



# 2007 Annual Report



ENVIRONMENT  
**ILLINOIS**

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Clean air. Clean water. Open spaces.



**“We just completed our first full year as Environment Illinois, the new home of Illinois PIRG’s environmental program. I’m pleased to report that we had one of the best years in our organization’s 18-year history.”**

**—Rebecca Stanfield, Director**

## From the director

*Dear Environment Illinois supporter,*

*We just completed our first full year as Environment Illinois, the new home of Illinois PIRG’s environmental program. I’m pleased to report that we had one of our best years in the organization’s 18-year history.*

*Environment Illinois’s first campaign, Global Warming Solutions, launched in May of 2006, reached an early milestone last fall when the governor announced the formation of the Illinois Climate Change Task Force and appointed me as a member. By the end of our first year as Environment Illinois, eight of our policy solutions had been recommended by that 40-member task force to be part of the state’s global warming response.*

*In January, after a three-year battle we waged with the state’s coal and electric companies, Illinois EPA adopted final rules requiring a 90 percent reduction in toxic mercury emissions from the state’s power plants. Advanced mercury controls will start to go on those plants next year, and by 2015 each plant will be capturing 90 percent of its mercury pollution, instead of spewing it into our air.*

*This spring in the General Assembly, we eliminated another source of toxic mercury pollution. Legislation backed by Environment Illinois now prohibits the sale of thermostats and medical devices containing mercury.*

*This summer, our campaign for clean energy scored a major victory when the Illinois General Assembly passed Environment Illinois’s renewable energy and energy efficiency standards. Under the legislation, signed into law by the Governor in August, our utilities will offer aggressive programs to save energy to all of the state’s electric customers next year, and by 2025, a quarter of all power sold in Illinois will be generated by clean renewable sources, such as wind and solar power.*

*And last but not least, Environment Illinois’s Protect Lake Michigan campaign had a banner year. First, my staff helped to pass a landmark bill to create the first ever system for managing water withdrawals. In addition, we mobilized more than 70,000 people to stop BP-Amoco’s plan to increase its industrial pollution into Lake Michigan.*

*Each of these victories was made possible by you, our members and supporters. I can’t thank you enough.*

*Sincerely,*

Rebecca Stanfield  
Director

## Environment Illinois serves on governor's climate change task force

This February, Gov. Rod Blagojevich set a goal of reducing Illinois's emissions of the pollutants that cause global warming to 1990 levels by 2020, and to 60 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. The targets were announced at the kick-off for the Illinois Climate Change Advisory Group, created by Gov. Blagojevich when he issued Executive Order 06-11 last October. Environment Illinois served on that task force to advise the administration on how to achieve these goals.

"This is a good goal that reflects the scientific consensus that global warming must be addressed without further delay," said Rebecca Stanfield, state director of Environment Illinois. "Now we need to make sure we have a good system in place to actually achieve this goal."

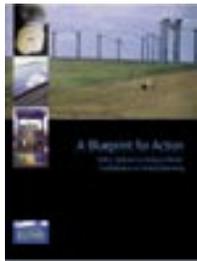
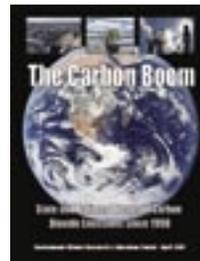
In the absence of a federal policy, states and cities are establishing their own plans to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. For example, eleven states have adopted automobile standards for global warming pollution. Eight northeastern states have set emissions caps requiring their electric power industries to reduce global warming pollution by 10 percent by 2019, and three states have adopted

comprehensive global warming pollution reduction laws.

"Our state will be better positioned to face the challenge of global warming if we begin now, and don't wait until a federal regime is adopted," said Stanfield.

To set the stage for the task force deliberations, Environment Illinois wrote and released a new report: "A Blueprint for Action: Policy Options to Reduce Illinois's Contribution to Global Warming." The report detailed 14 policy strategies, which, combined, can cut Illinois's global warming emissions by as much as 25 percent by 2025. Eight of these strategies were adopted by the task force as recommendations to the governor, including setting standards for automobile emissions, increasing our use of renewable energy, and establishing energy efficiency standards and programs to reduce the amount of energy we need to power our homes and businesses.

"Most of the things we can do now to meet the 2020 goals we should be doing anyway," said Stanfield. "These policies save consumers money, create jobs, reduce harmful air pollution, and they accomplish all that while helping us stop global warming."



