

BUILDING the Clean Energy FUTURE and American Prosperity TODAY

In the wake of last year's grim financial news, Americans were left wondering how we could restore our nation's prosperity. NRDC was ready with an answer. Building the clean energy future, we explained, will jump-start our economy, generate millions of jobs, and confront the crisis of global warming all at the same time.

Shifting to clean energy will unleash America's inherent talents—the ingenuity to create the next generation of clean technologies, the drive to make America the leader of the global, 21st-century energy market, and the resourcefulness to put millions of Americans to work building a safer, more sustainable energy system for our children.

Armed with expert economic and policy analyses and extensive knowledge of energy technology, NRDC brought this message to the media, the American people, and Capitol Hill. Our efforts paid off in a series of groundbreaking victories that have set the stage for delivering a clean energy and climate law to President Obama's desk.

Thanks to our network of allies, NRDC was uniquely positioned to mobilize the support of Americans from many walks of life to achieve these victories.

Our partners range from clean tech entrepreneurs to veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. We are the only environmental organization that belongs to both the U.S. Climate Action Partnership, a group of Fortune 500 companies calling for climate legislation, and the Blue Green Alliance, a coalition of labor unions calling for green energy jobs.

With unparalleled access inside the Beltway, NRDC's staff members have been tapped throughout Washington.

We use our influence to push for bold changes within federal agencies. Even when action slows in Congress. Last year, Environmental Protection Agency identified global warming pollution as a danger to human health, the Department of Energy issued new efficiency standards, and the administration's stimulus package included \$50 billion for clean energy solutions.

"NRDC is the most important environmental group in California and the nation.... Other environmentalists follow NRDC."

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR
ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER,
SEPTEMBER 24, 2009

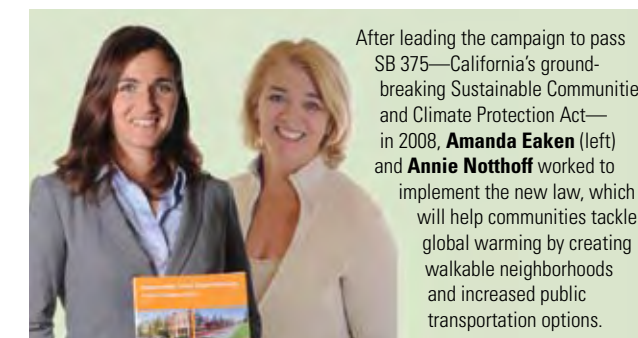
NRDC Helps Pass Historic Clean Energy and Climate Bill in the House

NRDC played a critical role in the biggest climate victory of 2009: for the first time ever, the House of Representatives passed a clean energy and climate bill.

This historic vote defied expectations. Few people believed that six months into a new session and a new administration—and in the midst of the biggest economic crisis in decades—we could pass transformative clean energy legislation in the House. But we did it with a combination of NRDC's policy smarts and advocacy muscle.

During the bill's drafting stage, NRDC's experts provided lawmakers with the scientific evidence, policy mechanisms, and estimates of America's clean energy potential that they needed. We pushed hard and ensured that the bill directs money into promoting wind and solar energy; developing energy-efficient cars, homes, and offices; and helping low-income people adjust to changing energy costs.

Passing the final bill wasn't easy. It touched off regional differences and challenged Big Oil's and Big Coal's stranglehold on America. But we triumphed



After leading the campaign to pass SB 375—California's groundbreaking Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act—in 2008, **Amanda Eaken** (left) and **Annie Notthoff** worked to implement the new law, which will help communities tackle global warming by creating walkable neighborhoods and increased public transportation options.

by focusing on one clear message: investing in clean energy is good for America.

We brought this message back to representatives' home districts with a deft strategy: our analysts crunched the numbers for how the bill would benefit Americans in each state, and then our communications and advocacy teams spread the good news through local media and social networking sites such as Twitter and Facebook and through local ally organizations and leaders.

