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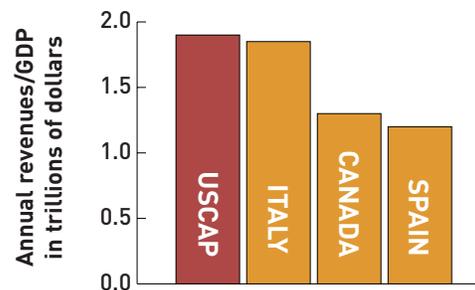
Congress wakes up to global warming

OUR BUSINESS COALITION RAISES THE STAKES

Not long ago, global warming action in Congress seemed a distant dream. Now some of the world's largest corporations have joined Environmental Defense in calling for a firm cap on emissions, and bipartisan leaders in the House and Senate have put the issue on the fast track. Their commitments put Congress on schedule to produce a climate bill this session. What a difference a year makes.

We and our partners helped transform the political landscape in January when we initiated the United States Climate Action Partnership (USCAP), a coalition of leading environmental groups and corporations like Alcoa, ConocoPhillips, DuPont and GE, who are urging Congress to act on global warming. "Each new economic sector added to USCAP melts away pockets of opposition in Congress," says Representative Rick Boucher (D-VA), chairman of the House subcommittee that will develop a climate bill.

Since January, USCAP membership has more than doubled, with companies



True clout: The combined revenues of USCAP companies exceed the GDPs of many nations.

now representing \$1.9 trillion in revenue and 2.3 million employees in all 50 states. This spring GM, Ford and Chrysler joined the partnership, finally putting these significant emitters on record supporting mandatory pollution cuts.

USCAP has called for reducing emissions 60 to 80% by 2050, a level scientists say is needed to avoid dangerous climate disruption. "These are tough-minded business people standing up to say they believe they will prosper by solving global warming," notes our Climate

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The heat is on in Washington.

Global warming 'safety valve' is anything but safe



Consider this: Fire codes mandate sprinklers in new hotel construction, setting a maximum safe area to be covered by each sprinkler. But what if govern-

ment decreed that if the price of sprinklers ever exceeds \$50, builders could just pay a \$50 fine for each missing sprinkler and go right on building without them? Clearly safety would go out the window.

Hard to believe, but that's the approach some in Congress now advocate for global warming. First they would set a maximum safe level for heat-trapping greenhouse gas pollution. But if the cost of reducing that pollution were to exceed a given

amount, they would allow greenhouse gases to increase without limit!

Ironically, the proponents of this idea call it a "safety valve" for polluters, but it's anything but safe for us. There are far better—and safer—ways to control cost, such as encouraging wide-open competition among pollution-reduction methods.

Competition slashed the cost of

A risky proposal would let greenhouse gases increase

fighting acid rain by a factor of ten from what industry had predicted back when only one method was allowed. The cap-and-trade system that we helped design in 1990 capped sulfur dioxide pollution at half its existing

level—but let companies meet the cap any way they wanted.

Suddenly it became profitable to find less expensive ways to reduce pollution. Some companies cut even more than the law required, trading with others who couldn't meet the goal as cheaply. Sulfur pollution plummeted, in what *The Economist* called "the greatest green success story of the past decade."

What worked for sulfur dioxide will work for carbon dioxide.

Ask your senators and representatives to enact a strict cap on greenhouse gases without a capping safety valve, because those clamoring for a safety valve are raising a false alarm.

A helping hand for California's troubled fisheries



Enlightened Images/Animals Animals

Our fisheries fund will raise the value of seafood and preserve fishing communities.

When John Steinbeck wrote *Cannery Row* in 1945, California's 840-mile coastline was dotted with thriving fishing communities. Today, the state's commercial fishing industry faces hard times. Fish processors and cold storage facilities that once lined the waterfront have been replaced by T-shirt shops. The commercial catch has declined roughly 70% since 1980.

This has left fishermen unable to plan for long-term sustainability; instead, they focus on getting by one season at a

time. That led our marine ecologist Dr. Rod Fujita to a novel idea: Why not loan the dollars that fishermen need to make the transition to sustainable fishing?