*After Gov. Blagojevich announced ambitious global warming reduction goals, Environment Illinois's worked to recommend new policies to reach those goals. Environment Illinois reports, pictured above, documented the extent of global warming pollution and its impacts, and outlined concrete policy solutions.*

Photo Credit: Matt Trommer, under license from shutterstock.com



*Environment Illinois-backed legislation has given Illinois the strongest renewable energy standard in the country.*

**“This is a win for the planet, a win for public health and a win for our economy.”**

**—Rebecca Stanfield  
Director**

Above: SPS Energy Solutions

## Illinois takes a giant step toward a new energy future

This summer, the General Assembly passed landmark legislation to dramatically increase Illinois’s use of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. If adequately implemented, the energy efficiency standards imposed on the state’s electricity providers will position our state to have the nation’s second-largest annual electricity savings, behind California. We will also have one of the most aggressive renewable energy standards, mandating that by 2025, a quarter of our power will be generated from clean, renewable energy, such as wind and solar power.

Over the course of nearly four years, through a combination of research, coalition building, media outreach and grassroots mobilization, we demonstrated widespread and deep support for making efficiency and renewable energy the cornerstone of efforts to fix a fatally botched attempt at deregulating the electricity marketplace.

### **A long fight for clean energy**

In the fall of 2003, we began to press the newly-elected Blagojevich administration to support a strong renewable energy and energy efficiency program for Illinois. The administration responded in late 2004 by developing their Sustainable Energy Plan. Unfortunately, the summer of 2005 saw that plan

sidelined by the refusal of the Illinois Commerce Commission to implement the standards. Despite tens of thousands of individuals and hundreds of organizations backing the measures, the Sustainable Energy Plan failed to become a reality.

Environment Illinois continued to mobilize support for efficiency and renewables throughout 2005 and 2006, as two forces created urgency for energy solutions. First, global warming became a driving force in both national and state politics, and second, a massive electricity rate increase loomed in the near future, triggered by the end of a 10-year rate freeze negotiated in the 1997 deregulation legislation. Clearly, 2007 was bound to be a big year for electricity policy in the state, and our policies uniquely addressed both global warming and high electricity bills.

In February, state Sen. Don Harmon (Oak Park) introduced legislation backed by Environment Illinois and our coalition of organizations, including the city of Chicago, the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance, Sierra Club, the Illinois Environmental Council, the Environmental Law and Policy Center and the Center for Neighborhood Technology. The bill expanded upon the governor’s Sustainable Energy Plan, requiring that utilities use energy efficiency, instead of dirty power plants, to meet

two percent of their customers' needs by 2015. Only California has a more aggressive energy saving goal for electric power companies. With Sen. Harmon's leadership, the bill passed the Senate unanimously.

However, the Illinois House of Representatives was embroiled in the negotiations on electricity rates. We needed a plan to make sure that our bill was incorporated in whatever rate plan finally passed.

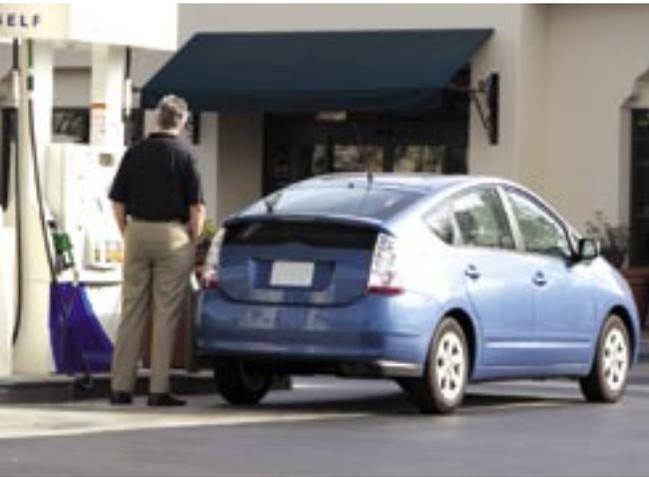
We found allies to help achieve this goal, including Attorney General Lisa Madigan, House Majority Leader Barbara Flynn Currie (Hyde Park), Rep. Deborah Graham (Oak Park), and Rep. Elaine Nekritz (Northbrook). We also activated our members and e-activists to send postcards and e-mails to legislators about the benefits of energy efficiency and renewable energy for both our environment and consumers. In the end, the deal did include standards that will reduce pollution from our electric industry, while making our grid more reliable and less costly to operate.