To counter claims that the legislation would raise electricity bills we didn't just report that energy efficiency measures in the bill would actually save consumers money. We outlined those savings state-by-state. Texans and Ohioans, for instance, would save an average of \$3 a month, while Virginians and New Mexicans would save \$6. Then we got the word out through the press and blogosphere.

We used these numbers to generate support across a wide spectrum of Americans. NRDC hosted events with the United Steelworkers Union and other labor groups. We issued joint statements with manufacturers like Alcoa and utilities like Duke Energy. And at a rally on the steps of Capitol Hill, we brought together religious leaders, venture capitalists, veterans, and workers—all united in calling for clean energy and climate action. And we helped organize meetings between these leaders and their senators at home.

The House of Representatives heard our call and passed the bill on June 26. Now our efforts have shifted to the Senate, which is considering its own version of the bill. It will be a tough battle, but NRDC will keep the pressure on until we secure a national commitment to confronting global warming.



NRDC policy experts **David Doniger** (left), **Antonia Herzog**, and **David Hawkins** are helping to craft clean energy legislation to create jobs, build our economy, and curb global warming.

NRDC Trustees **Alan Horn** (left) and **Max Stone** work hand in hand with staff on key issues such as global warming policy.



Shifting to clean energy creates another winner: the American worker. Research shows that clean energy and climate legislation could create almost 2 million jobs for Americans—jobs for steelworkers who build wind turbines, construction workers who make buildings more energy efficient, and engineers who design hybrid batteries.

In 2009, NRDC made sure Americans heard the opportunity side of the climate story. Our analysts partnered with leading researchers to assess how many clean energy jobs could emerge in each state: 70,000 in Ohio, for instance, and 71,650 in Pennsylvania. In Missouri, our study showed that 25 moderate-scale wind farms would result in 550 permanent construction jobs and \$75 million in ongoing economic impact.

We drew on this research in the summer, when town hall meetings soured and became bogged down with false claims about climate legislation's impact on the economy. We reached out to our allies in the labor movement and launched the "Made in America" tour—a series of 50 rallies that brought union members, manufacturers, and environmentalists together across the nation to support clean energy legislation.

One of those rallies took place in a union hall in Gary, Indiana—a steel town that is home to ailing industrial parks and shuttered mills. Tom Conway of the United Steelworkers shared with the crowd that it takes more than 250,000 tons of steel to make just one wind turbine. "This is about jobs, jobs, jobs," he said. "And this is about leaving a clean environment for our kids." A shift to renewable energy means job security for local workers. That is the side of the climate story NRDC has been telling, and we have the numbers to back it up.



NRDC advocacy and communications experts **Francesca Koe** and **Pete Altman** (right) mobilize support for well-paying and secure green jobs that will put skilled workers like Erica Owensby (above), a veteran employee at a green auto parts manufacturing plant in Pennsylvania, on the job.



NRDC Litigation Secures Limits on Global Warming Pollution from Cars

A month before the historic climate vote, President Obama hosted a Rose Garden ceremony to announce his plan to issue new greenhouse gas and fuel economy standards for cars and trucks. Sitting in the audience were NRDC litigators, vehicle engineers, and climate specialists. They had been invited to the event

the law bitterly, but NRDC's litigators led our allies through a series of court triumphs. We won before the Supreme Court, we won when the auto industry challenged the rule in Vermont, and we won when they challenged it in California.

Thanks to our litigators' skill, we held the auto industry at bay until the Obama administration came to Washington. The Rose Garden ceremony



NRDC's **Roland Hwang** (left) with NRDC alumna Fran Pavely, NRDC President **Frances Beinecke**, Mary Nichols, head of the California Air Resources Board, and NRDC's **David Doniger** on the White House lawn following the historic decision to support clean cars.

in recognition of just how instrumental NRDC had been in creating this clean-car breakthrough.

The journey to the Rose Garden started seven years ago, when neither the Bush administration nor Congress was willing to confront global warming. NRDC decided to build support for climate action at the state level, and helped pass a law in California to limit global warming pollution from cars.

California is the only state that has a waiver under the Clean Air Act to write its own standards, but other states can follow California's lead. NRDC helped persuade 14 states to adopt the new standard, covering a total of 40 percent of the U.S. auto market.