Environmental Defense wrote the business plan, and this spring the California Coastal Conservancy, a state agency, approved a \$2 million grant to launch the California Fisheries Fund. The fund, which is expected to spur millions of dollars of investment, will provide low-interest loans to fishermen for projects like these:

Develop catch-share programs, where fishermen receive percentage shares of a strictly limited annual catch;

Finance fishing gear to reduce bycatch, the accidental killing of unwanted fish;

Promote eco-labeling to help fishermen fetch premium prices for environmentally preferable seafood;

Once fish stocks recover and rev-

enues increase, fishermen will repay their loans, replenishing the fund. "It shows how we can align economic incentives with conservation benefits," says Fujita. "Such market-based tools should be replicated in other ailing fisheries nationwide."

More than 70 fishermen helped design the fund, which will provide Californians with fresh and affordable local seafood that they can trust has been caught without harming endangered species.



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A giant awakens

What's behind GM's conversion on global warming?

When General Motors became the first automaker to join USCAP, our corporate climate alliance, it reversed a pattern of resisting global warming regulation. So what's changed at GM? We spoke to Elizabeth Lowery, GM vice president of energy, environment and safety policy.

On GM's change in focus

Lowery: "Since November, there's been a lot more discussion of CO₂ emissions. Prior to that, the focus had been on local emissions because that's what people were



The cars and trucks on America's roads emit 20% of the nation's global warming pollution

really concerned about. Not until the price of fuel became so volatile and people became concerned about the Iraqi issues and global climate did we begin talking about it in the language you're hearing now."

On why capping carbon emissions is the way to go

"We've had great discussions with Environmental Defense over the years regarding cap and trade programs. We thought the time was right for leading corporations along with the leading environmental groups to try and put the best thinking behind what such a program would look like."

On how GM earned the our moniker 'Global Warmer #1'

"Since General Motors has a broad portfolio of vehicles and because we're the largest company, you came out with those results. It's based on volume of vehicles. If you're in every cate-

"We've decided to make hybrids of the vehicles that consume the most fuel."



GM's Elizabeth Lowery

gory, you're going to have that kind of impact."

On GM's first steps to reduce global warming emissions

"To have the most impact, we've decided to make hybrids of the vehicles that consume the most fuel. So we started with buses, pickup trucks, SUVs, making sure we had hybrid systems on those vehicles."

On why joining USCAP is in GM's business interest

"It's a business necessity for us to get this right. So it would be excellent for USCAP to come up with a policy that would be market-driven, economy-wide and focused on the role of technology."

Automakers join the call for a firm cap on greenhouse gases

Continued from p. 1

Campaign director Steve Cochran.

As a cofounder of USCAP, our president Fred Krupp briefed Congress with the CEOs of member companies. "When the heads of major corporations and the leaders of national environmental groups walk through the door together, that sends a very powerful message," he says.

MORE THAN LIP SERVICE?

After months of drifting on the issue, the Senate was galvanized in June when Senators Joe Lieberman (I-CT) and John Warner (R-VA) pledged to produce a strong climate bill by August. House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman John

Dingell (D-MI) has promised legislation in September that cuts emissions to the levels called for by USCAP.

Several of the proposed climate bills include the USCAP principles: A cap and trade program that sets a nationwide limit on emissions while freeing businesses to find the lowest-cost ways to make the cuts.

USCAP is keeping the pressure on. "No other country bears a greater responsibility—or possesses a greater capacity—to lead the global response on this issue," says Peter A. Darbee, CEO of PG&E Corporation.



WHAT YOU CAN DO: Make sure Congress hears from you on global warming: www.environmentaldefense.org/action.

Corporate members of USCAP

Alcan	FPL Group (Florida Power & Light)
Alcoa	General Electric
American International Group	General Motors
Boston Scientific	Johnson & Johnson
BP America	Johnson Marsh Inc.
Caterpillar	Pacific Gas & Electric
Chrysler	PepsiCo
ConocoPhillips	PNM Resources
Deere & Co.	Shell
Dow Chemical	Siemens
Duke Energy	
DuPont	
Ford Motor Co.	

Cultivating a saner farm policy

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE LEADS PUSH FOR CONSERVATION INCENTIVES IN NEW FARM BILL

Farmers, ranchers and forest owners manage more than half the American landscape. Their decisions have a dramatic impact on water quality in America's rivers, lakes and bays, on the fate of rare wildlife and even on the pace of sprawl.

