



2010 Annual Report



ENVIRONMENT
ILLINOIS

Clean air. Clean water. Open spaces.



“Our vision for the Great Lakes is one where our beaches are safe and free of pollution.”

**Max Muller
Program Director**

From the program director

I've always found the name for Lake Michigan and its sister lakes to be a bit of an understatement. Great Lakes? They're more like Astoundingly, Mindbogglingly Huge.

The Great Lakes provide daily drinking water for Chicago, 124 suburbs, and 33 million North Americans. They support shipping, manufacturing, a \$15-billion-a-year tourism industry, and a \$7-billion-a-year sports fishing industry. But although the Lakes—and their benefits—are truly vast, they're also vulnerable.

What threats could possibly harm the gargantuan Great Lakes? Really big ones. Toxic pollution, runoff from factory farms and sprawling development, and invasive species have left the Great Lakes ecosystem so severely disrupted that scientists believe it is approaching a tipping point—a point beyond which fully restoring the Lakes to their clean, natural state would be impossible.

In 2010, we helped lead the way on a measure that would provide an infusion of new energy and resources for the fight against pollution and invasive species. That bill passed a key U.S. Senate committee last June. To protect the small streams and wetlands that feed Lake Michigan, we pushed a bill in the U.S. House that would restore recently revoked Clean Water Act protections, and our advocacy helped shepherd that legislation through committee in the Senate.

From winning bans on chemicals that accumulate in fish, to capping mercury pollution from power plants and blocking BP from dumping more pollution into Lake Michigan, to creating an interstate compact to use water more sustainably, Environment Illinois has worked with other Great Lakes-region groups and won some big victories.

But with pollution and invasive species bringing us ever closer to the tipping point, we need to act again, and we need your continued help. I deeply appreciate the contribution you have made, and look forward to working with you in the year to come as we work for sweeping protections that will restore the Lakes for good.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "MAX Muller". The letters are stylized and cursive.

Max Muller
Program Director

Repowering Illinois starts with using energy efficiently

Thanks in part to our work, Illinois is taking advantage of the easiest, fastest, and most job-supporting step toward a new energy future, with new policies to boost energy efficiency.

First, efficiency standards for new homes will cut energy use by 15 percent more than the standards we helped the state establish in 2006. Second, natural gas and electric utilities are now required to meet a portion of energy demand by creating programs to help their customers be more efficient, rather than just continually selling them more energy.

In 2009, we helped win these smart policies in the legislature by lobbying, organizing, and earning media coverage of our research. In 2010, we worked to make sure the state fully implemented them to maximize their benefits.

Educating the public on energy leaks through media outreach

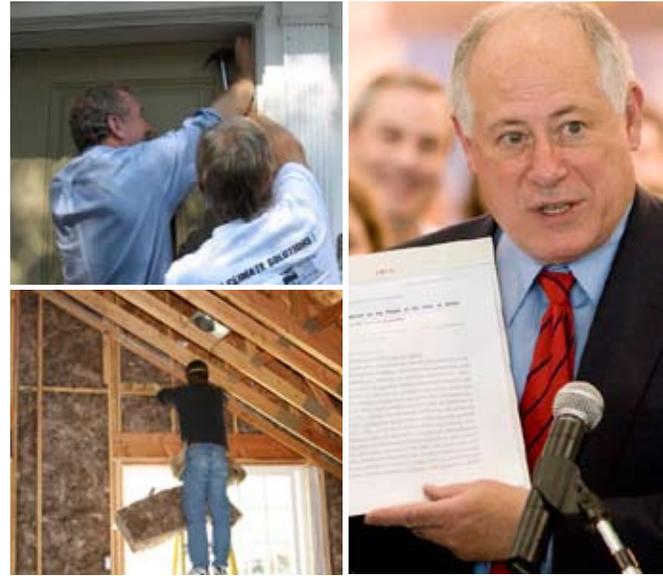
Most homes leak energy from inefficient appliances, poor insulation, and bad design. You can feel it standing close to an inefficient window on a cold day. You can see it when you open your exorbitant energy

bill. Energy “leaks” don’t just send your dollars flying up the chimney or slipping out under your door. They also add to Illinois’s massive energy demand, the majority of which is met by burning coal or other fossil fuels, contributing to global warming and air pollution.