The auto industry and Bush administration fought

was followed by the Environmental Protection Agency's announcement that it would grant California's waiver.

Under these new rules, everyone wins. Drivers will save money on gas, the auto industry will become more competitive by making the clean, high-mileage cars of the future and our planet will have fewer global warming emissions disrupting its climate.

NRDC Takes to the International Stage in Copenhagen

Even as we worked to create green job opportunities here at home, NRDC also focused on the international stage. When more than 100 world leaders met at the climate negotiations in Copenhagen in December 2009, we sent



NRDC President **Frances Beinecke** speaks on a panel about deforestation at the Copenhagen event in December 2009. The conference helped establish the Copenhagen Accord, an important first step toward international global warming regulation.

a delegation that reflected the depth of NRDC's expertise in everything from deforestation to financing. Not only did our experts advise the U.S. delegation and interpret events for American journalists, but we also tapped our China team's contacts to speak directly to the Chinese media.

After spending two weeks in negotiations, we believe that the final agreement achieves three critical goals. It calls on the world's biggest global warming polluters, including the United States, China, and India, to set targets for real cuts in their emissions. It establishes a system for verifying that those cuts are actually being made.



And it unleashes an unprecedented flow of resources to help poor and vulnerable nations cope

As we advanced clean energy solutions, NRDC's Midwestern office, led by **Henry Henderson**, beat back two major attempts to prolong America's dependence on dirty fossil fuels: In October we helped block an expansion at an Indiana refinery that would have processed filthy tar sands oil, and in November we prompted American Municipal Power to scrap plans for a costly, polluting coal-fired power plant in Ohio.

with climate impacts and protect their forests.

For the United States, the agreement clears a path for action in the Senate. Before Copenhagen, some senators feared that we wouldn't be able to confirm China was reducing pollution as it promised, or that the United States shouldn't act alone on climate. Now that 187 other nations have agreed to confront global warming in a clear and transparent manner, those barriers to Senate progress have been removed.

The Copenhagen agreement is just one step down the path toward climate solutions. A U.S. law limiting global warming pollution will be another critical step. NRDC will move aggressively, both in Washington and abroad, to bring us closer to our goal of a clean energy future.



Jake Schmidt

Jake Schmidt is NRDC's International Climate Policy Director.

Describe the international climate landscape after the Copenhagen talks.

For the first time, all major economies have committed to curbing global warming pollution. They have also agreed on several issues, like helping poor nations cope with climate change. Are we done yet? Of course not, but we have made remarkable progress.

What was NRDC's role at Copenhagen?

We hosted presentations, but most of the action happened in hallway conversations. One of the main challenges was getting countries to report their reductions in a transparent fashion. I drank cups of coffee with the South Korean negotiator, who is a friend of mine, and I told him NRDC's proposals and shared draft text. He then went into bilateral talks with the Chinese delegation and pushed those ideas. He represents South Korea's position, but it includes NRDC's input.

Did NRDC's ideas make it into the final Copenhagen Accord?

Two key measures have our fingerprints on them. First, we wanted to include a list enshrining every country's commitment, because the Senate needs to see progress being made. But we kept hitting brick walls; people told us it was too political. So we pushed the idea with the E.U., South Africa, and Mexico, and in the eleventh hour, we got the list in.

Second was the transparency issue. Our Beijing team spent a lot of time with China's lead negotiator and the U.S. delegation to get this concept right. NRDC was the only group the State Department listened to on this, because it respects our work in China. Ultimately, the agreement reflects our suggestions.

Where do we go from here?

All eyes are turning to the negotiations in Mexico City in December. Mexico could make the accord tighter, but the Senate has to act first. We salvaged Copenhagen despite the Senate's delay, but the U.S. can't ask for another extension.



The good thing is that while climate negotiations used to attract only vice ministers, in Copenhagen, heads of state sat around hashing this out. Countries are making deeper commitments than ever before, and now Congress knows that if it acts on climate, it isn't acting alone.