Once every five years, Congress thrashes out the federal Farm Bill, the complex legislation that dictates the nation's farm and food policy. Few pieces of legislation have as profound an impact on the environment. The financial incentives in the bill influence what

to fields of row crops that require more water and chemicals.

Environmental Defense is leading a push to change all this for the better by increasing conservation programs and restructuring subsidies. There has been talk of reform in the past, but little action. This year could be different.



Under the current law, fruit and vegetable growers receive no subsidies. Our reforms would help more farmers.



Ogden Driskill To limit erosion and protect water quality, Driskill, a seventh generation rancher, has fenced off streams on his 13,000-acre spread in Wyoming. "Conservation incentives are one of the few ways to keep working ranches intact," he says.

farmers plant, how much they irrigate and to what extent they take steps to help the environment.

In recent years, two out of three farmers applying for Farm Bill conservation programs have been turned away due to lack of funds. Meanwhile the bill has lavished huge subsidies on producers of five

Two out of three farmers applying for conservation funds are turned away

commodities—corn, wheat, rice, soybeans and cotton—encouraging farmers to grow crops on sensitive wetlands and grasslands and to convert rangeland and pastureland

the Heritage Foundation and Bread for the World.

More than 50 farmers and ranchers recently joined Environmental Defense on Capitol Hill to press for reform. Although they reside in different parts of the country and have vastly different operations, these landowners share a common goal:

To make farming more environmentally sustainable.

We've found rare bipartisan support in Congress. More than 220 legislators have co-sponsored bills we helped draft that would nearly double

conservation spending and expand incentives for farm-based renewable energy and biofuels. Many also have endorsed changes in the farm safety net that would restructure and reduce subsidies (*see box on facing page*).

"These legislators come from all types of districts and represent every kind of agriculture," notes Faber.

A BROKEN SYSTEM

Congress created farm subsidies during the Great Depression to help small farmers survive. But subsidies help a few large growers and hurt most small family farmers.

Less than 10% of farmers—mostly commercial producers in the Midwest and the Southeast—benefit from subsidies that can cost more than \$20 billion in some years. Those who raise fruit,



Dale Hemminger By practicing no-till farming and installing a specially engineered terrace system, Hemminger has limited nutrient runoff on his family's dairy and vegetable farm in upstate New York.

Povy Kendall Atchinson

Kit Kittle/Corbis

Jan Reagan

vegetables and livestock not only are denied assistance under the current system but face the risk of trade barriers in countries retaliating against U.S. subsidies for other crops.

While many farmers are working to adapt to a changing market by developing new products such as specialty cheeses, less than one-tenth of 1% of farm spending supports such innovation.

“There is new recognition that conservation is a way to support family farmers,” says Faber. “Our goal now is to make sure the conservation dollars yield maximum environmental benefits on the ground.” One way to do that is through

cooperative conservation projects, which would provide grants to groups of farmers working together to solve local environmental challenges.

Increasing the funds available for conservation and renewable energy programs would help more landowners get a fair share of federal farm spending.

Says Faber: “If we prevail, this Farm Bill will help restore millions of acres of wetlands

and grasslands, reduce polluted runoff, cut global warming pollution and protect open space from sprawl.” Indeed, the Farm Bill could be the nation’s most powerful economic tool for conservation.



Kevin Riddell

Les Imboden One of Ohio’s largest corn growers, Imboden has restored buffers along the Scioto River and used state-of-the-art techniques to cut fertilizer use 40%. “We’re responsible for not creating problems for the people downstream,” he says.

Farmer savings accounts: A true safety net for farmers

THE PROBLEM: Farmers have been vulnerable to the whims of nature for as long as there has been farming. But despite costing more than \$20 billion in some years, today’s farm programs do not provide much of a safety net. Sixty percent of farmers don’t get a dime—and most of the rest get less than \$200 a month. Meanwhile, the U.S. loses two acres of farmland every minute.