"This is a win for the planet, a win for public health and a win for our economy," said Stanfield.

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▶ *This wind farm in Bureau County generates enough energy to power 20,000 homes.*





*Clean cars like this hybrid could reduce air pollution and save consumers money at the pump.*

**“It is unfortunate that the industry is spending money on lawyers and lobbyists to fight against pollution standards, instead of on engineers to make the cleaner cars we want and need.”**

**—Rebecca Stanfield,  
Director**

Above: Tim McCaig

## Environment Illinois testifies for clean cars

On May 15, the Illinois Clean Cars Act (H.B. 3242), which would require automakers to produce less polluting cars for Illinois consumers, cleared its first legislative hurdle, winning a key vote in the Environmental Health Committee of the Illinois General Assembly. The committee voted 7-5 in favor of the measure. House Speaker Michael Madigan has signed on as a lead cosponsor of the legislation.

“The committee and leadership recognize that clean car standards can reduce our emissions of global warming pollution by 10 million tons per year, while also reducing the air pollution that causes heart and lung damage,” said Rebecca Stanfield, director of Environment Illinois. “Moreover, cleaner cars save consumers money at the gas pump, a real benefit as we all face the long-term reality of higher gas prices.”

At the hearing, Stanfield and others presented testimony documenting the benefits of the clean car standards, which have already been adopted by 12 other states. By the year 2020, these states will have avoided the emission of nearly 400 million tons of carbon dioxide as a result of their clean car program.

“We know that automakers have

the technology to dramatically reduce the air pollution and global warming pollution emitted by the cars they produce,” said Stanfield. “They are already making cleaner cars and sending them to consumers in other states. Illinoisans deserve to have access to the cleanest and most efficient cars too.”

Unfortunately, automakers are waging a national campaign in the courts and in the halls of Congress to invalidate the states’ clean car standards. In May, state Rep. Karen May (Highwood), the lead clean car legislation sponsor, flew to Washington D.C., to testify before the U.S. EPA against automakers’ moves to preempt state action. Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan submitted written opposition to federal preemption. Automakers have brought multiple lawsuits to argue that states should not have the authority to regulate automobile emissions.

“It is unfortunate that the industry is spending money on lawyers and lobbyists to fight against pollution standards, instead of on engineers to make the cleaner cars we want and need,” said Stanfield. “Nonetheless, our lawmakers have taken the first step toward becoming a clean car state, and that’s good news for everyone.”

# Protecting Lake Michigan: Two big victories for the Great Lakes

Accounting for 90 percent of the fresh surface waters of North America, the Great Lakes are truly a national treasure. These vast waters not only provide drinking water and recreation for millions of Americans, they are also the lifeblood of the region—the Grand Canyon and the Yellowstone of the Midwest, as Illinois Congressman Rahm Emanuel recently observed.

Yet, this summer the Great Lakes faced a new threat from one of the world's largest corporations: British Petroleum. Despite BP's marketing on its environmental reputation, the company sought—and was granted—permission to dump 1,500 pounds of ammonia and nearly 5,000 pounds of toxics-containing sludge particles daily from its Whiting, Indiana refinery into Lake Michigan.

## BP backs down

In response, Environment Illinois worked with its sister organizations in other Great Lakes states to organize what the Associated Press called a “firestorm” of public and political outrage. We thank the more than 80,000 region residents who signed our petition, attended our protests at BP gas stations, and contributed toward our purchase of newspaper ads demanding a

higher standard of care for the Great Lakes.

By late August, BP publicly pledged to avoid the pollution increases allowed under its new permit. Although BP's announcement was a victory, the permit allowing its dumping increase remains on the books in Indiana. To ensure Lake Michigan's protection, Environment Illinois is working to codify BP's promise, both to hold BP to its word and to maintain the legal precedent of no increased dumping in Lake Michigan.

## Gov. signs Great Lakes Compact

In a second victory for the Great Lakes, Gov. Rod Blagojevich signed an Environment Illinois-backed bill this August allowing Illinois to adopt the provisions of the Great Lakes Water Resources Compact, which aims to ensure sustainable water levels in the Great Lakes Basin. Before the compact, we had no assurance of the long-term supply of this vital resource. The compact will close the door on schemes to export Great Lakes' water, provide public review of proposed new water uses and require Great Lakes states to create water-use efficiency programs. To become binding, the compact must pass each of the eight Great Lakes states' legislatures, as well as a vote in the U.S. Congress.