But here’s the good news: Stopping energy leaks more than pays for itself, and we released a report this year to educate Illinoisans of that fact. Our research found that smart energy-efficiency policies could save an Illinois family of four nearly \$2,000 each year by 2050, and save Illinois businesses \$1,000 per worker.

To get there by 2050, we’ve set goals for 2030: By that year, we’re working to see that all new buildings are zero-net-energy (they generate more energy on-site, through solar panels or other technology, than they consume). Imagine it: no energy bills.

We also advocated this year for government incentives and innovative financing programs to help home and business owners overcome the up-front cost of energy improvements—we’ll continue to build on that advocacy to make sure these policies are adopted in 2011.



Installing weatherstripping for better insulation; Gov. Pat Quinn presents a bill to require energy audits of state buildings; installing eco-friendly insulation.

Cover Photo: Shawnee National Forest, Capture®
P. 1 Photo credit: Peter Cutts.
P. 2 Photo credits: (Clockwise from top left) Chesapeake Climate, Chris Eaves, Moosicorn Farm.



Swimmers in Chicago; invasive Asian carp.

Protecting Lake Michigan: Support rallied for restoration

Lake Michigan is a central part of our region's—and nation's—heritage, and part of the legacy we want our children to inherit and enjoy. But the health of the Lakes is at risk and efforts to protect them are falling short.

More than 24 billion gallons of sewage are dumped into the Lakes each year. In 2009, there were more than 350 beach closings along Illinois's 60 miles of Lake Michigan shoreline. Beaches most frequently noted for bacteria levels above acceptable national standards included Jackson Park Beach (63rd St.), North Point Marina's North Beach, and Winnetka Elder Park Beach in Cook County.

Beach closings are perhaps the most publicly visible sign of the problems facing the Great Lakes. In fact, scientists caution that a combination of factors, such as pollution from sewage and toxic chemicals, as well as the potential invasion of the Asian carp, threaten to push the Lakes over the edge.

In 2010, Environment Illinois pushed decision-makers for more resources, and gained traction as Congress and the White House undertook efforts to bring the Great Lakes back from the brink.

Congress considers restoration

Our vision for the Great Lakes is one where our beaches are safe and free of pollution—even after a heavy rain. Where we can swim in Lake Michigan and enjoy some of the best fishing in the country for trout, perch, bass, and walleye. The Great Lakes are a national treasure, and it will take a national-scale investment to clean them up.

The Great Lakes Ecosystem Protection Act currently making its way through Congress would authorize new energy and resources—to the tune of \$650 million per year—for restoring and protecting the Lakes.

This summer, we lobbied Congress in support of the measure and made the case for restoration in a report titled "America's Great Waters," which we released at a press conference at the Shedd Aquarium. Our citizen outreach staff had tens of thousands of face-to-face conversations with Illinoisans, urging them to contact their Congressional representatives. The bill passed a key committee in June and we're continuing to push for its passage in the coming year.

Obama appoints carp "czar"