THE SOLUTION: Farmer savings accounts, a new tool we’ve developed, would phase out Depression-era subsidy programs and establish IRA-type accounts. Advanced by Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN) and Representative Ron Kind (D-WI), and supported by many farmers, the accounts would help growers weather the bad years, make investments and plan for the future. Farmers could use accounts to cover losses that are not covered by their crop insurance policies. The resulting savings—as much as \$55 billion over 10 years—would fund environmental, energy, health and anti-hunger programs.



Regional update

The river runs through it

“They would come in like droves of blackbirds,” says fisherman Murray Nixon, recalling the river herring of his youth in North Carolina’s Albemarle Sound. In recent decades, though, the fishery has plummeted. This year a moratorium was imposed on fishing to allow stocks to recover.

River herring, which swim upstream to nursery habitat, are battling development, declining water quality and increased salinity from sea-level rise. The once-abundant fish that sustained General Washington’s troops through the winter at Valley Forge have been declining all along the mid-Atlantic seaboard.

To bring herring back to Albemarle Sound, Environmental Defense wrote a management plan and is working with allies to improve water quality and advocate for removal of culverts and dams that block fish movement.

“Nature should be more than just a screensaver.”

and marshes,” says our scientist Dr. Doug Rader. “A huge number of species rely on these key spawning and nursery grounds, from shad in the Bay of Fundy to gag grouper in the Gulf of Mexico.”

Fisherman Willy Phillips adds: “We need to return the ecological integrity to the entire system, not just bits and pieces. Nature should be more than just a screensaver.”



Raymond Gehman/Corbis

Cradle of life: More than 70% of the valuable fish species on the Atlantic seaboard depend on North Carolina’s Albemarle-Pamlico Sound.



Michael Newman/PhotoEdit

Every dollar invested in cleaning up pollution from school buses is estimated to yield \$13 in public health benefits.

A cleaner route to school

Many Texas children will breathe healthier air on the way to school, thanks to Environmental Defense air quality specialist Betin Santos. She and her allies recently convinced the state legislature to provide \$7.5 million to place filters on older, highly polluting diesel school buses.

Studies show that diesel pollution gets trapped inside the bus, making the air inside five to ten times dirtier than outside air.

Diesel exhaust contains nearly 40 toxic substances and is associated with asthma attacks, chronic bronchitis and cancer risk. Children are particularly susceptible because they breathe more rapidly. Santos knows the effects of diesel firsthand: She has asthma and carries an inhaler. “When I’m on these older buses, I really feel it,” she says.

Diesel exhaust enters the bus both from the tailpipe and directly from the engine’s crankcase. Following

our recommendation, the state is likely to use the funds to install crankcase filter systems virtually eliminating the emissions that enter the bus most directly.

Thanks to new federal emission standards Environmental Defense helped win, 2007 buses emit dramatically less pollution. But buses can run for 20 years, so a truly clean fleet requires retrofitting older models. We hope this

Studies show diesel fumes get trapped inside school buses

and a similar cleanup program we won in Massachusetts will become a national program. “For a long time, experts didn’t realize how dirty the air inside buses could be,” notes Santos. “Fortunately, this costs under \$1,000 per bus to fix. There is no reason kids should be exposed to this pollution.”

All choked up

New York City has a plan to clear the air—and ease traffic

New York City is on track to become the first city in the nation to say “Enough!” to the daily traffic jams that pump unhealthy pollution and greenhouse gases into the air.

A broad coalition of 120 civic, religious, health, business and environmental groups is working to implement a groundbreaking plan to charge drivers who enter the busiest part of the city during peak times.

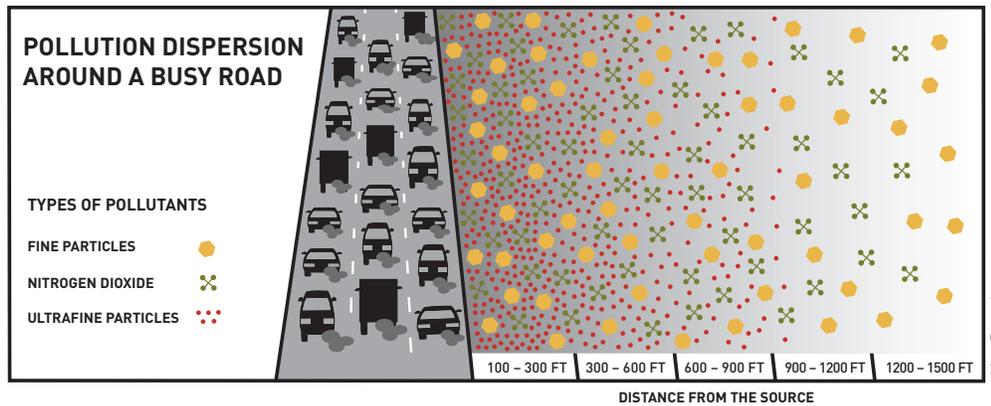
City officials say that “congestion pricing”—an idea Environmental Defense helped pioneer—will keep traffic moving, reduce idling and save \$13 bil-