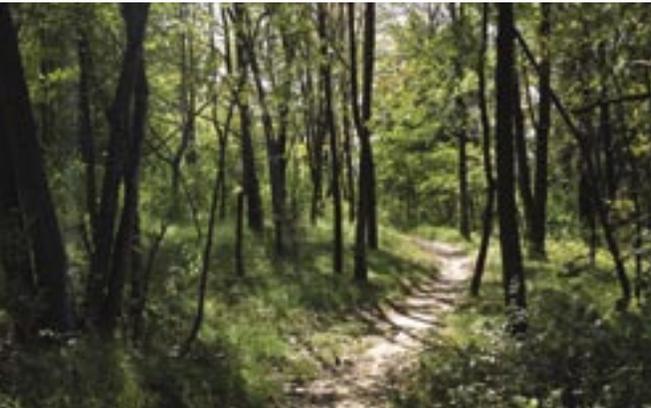


*Environment Illinois Advocate Max Muller speaking at a press conference about BP's dumping plan. Footage from this press conference was shown on several Chicago TV stations and picked up by the nationally syndicated NewsHour with Jim Lehrer.*

**“BP's promise affirms that they heard our call: Lake Michigan is our gem and our drinking water—not a dumping ground.”**

**—Max Muller,  
Environmental Advocate**

Above: Tom Bligh



*Environment Illinois helped win full funding, for the first time in years, for our state's biggest ongoing land conservation programs.*

Above, clockwise from top: Lawrence P. Lawhead, Brian Morrisson, Karen Lynch, all under license from shutterstock.com, Over, clockwise from top left: leppyone, Michael Brown, LJ MacPhee, Tiger Puppala, Henry McLin, all under Creative Commons license.

## Preserving Illinois's vanishing natural areas

Environment Illinois's advocacy helped set our state on a new course toward preserving natural areas and special places before they disappear.

Open spaces are crucial for clean water, species diversity, recreation, hunting and healthy lifestyles, but Illinois has historically neglected them. With less than 4 percent of Illinois's land publicly owned for recreation or conservation, we rank 48th out of 50 states nationally in open space per capita.

Illinois also spends far less than other states to fix the problem. During the peak year of investment, Illinois spent \$2.67 per resident annually on open spaces. In contrast, Ohio spent \$4.36, Minnesota spent \$5.76 and Wisconsin spent \$9.80.

### A legacy of loss

Illinois's history of neglect has resulted in the loss of the vast majority of the state's pristine natural areas. Once famous for its wetlands, Illinois has lost more than 90 percent of its wetlands since European settlement. The rich tall grass prairie ecosystem that once characterized the state is 99.9 percent gone. Nearly 450 threatened and endangered species live within state boundaries.

Illinois needs to build parks and

acquire and maintain ecologically sensitive lands before the cost becomes prohibitive or the opportunities disappear. Real estate prices in Illinois's rural farmland rose 68 percent from 2000 to 2006. Acting now is especially important in northeastern Illinois, where the population is expected to grow by more than 2 million people, and the collar counties are among the nation's fastest growing.

Moreover, we know what lands need to be protected in the state. Illinois's State Wildlife Action Plan, top-rated nationally, provides a blueprint for habitat needs. The Natural Areas Inventory identifies the most important vanishing natural areas. What's been missing is consistent funding to make land acquisition possible.

### Calling for full funding

This session, Environment Illinois and our allies called on legislators to fully fund the state's two ongoing land acquisitions programs, the Open Space Land Acquisition and Development fund (OSLAD) and the Natural Areas Acquisition Fund (NAAF), which help communities build parks and playgrounds and provide habitat for the state's most vulnerable endangered species. Although these programs have a

dedicated funding source in the Real Estate Transfer Tax, Illinois consistently diverts those funds—typically allocating less than half of earmarked revenue toward open space acquisition.

### Real results in the Legislature

For the first time in recent memory, this session was different. Although early draft operating budgets would have under-funded these programs, Environment Illinois teamed up with a coalition of over 30 other public interest organizations, waging a media and lobbying campaign, and won full funding of \$35 million for OSLAD and \$25 million for NAAF.

This session, Environment Illinois also helped pass resolutions in both the state House and Senate urging Gov. Rod Blagojevich to include in the next capital budget funding for the Illinois Special Places Acquisition, Conservation, and Enhancement Program (iSPACE), which would fund acquisition and conservation of open spaces across Illinois. The resolution passed both the House and Senate unanimously and serves as a powerful statement of the Legislature's intent to use a fraction of any capital budget to protect Illinois's open spaces for future generations.