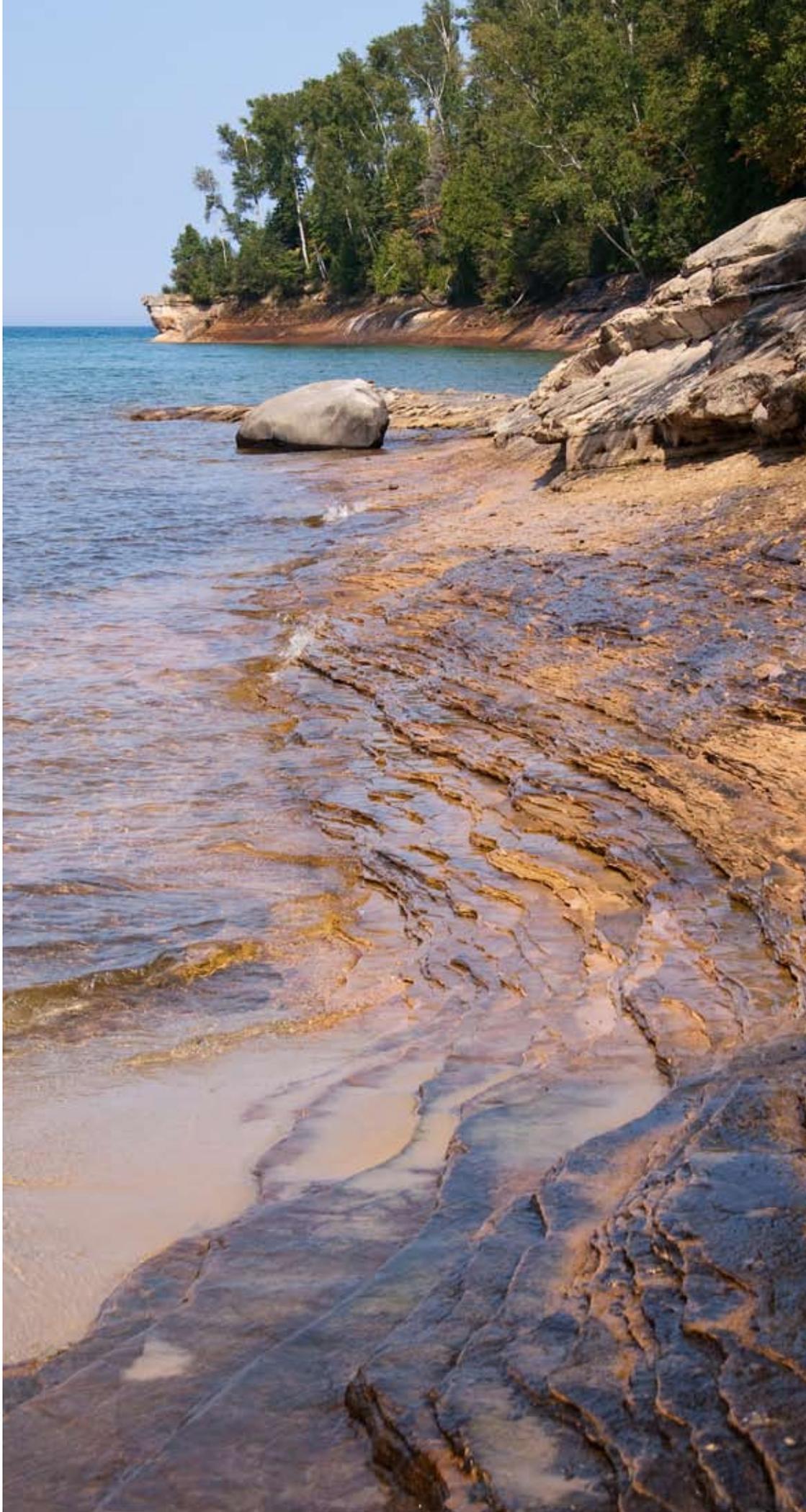
Lake Michigan faces the most immediate threat from voracious in-

P. 3 Photo credits: (from top) Chicago Geek; Kate Gardiner.
P. 4 Photo credit: Jim David *

vasive Asian carp. Shipping canals in Chicago that connect the lake with the Mississippi River create the carp’s passageway—the same path already taken by invasive zebra mussels and round gobi. We’re working for a permanent solution: separating the two watersheds.

Environment Illinois, along with an array of prominent national and Great Lakes conservation NGOs, called on President Obama this fall to radically change the federal response to the crisis, specifically requesting the appointment of a federal incident commander to coordinate and ensure transparency of the response. The president responded by appointing a “carp czar” to oversee and better coordinate the federal response to the problem.

In November, lawmakers took a first step by officially designating the Asian carp an “injurious” species, making it illegal to import. While cleaning up the myriad problems facing the Lakes, this is an important first step toward addressing a major threat before it takes hold.





The Mississippi River winds its way through farmland in southern Illinois; Environment Illinois's Miranda Carter releasing our report, "Corporate Agribusiness and America's Waterways," along the banks of the Illinois River in Peoria.

P. 5 Photo credits: (from top left) Katy Silberger; Staff.
P. 6 Photo Credit: Chicagoman

Industrial agriculture: A threat to Illinois

Since the days of Mark Twain, the mighty Mississippi River has been known the world over as an American treasure; we worked this summer to ensure it stays that way.

An industrial-scale problem

Throughout America, the most significant and systemic threat to water quality remains agricultural pollution—pesticides, fertilizer, sediments, and manure—which runs off into rivers, lakes, streams, and groundwater. The situation has worsened as large agribusinesses have started building more industrial-scale factory farms throughout the upper Midwest. That's why Environment Illinois launched our campaign this year to clean up the dirtiest factory farms. We researched and wrote about the problem and briefed legislators and policymakers.