“Environmental Defense has been with us every step of the way.”

NYC Deputy Mayor Dan Doctoroff

lion a year in lost time, revenue and fuel. It also will make the air much healthier. Vehicles stuck in traffic can emit three times the pollution of cars moving freely. In fact, after London instituted congestion pricing in 2003, vehicle emissions fell by up to 20%.

Congestion pricing is just one piece



People living within 500 feet of crowded roadways face a higher risk of cancer, heart disease and respiratory ailments, according to our research with Harvard’s School of Public Health. Children face higher rates of asthma as far as five blocks away.

of Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s visionary plan to clean up the air and reduce greenhouse gas emissions 30% by 2030. The “greenprint”—which we helped develop—covers everything from creating parks to making buildings more energy efficient.

“Environmental Defense has been with us every step of the way,” says Deputy Mayor Dan Doctoroff, the plan’s primary architect.

What’s good for New York could be good for the rest of the country. Cities emit 75% of the world’s global warming pollution. Austin, Chicago, Los Angeles, Portland, Seattle and other cities have taken steps to implement a

variety of green practices. But New York’s comprehensive plan couples specific goals with legislative action.

“The New York City plan has significantly raised the bar,” says our Living Cities program director Andy Darrell.

“We’d like to see it ignite a competition in other cities to come up

with the most innovative and practical solutions to their pollution problems.”



The yellow swarm of taxis

that surges through the streets of New York City every day is about to turn green. Under the mayor’s plan, the entire fleet of 13,000 yellow cabs will change over to hybrids as they are replaced over the next five years. That makes good environmental sense—and good business sense. Most cabs today are Ford Crown Victorias, which get a measly 14 miles per gallon. Ratcheting up fuel efficiency to 30 miles a gallon would save the average taxi operator about \$10,000 a year.



Nineteenth century visionaries set aside Central Park to green the city. The new plan would add smaller parks citywide.

Mary Kelly

Peacemaker in western water wars



Mark Kirkpatrick

Kelly is on a personal mission to protect western rivers and marshlands.

When cities and farmers vie over scarce water in the West, often barely enough still flows in rivers to keep fish and wildlife healthy. That may soon change in Texas, where our attorney Mary Kelly sat down with major water users to hammer out a deal now set in state law, the first in the nation to reserve sufficient water for nature.

Kelly, who codirects our national Land, Water and Wildlife program, wants to use the law as a model for the entire West. “The environment often gets only enough water to keep the fins wet for a few endangered fish,” explains Kelly. The Texas law, in contrast, will set minimum flow levels for every river in the state, including enough for seasonal flooding and other natural processes that rivers, bays and estuaries need to thrive.

Over several months, Kelly held negotiations with environmental colleagues and Texas water interests. “I can’t say enough good things about Mary,” says Dean Robbins, assistant general manager of the Texas Water Conservation Association, the state’s largest group of water

at the Capitol.”

Kelly looked for the win-win. “We emphasized that the health of local economies is intricately tied with healthy waterways,” she says. Case in point: Texas bays and estuaries, fed by rivers, support fisheries worth \$1.3 billion. Kelly credits her attachment to rivers with growing up in Tucson. “When you’re hiking in the desert and you suddenly encounter a spring, you realize the special miracle of water,” she says. After earning degrees in

chemical engineering and law, Kelly brought that passion to her work, serving for a decade as director of the Texas Center for Policy Studies. She joined Environmental Defense in 2002 to take her work to the national level.

