsylvania was molded by the rapid technological advancements of the Industrial Revolution. The result of such advancements on human health, however, was devastating: these facilities required fossil fuels (which involve an environmentally destructive process to extract in the first place) which directly led to poor air quality, poisoned water, and destroyed soil in the decades to follow. Pennsylvania's residents are still feeling the effects of this today.

Science and technology have long been on a path of creating better machines which are much more environmentally friendly. However, especially in western Pennsylvania where I am now based, petrochemical companies are stubbornly refusing to acknowledge the world changing around them. Petrochemical companies hold over the heads of their workers the threat of losing their livelihood if the companies are further pushed by "environmentalists."

This is why I joined the fight. I believe in the dignity of the human being, and thus, the dignity of the worker. Every citizen deserves not only a job, but a job that respects the air they breathe, water they drink, and land they live on. I aim to look at our work through this intersectional lens, as environmental issues (specifically the petrochemical and plastics issues) are directly correlated with every person's socioeconomic status, general health and wellbeing, and race, just to name a few.

My name is John Ukenye, and I am originally from South Florida, but am now based in Pittsburgh. Both sides of my family's story are immigrant ones, with my father's story in the United States beginning in Pittsburgh itself. After relocating to South Florida to continue his collegiate studies, he brought me to western Pennsylvania throughout my childhood and I fell in love with its natural beauty and the friendly people that live here. I knew early in my life that I was called to this state and to lend

whatever talents I cultivated to help. The environmental realm is one that reaches all Pennsylvanians, and sits at the center of all other issues every person in the state faces.

My first direct experience in the environmental space was during my time as a law clerk with the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Environment in Spring 2020, right before COVID-19 reached "pandemic" designation. One of the last issues I was working on was preparing for a series of hearings on plastic pollution and the over-extraction of water from regional aquifers. I did research on how plastic water bottle manufacturers capitalized on the corroded lead pipe situation in Flint, Michigan by selling and donating what was essentially their own local tap water back to the affected people in the region, now additionally wrapped in toxic plastic single-use packaging. This situation perfectly highlighted the intersection between the environment, the plastics industry, race, and class.

My goal, from the moment I knew I wanted to go to law school, was to promote equity and justice no matter where I ended up. I fought my way through my undergraduate education, finished in three years with two degrees, honors, and Phi Beta Kappa and was admitted to Washington University School of Law where I graduated roughly a year ago. I graduated into a world that was facing a pandemic and a civil rights and social justice reckoning simultaneously, where race and class issues became dinner table conversations across the country and the globe. Average, everyday people began to see the intersectionality among EVERY issue, and these discussions continue on to this day. This is a perfect time as ever to view our work from a similar equity, justice, and intersectional perspective.

Our membership is no doubt plugged in to the environmental issues plaguing our world, country, state, and Appalachian region. While important to keep our supporters engaged, we must continue to actively reach out to those less informed about our area of work. It is those individuals who stand to be harmed the most by continued inaction on the environmental front.

These individuals include both rural western Pennsylvanians (as well as the rest of Appalachia), especially those who work in the dying fracked gas industry, and Black and brown families that live near petrochemical plants due to historic redlining and environmental racism. Both groups stand to gain from uniting against the fracked gas, petrochemical, and plastics industries. Both groups are in generally in the same socioeconomic class, and both generally face the same issues of dirty air, water, and land caused by the petrochemical industry and plastic pollution. It is this disproportionate burden of harmful environmental and human health impacts that environmental justice seeks to overcome.

Both groups include hardworking people trying to feed their families, and do not deserve to have their ability to provide for their families threatened by petrochemical companies that are simultaneously destroying their land, water, and air.

We must explicitly recognize this intersectionality in the work we do, highlight both their struggles and triumphs from local leaders in the environmental space, and work to do our part to encourage the creation of better-paying green jobs that respect workers' rights to breath, drink, and live freely.

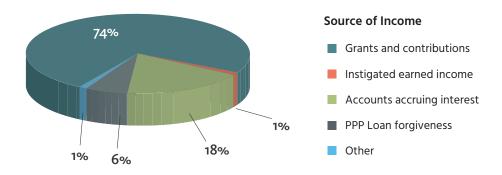
FISCAL YEAR 2021 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

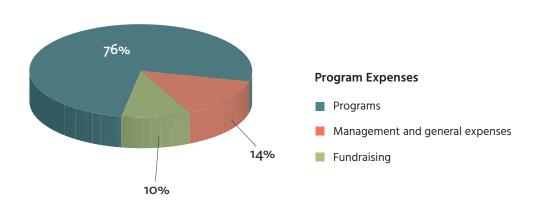
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Category	Notes	Classification	Sources of Income
Grants and contributions	includes memberships and non-cash	Philanthropic support	74%
Instigated earned income	includes gross rents, legal fees	Earned income	1%
Accounts accruing interest	investment income	Investment income	18%
PPP loan forgiveness	Paycheck Protection Plan	Government	6%
Other	includes sales of assets and other	Other	1%
	Grants and contributions Instigated earned income Accounts accruing interest PPP loan forgiveness	Grants and contributions includes memberships and non-cash Instigated earned income includes gross rents, legal fees Accounts accruing interest investment income PPP loan forgiveness Paycheck Protection Plan	Grants and contributions includes memberships and non-cash Philanthropic support Instigated earned income includes gross rents, legal fees Earned income Accounts accruing interest investment income Investment income PPP loan forgiveness Paycheck Protection Plan Government

TOTAL \$5,103,514

Expenses	Category	Notes	Classification	Program Expenses
\$2,607,752	Programs	all programmatic dollars attributed	Program	76%
\$478,628	Management and general expenses	all management and general attributed	Operations	14%
\$330,708	Fundraising	all fundraising attributed	Fundraising	10%
TOTAL \$3,417,088				



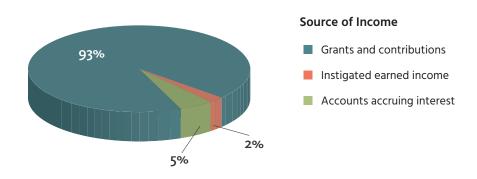


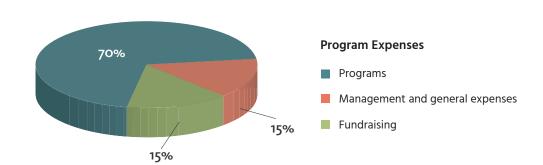
FISCAL YEAR 2020 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Revenues	Category	Notes	Classification	Sources of Income
\$3,127,100	Grants and contributions	includes memberships and non-cash	Philanthropic support	93%
\$58,564	Instigated earned income	includes gross rents, legal fees	Earned income	2%
\$186,781	Accounts accruing interest	investment income	Investment income	5%
\$862	Other	includes sales of assets and other	Other	0%
·				

TOTAL \$3,373,307

	Expenses	Category	Notes	Classification	Program Expenses
	\$1,935,301	Programs	all programmatic dollars attributed	Program	70%
	\$411,464	Management and general expenses	all management and general attributed	Operations	15%
	\$405,372	Fundraising	all fundraising attributed	Fundraising	15%
TOTAL	\$2,752,137				







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