

## **ECO PARTNERS UPDATE**

A SPECIAL BENEFIT FOR OUR MONTHLY SUPPORTERS | FALL 2013

## **EXCITING CHANGES AHEAD FOR EDF ECO PARTNERS**



Starting next year, you will begin receiving quarterly Special Reports, instead of *Eco Partner Updates*, as a new and expanded benefit of being an Eco Partner.

We are making this change in response to requests we have received from Eco Partners like you to provide more in-depth information about EDF programs. Special Reports will provide you with an inside view of our work: from interviews with members of the EDF team, to in-depth reviews of some of our most urgent and important environmental programs.

Eco Partners who pay their monthly pledges by check will notice one other change. Instead of sending pledge coupons quarterly, we will send them once per-year, in January. (Of course, should you need more pledge coupons at any time, or have any other questions, you can call Kathryn Chiasson at (202) 572-3391, and she will be happy to assist you.)

Thank you, once again, for the outstanding commitment to the environment you show as an EDF Eco Partner. Your strong and sustained support for EDF programs helps to make everything we do possible!

#### Kathryn Chiasson is here to help!

Do you have a question about your Eco Partner account? Do you want to increase your pledge amount, update



your payment information, share an idea, or ask a question? I'm your personal representative and invite you to contact me if I can be of any assistance to you.

Kathryn Chiasson (202) 572-3391, kchiasson@edf.org

# EDF SUPPORTS PLAN FOR FIRST-EVER LIMITS ON POWER PLANTS

In June 2013, President Obama unveiled his second-term climate action agenda, the centerpiece of which is a plan to reduce pollution by creating the nation's first-ever carbon pollution limits for new and existing power plants.

EDF has been working steadfastly toward this goal since 2006 when we and our allies filed suit to require EPA to adopt limits on greenhouse gas emissions for new power plants. After the Supreme Court decision in *Massachusetts v. EPA* affirming that greenhouse gases are air pollutants under the Clean Air Act, EPA was required to revisit its emission standards for existing cars and power plants.



More recently, EDF and our partners launched a major campaign to support and secure new power plant standards. At the same time, our sister organization, the Environmental Defense Action Fund, worked to block Senate budget amendments that would have prevented EPA from moving forward on carbon and mercury regulations.

Power plants are the single largest source of carbon pollution in the U.S., accounting for 40% of emissions. The Administration's climate plan also focuses on expanded renewable energy development on public lands and an accelerated effort on energy efficiency.

At EDF we are pushing to get protective and durable carbon pollution standards rapidly in place. Your Eco Partner support is helping to make this effort, and all our work, possible.

## ANOTHER BANNER YEAR FOR EDF CLIMATE CORPS

This year marked the sixth and largest year of EDF Climate Corps, our innovative fellowship program that places specially trained graduate students with companies, city agencies and universities to uncover ways to help them save energy, money and the environment.

This summer, EDF paired 116 Climate Corps fellows with 106 organizations. New participants such as Apple, General Motors, and the cities of Austin and Philadelphia joined returning hosts including AT&T, Facebook, the New York City Housing Authority and Chicago Public Schools.

In addition to traditional efficiency projects, this summer's EDF Climate Corps fellows branched out to focus on energy management strategies, efficiency financing mechanisms and employee engagement campaigns.

Climate Corps means energy-saving innovation for organizations. It also helps launch the careers of smart and dedicated environmentalists who know how to identify and implement programs to cut energy use and emissions. Our ultimate goal is to deploy our network of more than 700 fellows, alumni, hosts and partners to lead the way to a new, low-carbon energy economy. Thank you for your commitment to this work!

### HELPING MILLIONS OF CHILDREN TO BREATHE EASIER



Buildings consume 70 percent of electricity in the U.S. and emit more than a third of greenhouse gas emissions. In an urban environment the numbers are even higher, with buildings accounting for an estimated 80 percent of carbon emissions in New York City.

But the smoke you see emanating from buildings isn't only a climate issue: it's a health issue. And it's one of the reason New York City has one of the highest child asthma rates in the country.

But now, following an intensive EDF campaign, buildings in New York must phase

out the most highly polluting grades of heating oil between 2012 and 2030. Already, 1,800 buildings have converted from dirty heating oil to the cleanest fuels, reducing soot pollution by over 200 tons.

That is the equivalent of taking 800,000 cars off the road, and puts the city on track to achieve our goal of cutting soot pollution by 50% by the end of the 2013-2014 heating season—improving health, cleaning the air, and creating a model for what EDF can accomplish in other cities across the nation.

All in all, it's a great example of how what's good for the environment can be good for people, too. And it's one more example of your Eco Partner support at work!

### EDF DRIVES HUGE INVESTMENT IN ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION



In July 2012, after painstaking work by EDF and our allies, the RESTORE Act was signed into law: directing fines and penalties from the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill to restoring the damaged Gulf of Mexico.

This year that victory began to bear fruit when the Department of Justice, BP, and Transocean agreed to direct over \$2.5 billion in criminal fines to a Gulf Coast ecosystem restoration trust fund administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Federation. Half that amount will go to restoring Louisiana's barrier islands and building new river diversions that will allow sediment-laden Mississippi river water to once again reach its coastal wetlands, restoring and rebuilding its now-dying delta.

EDF is working with partners in state and federal agencies to ensure that restoration projects are ready to receive this money; that the multi-agency RESTORE Act task force develops a strong and ambitious ecosystem restoration plan aligned with Louisiana's science-based state plan; and that bureaucratic red tape does not unduly slow the pace of restoration.

EDF and our coalition partners are working to keep the pressure on, and your Eco Partner pledges make a difference!

Thank you for being an EDF Eco Partner. Together, we're making a difference!