The consensus Kelly reached in Texas will protect the environment while giving water suppliers the certainty they need to invest in new projects. With proper implementation, the law will free water for nature through conservation and voluntary water marketing—like allowing farmers to sell excess water to cities. “Legislators were shocked that environmentalists and water

suppliers. “Our agreement, like all negotiations, required compromise by all of the stakeholders, but Mary represented her constituency very well. Equally impressive were her abilities as a problem solver. She is someone you know you can rely on and is highly respected

users sat down together, much less came up with an agreement,” says Kelly, who admitted she had to “do my share of table-pounding and persuasion.”

KELLY ‘NEEDED A POCKET DEFIBRILLATOR’

The law nearly died in the Texas legislature during the final hours of the last day of the session, ensnared in political maneuvering. “To be considered, the bill needed a two-thirds majority in the House, she says. “On the first try, it failed by a few votes. We walked out of the gallery, shocked and depressed. Then someone shouted, ‘Motion for reconsideration!’ We ran back in and saw it squeak through by two or three votes. I felt like I needed a pocket defibrillator.”

Kelly is not resting on her laurels. She and her team are now working to protect and restore systems like the San Francisco Bay and Delta, the Mississippi Delta, Colorado River and Rio Grande. Says Kelly: “With smarter management, America’s greatest river systems can be healthy once again.”

“I can’t say enough good things about Mary. She is someone you know you can rely on and is highly respected at the Capitol.”

Dean Robbins, Texas Water Conservation Association



Galen Rowett

Water in the desert: A fragile balance

Cool art in Chicago



Christine George

Kate Tully's "Urban Forests" globe celebrates trees that beautify cities while removing carbon dioxide from the air.

This summer the city of Chicago is using colorful public art to fight global warming. The project, Cool Globes: Hot Ideas for a Cool Planet, is the brainchild of our National Council member Wendy Abrams.

Abrams commissioned artists from all over the world to design 123 eye-catching five-foot-diameter globes and 200 mini-globes to show solutions to global warming. Now displayed throughout the city, the globes are painted, festooned with pinwheels, covered with plastic trash, even coddled in a specially knitted sweater to illustrate actions individuals can take to help. A fall auction of the globes will benefit environmental education in Chicago.

Abrams, who has been working on the project for more than two years, says she wanted to avoid the "gloom and doom" of many global warming messages. "We've got a big problem," she said during the project kickoff, "but if anyone tells you there's no solution, just look around. We wanted to show people how to take action in a way they couldn't ignore."

A gallery of the globes can be viewed at coolglobes.com.

Truce declared in species wars

It isn't often that Environmental Defense sees eye-to-eye with the American Farm Bureau Federation. But recently we teamed up to support reforms of U.S. tax laws that would help farmers protect habitat for endangered species.

Most endangered species depend on privately owned land for their survival, and landowners have sometimes found themselves burdened by stringent regulations designed to accomplish conservation goals.

The tax incentives we support would offer \$400 million in tax credits annually over the next five years to restore habitat. Intended as a "carrot" to support the "stick" of regulations, the measure is backed by environmentalists,



B. "Moose" Peterson

Millions of dollars in tax credits will help protect endangered species like the San Joaquin kit fox.

sportsmen's groups and landowners alike.

A measure of their bipartisan support is that Don Young (R-AK), who once famously referred to environmentalists as a "waffle-stomping, Harvard-graduating, intellectual bunch of idiots," is cosponsoring our legislation in the House.

Winged victory!

Bald eagle soars off endangered list

Forty years after Environmental Defense took the first steps toward banning the pesticide DDT—which damaged the eggs of eagles—America's symbol was officially removed from the Endangered Species list. In the mid-1960s, the eagle was facing extinction in the lower 48 states, with only 417 breeding pairs. Today there are close to 10,000 pairs. Joining U.S. Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne at a ceremony at the Jefferson Memorial to celebrate the eagle's recovery, our Wildlife chair Michael Bean said, "This is a resounding victory for the Endangered Species Act and a great gift to the American people."