With one cow generating 18 times as much waste as a person, a single factory farm can produce as much waste as a small city. Too often, these vast quantities of waste are not handled properly. In Illinois, for example, over 50 percent of EPA-inspected factory farms have been found to be in violation of the Clean Water Act.

Factory farm waste contains a litany

of pollutants, including: nutrients, antibiotics, parasites, bacteria, viruses, pesticides, hormones, and arsenic, copper, and other heavy metals. Improper land application and lagoon storage overflows kill fish, taint drinking water, and promote harmful algae, toxic cyanobacteria, and dead zones in the Illinois and Mississippi river ecosystems.

Cleaning up the biggest polluters

State and federal regulators are in the early stages of considering new policies to address factory farm pollution, including stronger regulation of factory farms' siting and operation, and better enforcement.

But a fix hasn't come easily. Big agribusiness groups have close ties and tremendous clout with policymakers and leaders in many state regulatory agencies. Many of the biggest polluters have run slick public relations campaigns designed to hide polluters behind the iconic image of the family farmer, deflecting public attention and ire. We're using education and advocacy to stand up to their influence.

Report highlight

In November, we released a report, "Corporate Agribusiness and America's Waterways," which documented

is's land and water

how agribusiness has become an industrial operation—with mega-dairies and agri-business giants like Cargill creating industrial-scale pollution in our waterways like the Great Lakes and Illinois River.

“My family farmed hogs for three generations—If I could raise my hogs sustainably, then certainly a huge company like Cargill can manage to do the same,” said Art Norris, now the Quad Cities Waterkeeper, who spoke at one of our press conferences to release the report, which won print and radio news coverage statewide.

The report came as Illinois EPA worked to respond to a recent

highly critical federal finding that Illinois's factory farm regulations are too lax to keep our water clean. We worked with key officials to ensure that the state agency commits to fixing every problem, and will continue watching to ensure that in the longer term, that the Agency follows through.

Throughout Illinois, people's livelihoods depend on having both clean water and bountiful farms. Both can and should be a part of our future; but to ensure that they will be, Environment Illinois will keep working to strengthen protections for clean water by reducing factory farm pollution through improved siting, regulation, and enforcement.

Report: Corporate agribusiness and America's waterways

- ▶ **Giants:** The top four companies in each sector produce 72 percent of the nation's beef, 63 percent of its pork, and 57 percent of its chicken.
- ▶ **Industrial-scale pollution:** Cargill's Illinois River slaughterhouse is among three Cargill facilities ranking in America's top 20 for toxic discharges into waterways.
- ▶ **Safe haven for polluters:** Illinois has the region's weakest environmental protections from factory farms.



▶ For more information, you can download the full report on our website: www.EnvironmentIllinois.org/reports



Clearing up the Clean Water Act

Protecting Illinois's rivers again

For decades, Illinois waters enjoyed basic protections from pollution under the Clean Water Act. But 2001 and 2006, bitterly divided decisions the Supreme Court exempted small streams and many wetlands from the law, throwing into question which waters remained protected. In Illinois, more than half our streams, 150,000 acres of wetlands, and the drinking water supplies for 1.7 million Illinoisans are now at risk of losing their Clean Water Act protections.

And of course, our great waterways like the Mississippi and the Great Lakes can only be as healthy as the small streams and wetlands that feed and clean them. In 2010, Environment Illinois worked to build support for proposals in Congress and the Environmental Protection Agency would restore Clean Water Act protections and clarify the obvious: America's vital streams and wetlands are no one's dumping ground.

We won supportive media coverage across the state, including an opinion piece co-signed by the American Corn Growers Association in the Springfield State Journal Register. We expanded our coalition to include farmers and small town mayors and sports fishermen, and organized more than 2,000 Illinoisans to contact elected officials. We'll keep working in the coming year to ensure policymakers stand up for Illinois's waters.

▲ The Illinois River near Starved Rock State Park.



Clockwise from left: a new plug-in electric car; Gov. Pat Quinn speaking at Environment Illinois's "America on the Move" report release; Christine del Priore releases our "Extreme Weather" report.