## Saving Pyramid Park

*Environment Illinois was shocked this May when the previously unknown Toney Watkins Company emerged near the end of the legislative session with a plan to acquire 2,000 acres in the middle of Pyramid State Park to build an entertainment complex modeled after Branson, Mo.*

*Located in Perry County, southeast of St. Louis, Pyramid Park was expanded with land acquired and restored in 2001 under the Open Lands Trust Program, creating Illinois's largest state park. A portion of the acreage Toney Watkins sought is recognized by the National Audubon Society as an Important Bird Area because threatened species, such as the Northern Harrier, thrive there.*

*In exchange for the parkland, Toney Watkins Company offered a non-adjacent and unrestored former strip mine. The land they sought was in the middle of Pyramid Park, splitting what is now one continuous park into two parcels.*

*Never before had Illinois violated the public trust by selling state parkland for private investment, and doing so now would set a terrible precedent. With the help of our electronic activists, who sent over 1,000 e-mails to their legislators, and by working with over two dozen conservation and public interest organizations, we succeeded in saving Pyramid Park.*



*Pyramid State Park provides important habitat for dozens of threatened and endangered species, including (clockwise from bottom right) Dickcissel, Eastern Meadowlark, Northern Bobwhite, Loggerhead Shrike and Short-Eared Owl.*



*Toxic chemicals like mercury in consumer products threaten public health and the environment. Lake Michigan, for example is under a fish consumption advisory for mercury pollution.*

## Cleaning up mercury and toxic flame-retardants

Despite resistance from powerful special interests, Environment Illinois made great progress this legislative session in advancing bills to clean up Illinois's most pressing and preventable sources of toxic pollution.

### **Cleaning up toxic mercury**

Environment Illinois partnered with the Illinois Environmental Council to continue our state's winning streak in protecting citizens from toxic mercury pollution. In 2006, we helped pass a bill to capture and recycle mercury-containing automobile switches. In December, Illinois enacted a historic rule to require power plant owners to clean up their mercury pollution. This August, Gov. Blagojevich signed laws prohibiting the sale of mercury-containing thermostats and eliminating mercury in measuring devices. When disposed of, mercury-containing thermostats and measuring devices are often crushed or incinerated, causing mercury's airborne release and eventual contamination of waterways and fish that people eat.

### **Bill to ban toxic flame retardant**

Environment Illinois made great progress this session advancing a bill to clean up a man-made toxic chemical that's so widespread it's found in polar bear blood, sewage

sludge and mothers' breast milk: the toxic flame retardant decaBDE. House Bill 1421, which would eliminate decaBDE from TV casings and home furnishings by 2011, passed the House Environmental Committee on March 20. Illinois was just the second state in the nation to pass a decaBDE ban out of committee.

Safer alternatives to decaBDE are available, but the four chemical companies that still sell it are going to great lengths to stop HB 1421—they even flew in paid consultants to oppose it in committee. Environment Illinois worked to counter their influence, generating over 1,500 e-mails and phone calls to legislators from Illinoisans in support of the bill.

On March 20, the Illinois EPA released its comprehensive survey of recent research on decaBDE's toxicity and alternatives. The report cites numerous studies indicating that decaBDE breaks down into more toxic chemicals already banned in Illinois, concludes that alternative flame retardants are available, and recommends that Illinois phase out decaBDE. The agency thanked Environment Illinois in its acknowledgements for the assistance we gave in compiling research and information for the report.

Above: istockphoto

# Environment Illinois Supporters

Citizen support is the cornerstone of Environment Illinois and the Environment Illinois Research & Education Center. Thousands of Illinois citizens supported Environment Illinois by making membership contributions in fiscal year 2007. The members listed below were particularly generous in backing the organization's research and advocacy. Names that appear in italics denote members who give monthly, providing stability for our organization through our sustainers program.

## Development Committee

Development Committee members supported the organization with contributions of \$1,000 or more

Louis A. Calhoun • Rob Clearfield • Bruce Davidson • *Wendell Davis* • John Hartray Jr. • Douglas H. Phelps • K. C. Poulos • Juanita & Richard Ray • Kip Robbins • Ken Vatz

## Patrons

Patrons are members who supported the organization with contributions of \$500 to \$999.