Alaska Stock Images

Green living

An interview with Barbara Kingsolver

HER NEW BOOK EXPLORES THE POLITICS OF
FARMING AND A LOVE AFFAIR WITH FOOD

Novelist and Environmental Defense National Council member Barbara Kingsolver spent a year eating only food that she and her family grew or raised themselves or bought from their Appalachian farm neighbors. Her new book chronicling that year, **Animal, Vegetable, Miracle** (HarperCollins, \$26.95), reminds us that local eating is not just a new culinary trend, but a lifestyle change that many people can make.

She applauds the benefits of local eating for the environment and our national health—not to mention that local food tastes so much better.

Kingsolver recently spoke with us about her experiences.

In your book you say we've become "a nation with an eating disorder." Could you explain?

Kingsolver: The U.S. food industry is organized around the profitable project of getting unhealthy calories into our citizens in the form of high-fructose corn syrup, added fats and other products made from subsidized commodity crops. The majority

of Americans will face health problems because of over consumption of these foods. We're also paying the environmental price of fuel-intensive, unsustainable agricul-



Raising their own food brought Kingsolver's family together.

Courtesy Harper Collins

ture and the long-distance transport of our foods. Each calorie delivered to the consumer has already used dozens (or even hundreds) of fossil-fuel calories. I have a good imagination, but I doubt I could dream up a more disordered way for an animal to get its food.

How does buying and eating locally grown food help?

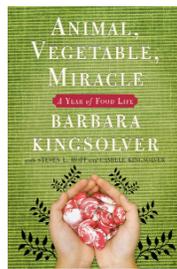
The shorter the distance between your meal and its point of origin, the more you can know about it. "Locally grown"

is a designation that's incorruptible. Buying food from growers at small markets or through community-supported agriculture (CSA) is really the only way for most of us to step away from a disordered food system. Food from your neighborhood will likely be whole, unprocessed vegetables, fruits or animal products grown on small, diversified farms by growers committed to the health of their land. The food is good for you, and the money you spend on it stays in your community.

Environmental Defense is working to reform the nation's farm policies. What can individuals do to help keep farmers on the land?

We can start by thinking about farmers every time we eat. How much of my food dollar went to a farmer, to help support sustainable choices? On average, 85 cents of every food dollar goes to the processors, packagers, advertisers and oil companies who profit handsomely from our lack of regard for soil, water, climate and the future.

Food policy is made, not born. We've elected to subsidize corporate commodity farms while leaving small, diversified fruit and vegetable farmers on



RESOURCE CENTER Fresh from the farmer to you

Find a farmer's market in your area

Visit ams.usda.gov/farmersmarkets or call the Farmer's Market Hotline toll-free at 800-384-8704

Find a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program

Robyn Van En Center, Wilson College, 1015 Philadelphia Ave., Chambersburg, PA 17201; csacenter.org

Learn more about sustainable agriculture

National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service, PO Box 3657, Fayetteville, AR 72702; attra.org

Advocate food policy reform

The Healthy Farms, Healthy Food Campaign, environmentaldefense.org/go/farms 800-684-3322

their own. If we'd like to flip this over and subsidize healthy rather than unhealthy foods, we can call our legislators and start talking.

You're a long-time supporter of Environmental Defense. Is there a particular message you'd like to give our members?

Your members already know, as I do, that Environmental Defense is an effective force for steering this country's environmental policies into a cleaner future. I can only offer individual encouragement, and the promise that small changes in our lives, multiplied by thousands, add up to a revolution. We can't wait for radical conservation measures to be imposed on us by our government—that takes a courage that our political system

probably can never muster, no matter who's in charge. The way to look at it, I think, is that *we* are in charge, individually and collectively. By proving to myself that my family can learn to live well with less, drastically reducing our food-miles and our carbon footprint, I'm giving myself the courage to require more responsibility from myself, my fellow citizens, and our government.

This was a major family commitment. Did the experience change you?

It pushed us toward a fuller engagement with a way of life we really knew we wanted. We learned to cook with the seasons. We spent more time as a family in the kitchen and in the garden. Our formal year-of-local has ended, but we're still eating locally because we enjoy it.

All creatures deserve a chance



TPWD

Charitable gift annuities to Environmental Defense keep on giving. They perpetuate your commitment so that we can keep the world healthy for living creatures of all kinds. They offer many advantages to you, too. With a gift of \$10,000 or more, you can earn life income and receive a charitable deduction.