P. 7 Photo credits: (Clockwise from top left) Olga Besnard*; staff; staff.
P. 8 Photo credit: Pantanality.

Driving the energy discussion with research

Illinois and our nation are at a crossroads on energy policy. We can put ourselves on the path toward a clean energy future—by prioritizing conservation and efficiency, by breaking our dependence on foreign oil, by investing in clean, renewable energy sources, and by repowering our economy with green jobs. The only alternative is to follow the same old path of using too much energy, with too much of it coming from dirty, dangerous, and costly sources.

In 2010, our research and reports helped show the path toward that clean energy future by winning newspaper, radio, television and blog coverage of our findings on the in-state impacts of global warming, as well as Illinois's potential job creation gains from renewable energy and energy efficiency. Here are some highlights:

"America on the move"

Congress backed away from enacting a meaningful climate policy this year, but our report gained widespread attention by showing how states are leading the way. Gov. Pat Quinn joined us to release the report, which found that a combination of already-adopted Illinois policies—all of which Environment Illinois helped win—will lift our state to rank third in the nation by 2020 in the amount

of global warming pollution we have cut. Our report projected actions by all the states combined will reduce pollution by the equivalent of more than is currently emitted by all but eight of the world's nations.

"The Big Oil bailout"

Last spring, along with our affiliates across the country, we won a big victory for clean cars when President Obama announced new rules requiring cars and light trucks to use less oil. That victory came under fire this summer, as allies of Big Oil advanced a Senate measure to block the new rules. We fought back, releasing a report showing that blocking the new rules now would cost Illinoisans more than \$44 million at the pump by 2016. Illinois Sen. Roland Burris responded to the news coverage of our report by publicly stating his commitment to oppose the measure, which was ultimately voted down by a very narrow margin.

"Global warming & extreme weather"

On the heels of a summer that saw many parts of the country hit by record heat, severe storms, and damaging floods, this report documented how global warming could lead to similar extreme weather events becoming even more common. The report highlighted recent events that have affected Illinois, such as

2008's Midwest Floods, which cost Illinois farmers \$1.3 billion in lost agriculture production and claimed 24 lives across the Midwest.

"Plug-in cars"

As automakers raced to become the first to introduce a mass production plug-in vehicle to American consumers, we released a report detailing these cars' potential to reduce global warming pollution, oil use, and smog. A plug-in car is one that can be recharged from the electric grid. Plug-in cars come in two types: plug-in hybrids that are paired with small gasoline engines, and fully electric vehicles that consume no gasoline at all.

Plug-in vehicles have the potential to make an immediate difference in reducing air pollution and curbing dependence on oil. Over the long term, plug-ins can play a critical role in the effort to stop global warming. The technology needed to build workable plug-in vehicles exists today, but it will take a coherent strategy and concerted action in order to take full advantage of the potential of plug-in vehicles.

► Illinois is the fifth most populous state in the U.S. Smart policy in Springfield can make an impact in curbing global warming and creating a sustainable economy.





Top: Two bills passed in 2010 will create 4,000-8,000 new green collar jobs. Above: Solar panels top the Chicago Center For Green Technology. Illinois has surprising solar potential.

Photo credits: Top: ORDOT; Bottom: Josh Koonce. Design: Public Interest GFX and Anagramist.com. *Photos under license from Shutterstock.com. Printed on recycled paper

Light in the Legislature: Victories won on solar energy

Environment Illinois made progress this year in leveling the playing field for solar power in Illinois, making it more affordable for homeowners and more attractive for investors.

We released two research reports, won wide media coverage, and organized two dozen citizen-activists to join us at the state capitol, where we helped them lobby their representatives face-to-face for smarter policies. Our work paid off when, on May 26, the Legislature passed two key Environment Illinois-backed solar bills.

A green light for solar investments

The first bill will give clean energy businesses a green light to invest in solar power, expanding their operations and creating new Illinois jobs in clean energy. Back in 2007, we helped Illinois pass a nation-leading renewable energy standard, which requires 25 percent of Illinois's electricity to come from renewable sources by 2025.

That standard contributed to major growth in our state's wind power industry, but solar hasn't quite caught up. This bill updates the standard to require that 6 percent of that renewable energy be generated by solar photovoltaics by 2016.

