

2011 Victories

With the generous support of our friends and supporters, Environmental Defense Fund achieved these and other critical victories in 2011.

A big win for clean air

In a triumph for clean air, automakers and the federal government agreed to require that cars average 54.5 miles per gallon by 2025. The rules would mark the first major gain since 1975. Fully implemented, they could cut oil use by 2.2 million barrels a day—nearly half what the U.S. imports from OPEC.

The Obama administration also issued the first-ever fuel economy standards for large trucks and buses. EDF played a critical role in both cases. We helped pass the 2002 California law that provided the foundation for strong new national auto standards. And our work with major engine manufacturers has helped spur new technologies for more efficient and less polluting trucks.



A brighter, more abundant future for oceans

This year marks a milestone in our progress toward restoring the world's oceans to abundance: the majority of fish caught in U.S. waters—\$1 billion worth—are now brought in under the catch shares management system EDF has worked for a decade to promote. Successful catch shares programs across the U.S. are letting fish populations recover and transforming the industry by giving fishermen a built-in financial stake in the recovery of their fisheries.

Overseas, the European Commission proposed major, positive reforms to Europe's fishery management system. EDF's experts contributed to the proposal, and we are working with European stakeholders as the legislation is reviewed and amended to ensure that the conservation provisions stay strong. And in a big step forward in Central America, the government of Belize voted to allow the use of catch shares in the country's network of marine protected areas, one of our top priorities. EDF is now working in partnership with World Conservation Society and Toledo Institute for Development and Environment to put catch shares into action in Belize.



Rhode Island fisherman Chris Brown says catch shares will put more fish on the table, and more money in fishermen's pockets.

John Rae

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Both people and ecosystems will thrive under the new Cross-State Air Pollution rule.

Dirty coal plants: Clean up your act!

EDF scored a major victory for kids with asthma and tens of thousands of Americans who die each year from air pollution. This summer, the Obama administration announced a new rule to slash emissions from coal-burning plants in 27 Eastern states. The Cross-State Air Pollution rule tightens the amount of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide pollution that coal-burning plants can release, reducing dangerous particulate pollution, smog and acid rain that drift across state borders. EDF's concerted efforts to combat pollution blown by winds across state lines helped secure the rule, and we are now defending it in court against a barrage of legal challenges. By January 2014, power plants will need to cut sulfur dioxide emissions by 73 percent and nitrogen oxide emissions by 54 percent—improving the air breathed by over 240 million Americans.

California creates first economy-wide carbon market in North America

In October, the California Air Resources Board unanimously adopted a cap-and-trade regulation, which is the final and most critical piece of the landmark Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32)—a law that EDF co-sponsored and has been instrumental in implementing since its passage in 2006. California's carbon market is America's most important laboratory for climate action right now, with huge potential to effectively limit pollution, protect communities, and slash energy bills. At the same time, it will stimulate clean tech innovation and create new American jobs.

The state has also left open the possibility of trading rainforest credits known as REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation). EDF and partners pioneered REDD, a market-based program designed to reduce deforestation, which is the source of 15% of the world's planet-warming emissions. We have also played a critical role setting up links between the emerging California market and two rainforest states—Acre in Brazil and Chiapas in Mexico—which are moving forward on REDD.



A market-based approach called REDD will reduce climate pollution by making rainforests worth more alive than dead, while protecting the livelihoods of indigenous people and habitat for wildlife.

California's carbon market “provides proof that bold action on a large scale is still possible even though Washington remains sadly gridlocked.”
—*The New York Times*, October 23, 2011

Revitalizing coastal Louisiana

EDF worked to broker a landmark deal between the state of Louisiana and the Army Corps of Engineers that sets the stage for large-scale restoration of the Mississippi River delta.

Historically, management of the Mississippi River has led to the destruction of thousands of acres of delta wetlands and made the area more vulnerable to the devastating impact of Hurricane Katrina. EDF and our coalition worked to win an agreement that opens the door to allowing the river to once again build and sustain wetlands, while better meeting navigation and flood control needs.

After a year of tough negotiations, EDF and our partners also succeeded in building enough bipartisan support within the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee to pass a bill designed to direct up to \$21 billion in BP oil disaster penalties towards restoring the environment and economy of the Gulf Coast. We will continue to push for action in this Congress.

Protecting Americans from tens of thousands of untested chemicals

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) embraced most of EDF's recommendations when it took steps to significantly improve the way the agency collects basic information on chemical production, use and exposure—and makes that data available to the public. Seventeen thousand EDF supporters flooded EPA administrator Lisa Jackson's inbox with emails endorsing the changes.

Another new policy we worked to shape declassifies the identities of chemicals in health and safety studies that industry submits to EPA—reversing a longstanding practice of allowing companies to hide information from the public about potentially harmful chemicals.

Uncovering energy savings

Buildings account for 70 percent of U.S. electricity consumption and more than a third of our greenhouse gas pollution. Too much of that energy is wasted. This summer, EDF Climate Corps fellows uncovered potential energy savings that could keep 440,000 metric tons of carbon pollution out of the atmosphere annually. That is roughly equivalent to taking 87,000 cars off the road for a year. The energy efficiency improvements identified could reduce net operational costs by \$650 million over the projects' lifetimes. EDF Climate Corps continued its fourth year of growth, training and placing 96 fellows from top graduate schools to uncover energy efficiencies at 78 companies, city agencies and universities.



Joel Sartore/Corbis

Coastal wetlands are the first line of defense against hurricanes and floods.



iStockphoto

Reforming the nation's toxic chemical law: The vast majority of the 80,000 chemicals available for use in the U.S. have never been tested for toxic impacts on humans or the environment.



EDF Climate Corps fellows embedded in the New York City Housing Authority uncovered 193 kWh in potential energy savings, worth \$58 million.

Minimizing the impact of natural gas drilling

EDF's campaign to make natural gas a safe low-carbon energy alternative is underway in states that sit on top of our country's extensive natural gas reserves. Following a successful effort in Wyoming in 2010 to require public disclosure of hydraulic fracturing (fracking) chemicals, we won similar rules in 2011 in Arkansas, Texas and Montana. Colorado is poised to follow suit soon.

EDF president Fred Krupp served on U.S. Energy Secretary Stephen Chu's Advisory Board on Natural Gas, helping to shape path-breaking recommendations to make natural gas both safe and sustainable.



Natural gas well site in Pennsylvania. Hydrofracturing (fracking) blasts water, chemicals and sand into rock under very high pressure to release the shale gas.



EDF attorney Isabelle Silverman calls New York City Mayor Bloomberg's attention to a vial of dirty heating oil, literally sludge from the bottom of the barrel. Only 1% of the structures in New York City burn dirty heating oil, yet they release more soot than all the cars and trucks on city streets combined.

Huge step towards cleaner air in NYC

Following an intensive three-year EDF campaign to rid New York City of black smoke, Mayor Bloomberg's administration issued a game-changing rule that will phase out the dirtiest grade of heating oil by 2015. The toxic black smoke belching from city smokestacks is one reason that the air New Yorkers breathe fails to meet federal air quality standards. As a result, New York City has one of the highest rates of childhood asthma in the nation. Just 1% of New York buildings release more soot pollution than all the cars and trucks on city streets, combined. The new rule calls for all buildings in the city to eventually switch to either natural gas or No. 2 heating oil, the cleanest grade available.

“We must all agree that everyone—no matter where they live—has a right to clean air and clean water.”

—“The Smart Path for the Shale Gas Revolution,” Fred Krupp, *Wall Street Journal*, August 18, 2011