To learn more, contact Anne B. Doyle, Director of Planned Giving, Environmental Defense, 257 Park Ave. S., New York, NY 10010, 877-677-7397, or by email at ospreys@environmentaldefense.org.

The ticking clock...



Crabis

An ominous sign: Disappearing Arctic ice

But how will we *find* the North Pole?

Picture the North Pole as open ocean, with no ice in sight. Summers in the Arctic Ocean could be ice free just 30 years from now, decades earlier than climate models had forecast. According to a study in *Science*, recent observations show that sea ice is melting three times as fast as the models had forecast.

In a second study also published in *Science*, a team of scientists including NASA's Dr. James Hansen corroborated this trend. They compared various climate

projections with actual data collected since 1990. They concluded that the Earth's climate system—particularly sea level—may be responding to climate change faster than our current models predict.

Lifecycles *out of sync*

Life's fragile choreography of blooming, birth and migration is based on signals from the environment such as light or warmth. When global warming disrupts that delicate timing—for instance, when spring arrives early, as it now does on every continent but one—some species are in trouble.

Case in point: The United Nation's recent climate change assessment points out that the pied flycatcher, a small European bird, has declined 90% in some areas. The flycatcher depends on caterpillars to feed its young. However, as temperatures have risen over the last 20 years, those caterpillars now peak in number before the young birds hatch, leaving them to starve.

Closer to home, California's rare bay checkerspot butterfly is emerging earlier than its host plants.

Scientists are observing similar events around the globe.



Stuart B. Weiss

The bay checkerspot butterfly

Endangered birds find 'Safe Harbor' in Hawaii

Hawaii—home to the largest number of U.S. endangered species—has found an innovative way to protect wildlife. It marks the first time that the U.S.

Department of Agriculture (USDA) will help private landowners restore endangered species throughout an entire state.

Under the program, \$12 million will be available for landowners to restore habitat on their property. By enrolling in Safe Harbor agreements—pioneered by Environmental Defense—landowners can protect species without fear of triggering new restrictions on their land.

The program will improve habitat for five critically endangered birds, the Hawaiian goose (nene), stilt, duck, coot and moorhen (of which just a few hundred remain).



A few of the birds that will get a helping hand from landowners: The Hawaiian stilt, coot and nene.

“In Hawaii, a sizeable chunk of land is privately owned—and it’s primary habitat for these birds,” said Robert Bonnie, co-director of our Land, Water and Wildlife program. “If we want to save endangered species in Hawaii, we have to work with landowners.” The new program also can be a national model, since most U.S. endangered species depend on private land.

Our ecologist Dr. Tim Male provided extensive comments to federal agencies over a five-year period to help shape the effort. Final approval is expect-

ed this summer.

“The Safe Harbor agreement covers any project the USDA does in the state, from improving grasslands on a ranch to restoring wetlands on a golf course,” said Male.

Although the program focuses on the four birds, it will benefit entire ecosystems—including hundreds of types of plants. “The real success of this,” says Male, “is that Hawaii is adopting innovative and flexible policy tools to conserve endangered plants and wildlife.”

Keeping a promise to the monk seal

Despite protections that date back to 1972, the Hawaiian monk seal hovers on the brink of extinction. Only about 1,300 animals survive in small groups along the uninhabited Northwestern Hawaiian Islands that comprise the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, newly established with the help of Environmental Defense.

Publicity about the monument, the world’s largest marine reserve, has increased boat traffic and tourism, which scientists have identified as significant threats to the ecosystem. Female monk seals abandon prime pupping beaches in the presence of humans, who also disrupt feeding behavior. In their main breeding grounds, just two out of ten pups reach their second birthday.

Our scientist Dr. Stephanie Fried is working with a network of community leaders, local non-profits and fishermen to help shape the monument’s management plan. We advocate limiting tourism at Midway Atoll, assessing the risk of planned activities and funding enforcement to guard against trespassing and illegal fishing. Says Fried: “We want this plan to fully implement the protections promised in the monument’s proclamation.”



Who could resist this face?

Dan Fleetham/Pacific Stock

Left to right: Ruth Cole, Lightwave, Victoria McKormick for Animals Animals



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