Protecting the right to go solar

Our advocacy at the state house is only worthwhile when Illinoisans across the state can share in our victories. That's why the second bill, the Homeowners' Solar Right Act, is so important. The bill clears away outdated restrictions and clarifies the rights of homeowners who live in homeowners' and condo associations to install solar panels, ensuring that people who want to take advantage of the sun don't find themselves tied up in red tape.

These victories couldn't have come sooner. Illinois is currently a leader in dirty energy—97 percent of our electricity comes from coal or nuclear plants. And while Illinois has made great strides in wind power, we've done far less to harness the sun. Illinois has surprising solar potential—more than Germany or Japan, two of the world's leading solar energy producers. But our current installed solar generating capacity is less than that of twenty-seven different individual Californian cities.

Together, these two bills will help cut global warming pollution, while creating between 4,000 and 8,000 new green jobs and generating more than 3 million kilowatt hours of solar electricity by 2015.

Fiscal year 2010 financial support

Citizen support is the cornerstone of Environment Illinois. Thousands of Illinois citizens supported Environment Illinois's research and advocacy by making membership contributions in fiscal year 2010. The members listed below were particularly generous in backing Environment Illinois and/or Environment Illinois Research & Education Center. Names that appear in italics denote Monthly Supporters. These members provide stability to the organizations' resources through our monthly giving program.

Development Committee

Contributions of \$2,500 or more

Mary Abroe
Denise Akason
Dan Foy
Amanda Hanley
Victoria Kearney
William Mckenna
Douglas H. Phelps

Patrons

Contributions of \$1,500 to \$2,499

Bruce Aaron
Margaret Blake
Brad Braun
Christopher Coward
Ed Glowinski
Bill Kroll
James Lapointe
Birl Madden Jr
Christine Mooney
Nancy Semerdjian
Lucy Tarabour
Amanda Williamson

Foundation support

The Environment Illinois Research & Education Center, a 501(c)(3) organization, conducts research and public education on emerging public interest issues. Contributions to the Environment Illinois Research & Education Center are tax-deductible. To find out more, call Max Muller at (312) 291-0696.

The following foundations supported the Center's work in 2010.

- Edwards Mother Earth Foundation
- Edwin C. Nagel Trust
- June Friedloeb-Heller Foundation
- RE-AMP Global Warming Strategic Action Fund
- State Alliance for Federal Reform of Chemical Policy
- The Energy Foundation

Building a greener future

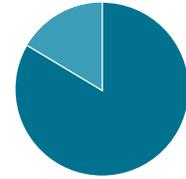
Environment Illinois and Environment Illinois Research & Policy Center gratefully accept bequests, beneficiary designations of IRAs and life insurance, and gifts of securities to support our work. Your gift will assure that we can continue to protect Illinois's air, water and open spaces for future generations. For more information, call 1-800-841-7299 or email plannedgiving@environmentillinois.org.



Financial information

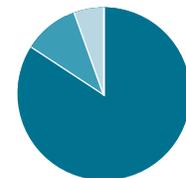
The charts below represent the combined financial information for Environment Illinois and Environment Illinois Research & Education Center.

FY 10 Income



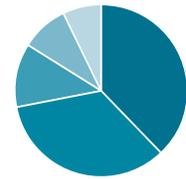
- ◆ Citizen Members 83%
- ◆ Foundation Grants 17%

FY 10 Expenses



- ◆ Program 84%
- ◆ Fundraising 11%
- ◆ Administrative 5%

FY 10 Program Expenses



- ◆ Protect Lake Michigan 38%
- ◆ Repower Illinois 34%
- ◆ Global Warming 12%
- ◆ Clean Water Protections 9%
- ◆ Clean Air and Open Space 7%

Environment Illinois
407 S. Dearborn Suite 701
Chicago, IL 60605
(312) 291-0696

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S. Postage
PAID
Brockton, MA
Permit No. 430

Address Service Requested

Environment Illinois Staff

(Partial List)



MAX MULLER
PROGRAM DIRECTOR



MIRANDA CARTER
FIELD ORGANIZER



**CHRISTINE DEL
PRIORE**
FIELD ASSOCIATE



JOHN RUMPLER
SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL
ATTORNEY



SARA COLE
ADMINISTRATIVE
COORDINATOR



TOM BLIGH
CITIZEN OUTREACH
ASSOCIATE



**MARY GRACE
STEWART**
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE