

science / markets / partnerships / results



Fortune magazine

Fortune magazine described the Environmental Defense Fund Board of Trustees as one of the most influential boards in America.

- Staff** EDF has more than 340 scientists, economists, attorneys and other professionals on staff.
- Mission** EDF's mission is to preserve the natural systems on which all life depends. Guided by science, we design and transform markets to bring lasting solutions to the most serious environmental problems.
- Goals**
- Avoid catastrophic consequences of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas pollution and applying effective adaptation strategies
  - Protect ocean ecosystems by creating sustainable and healthy fisheries
  - Preserve critical land and freshwater ecosystems for the benefit of people and wildlife
  - Safeguard human health by reducing or eliminating environmental threats, including toxic chemicals and pollutions
- Budget** \$101.4 million in fiscal 2010

## Some notable Environmental Defense Fund results



DDT ban helps ospreys recover.

“America’s most economically literate green campaigners”

—*The Economist*



Acid rain pollution cut in half.

**1967** A small group of scientists incorporates our organization as Environmental Defense Fund after winning a ban on the pesticide DDT, which was harming wildlife, especially birds of prey.

**1970** EDF helps bring all hunted whales onto the U.S. endangered species list.

**1977** Our campaign curbs the use of the hazardous flame retardant TRIS in children’s sleepwear.

**1985** We help convince federal regulators to end the use of leaded gasoline.

**1990** The Clean Air Act uses EDF’s innovative market-based approach to cut air pollution, leading to a 52% drop in acid rain between 1990–2008.

**1991** McDonald’s accepts the recommendation of our joint task force, eventually eliminating more than 150,000 tons of packaging waste.

**1995** We launch our Safe Harbor program to give landowners new incentives to protect endangered wildlife. Today more than four million acres of habitat are being protected.

**1996** EDF helps the Panará Indians of Brazil win protection for their homeland, saving 1.2 million acres of Amazon rainforest.

**2002** EDF helps win passage of California’s first-in-the-nation law to reduce global warming emissions from cars and trucks.

**2004** Our partnership with Fed Ex puts hybrid electric trucks on the road. The new trucks cut smog-causing emissions by 65%, reduce soot by 96% and get 50% better mileage.

**2006** Regulators approve EDF’s proposed management method, catch shares, to end commercial overfishing of red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico.

**2006** We help win permanent protection for a chain of pristine islands in Hawaii, forming one of the world’s largest marine reserves.

**2007** Our hard-hitting campaign against the Texas utility TXU leads to a landmark buyout deal that blocks a new wave of dirty coal plants.

**2008** EDF helps persuade the U.S. to cut diesel pollution from new oceangoing vessels by 80% or more. Our multi-year efforts also pay off in new EPA rules to curb diesel pollution from barges, ferries and trains.

**2009** EDF is instrumental in House passage of an historic bill capping and reducing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

**2009** We help win major reforms in California water law to provide water for California’s farms and growing population while leaving enough in rivers for wildlife. *The New York Times* called it the “most comprehensive” water package since the 1960s.

**2010** EDF and allies soundly defeat a ballot initiative bankrolled by the oil industry, aimed at blocking California’s landmark Global Warming Solutions Act (AB32). AB32, which EDF co-sponsored and helped pass in 2006, sets an economy-wide cap on greenhouse gas emissions and requires a reduction to 1990 levels by 2020.

**2010** EDF achieves a critical win in the fight to end overfishing when the government requires every U.S. commercial fishery to consider adopting catch share management. EDF has been the lead advocate for catch shares, which give fishermen a built-in incentive to work for healthy oceans. Half of all U.S. commercial fish landings are now made under catch shares.