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Sponsors are members who supported the organization with contributions of \$300 to \$499.

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*Brachfeld* • *Howard Bresnick* • *Roger Brown* • Debi Brownstone • Norm Byster • *Colleen Cannon* • *Deborah Clarkson* • *Blake Coleman* • *Helen Corley* • *Wes Cowell* • Kendra Cunningham • *Kate Cuno* • *Lloyd Davidson* • Carolien De Jong • Pamela Deboer • Kim Difranco • *Patrick Duke* • Kristie Edwards • *Nadine Etiennne* • Scott Fech • *Anne C. Felder* • Ehren Fournier • *Sy Frolichstein* • Cody George • Nancy Giampietro • *Amy Glasser* • *Bhumika Gor* • Kerry Grady • Joshua Graves • *Matthew Groch* • *Jeff Grossheny* • Todd Hamilton • *Joanne Hass* • *Sharon Heilana* • *Drew Henderson* • *Christian Hennin* • *Seth Hicks* • *Megan Inskip* • *Eric Jacobsen* • *Karen Johnson* • *Roman Jurpas* • *Paul Keck* • John Kelly • *Maureen Kelly* • *Thomas Kinkus* • *Christine Kirzeder* • *Audrey Lambinus* • *James Little* • Anne Locascio • *Sean Longworth* • Sallie Lund • Alison Mahoney • *Justin Mapp* • Sarah Martin • Sue McCarthy • *Brandon McKenna* • *D. Mead* • Becky Medins • *Marcel Molina Jr.* • *Tony Monaco* • *Jayes Monghan III* • *Bridget Montgomery* • *Ted Moore* • *Richard Morales* • *Nicholas Murray* • *Chris Neid* • *Kevin O. Neil* • Takiyah Olatunbosun • *Emily Olson* • Edward Oppenheimer • John Padour • *Sarah Palmer* • *Dan Peters* • *Michelle Pierce* • *Dennis Podgorski* • *Petre Popesiu* • Joan Pritchard • Branko Radosavljevic • *Monica Rinder* • *Angie Rinehart* • *Kathleen Ritz* • *Kogercarole Rogers*

• Robin Ross • *Antonella Russo* • Elizabeth Smith • *Roch Stewart* • *Barney Straus* • *Gail Straus* • *Alice Swan* • *Donna Swanson* • Katherine Tate-Bradish • *Samantha Trompeter* • Alejandro Urzagaste • Germain Vargas • *Lonie Walker* • *Matt Walkowiak* • Gerald Weiner • *Louis Weinstein* • *Liz Wensel* • *Richard Whaling* • John Wiltgen • *Emily Wolf* • *Janet Wyman*

## Foundation Support

The following foundations supported the work of the Environment Illinois Research & Education Center:

- Energy Foundation
- Environmental Health Fund
- Field Foundation of Illinois
- Joyce Foundation
- Pew Charitable Trusts
- State Environmental Leadership Program

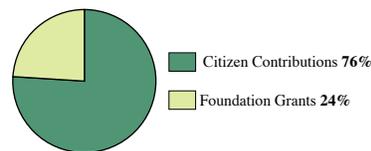
## Planned Giving

Plant a seed that will grow a greener Illinois. Please consider including Environment Illinois in your will. Your bequest will assure that we continue to protect Illinois's air, water and open spaces for future generations. Environment Illinois also welcomes current contributions of personal property and assets. For more information call: 1-800-841-7299, or e-mail: [PlannedGiving@EnvironmentIllinois.org](mailto:PlannedGiving@EnvironmentIllinois.org).

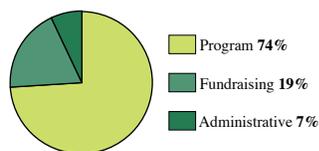
## Financial Information

Charts reflect combined financial information for Environment Illinois, Environment Illinois Research & Education Center, and Environment Illinois citizen outreach programs.

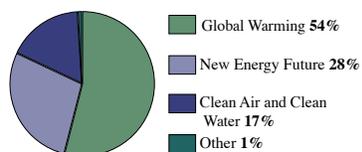
### FY07 Income



### FY07 Expenses



### FY07 Program Expenses



## Environment Illinois staff

(Partial list)



Rebecca Stanfield  
Director



Max Muller  
Environmental  
Advocate



LuCinda Hohmann  
Federal Field Organizer



Pat Wood  
Citizen Outreach  
Director



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