

A YEAR OF MOMENTUM

785K

PEOPLE
AROUND
THE WORLD
RALLIED
FOR CLIMATE
ACTION

32%

LESS CARBON
POLLUTION UNDER THE
CLEAN POWER PLAN

50%

OF ALL NEW
U.S. POWER
COMING FROM
RENEWABLE
SOURCES

80%

REDUCTION
IN GLOBAL
CARBON
POLLUTION
BY 2050

2.4M

NRDC
MEMBERS
AND
ACTIVISTS

35M

ACRES
OF HABITAT
PROTECTING
WILDLIFE

27.4M

METRIC TONS OF
CARBON POLLUTION
PREVENTED PER
YEAR BY STOPPING
KEystone XL

430K

CONCERNED
CITIZENS MARCHED
WITH US FOR
CLIMATE ACTION IN
NEW YORK CITY

3M

TONS OF
WATER
SAVED DURING
TEXTILE
PRODUCTION

8M

SIGNATURES
DELIVERED TO
THE EPA
DEMANDING
CLIMATE ACTION

2015

ANNUAL
REPORT



NRDC WORKS TO
SAFEGUARD
THE AIR WE BREATHE,
THE WATER WE DRINK,
AND THE PLACES
WE TREASURE.

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FROM
OUR
CHAIRMAN

“These are the
winds of change, and
they’re bringing us
an unprecedented
moment of challenge
and opportunity.”



Last year, we welcomed a transformative new leader to the helm of NRDC—Rhea Suh. At the time, we were still living under the threat that the Keystone XL pipeline would bisect our nation, putting families and communities at risk. Last year, we hadn't yet seen the Obama administration's plan to limit carbon pollution from power plants. Last year, it seemed the nations of the world would never find a path to a global climate agreement.

Rhea hit the road running, traveling thousands of miles, speaking to thousands of people in the United States and overseas, and leading an invigorated team to a series of successes. Keystone, carbon pollution plan, and a global climate agreement? Victory or major progress on all fronts—in no small measure due to the dedicated work of NRDC. That's what I call momentum. This isn't just the wind at our backs; these are the winds of change—and they're bringing us an unprecedented moment of challenge and opportunity. The forces of public pressure and political will came together this

year in spectacular fashion, and NRDC is ready to take advantage of the opportunity. In fact, it is the challenge that we want and are ready for.

Forty years ago, NRDC had just begun building the bedrock protections for our land and water that have sustained our community ever since, and we've fought hard to protect those gains. This year, we have the chance to build a new baseline for environmental protections, and this organization's skilled legal minds, rock-solid science, impassioned advocacy, and effective communications are going to make the difference.

You are, too. Your voices, your passion, your commitment are more important than ever for the fights ahead.

On behalf of the board of NRDC, I am grateful that this organization can count on you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniel R. Tishman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "D" and "T".

Daniel R. Tishman, *Chairman of the Board*

FROM
OUR
PRESIDENT



Here at NRDC, we believe that the world's children have the fundamental right to inherit a planet that will sustain them as it has sustained us—with clean air and clean water, with wildlands to explore and wild creatures to watch in awe and wonder. As I think back on my first year here, I am reminded anew that NRDC is uniquely positioned to make that vision a reality.

This is the organization that will create the blueprints for lasting environmental change.

**“The world’s children
have the fundamental
right to inherit a planet
that will sustain them
as it has sustained us.”**

Our work is grounded in research and science, and this enables us to help create laws and influence policies that will safeguard our environment far into the future. And because we’ve done it before, decision makers in government and business listen to our advice on how to shape transformative, innovative approaches to confronting our problems.

This is the organization that will follow up on our policy work with extraordinary expertise in litigation and a deep bench of

seasoned advocates to ensure those laws are passed and enforced, and that polluters are held to account.

This is the organization that will have equal impact outside those corridors of power—mobilizing and supporting the partners, members, and activists whose

voices will bring about consensus for change. NRDC will stand for the rights of all people to have access to clean air and water and to live in healthy communities. We will stand with those seeking to build this future and against those who threaten it. We will strive for justice and advocate to ensure that our legal, policy, and political systems live up to the aspirations and needs of our citizens and our planet.

This is the work we’ve set out for ourselves at NRDC. This is the work we’re embarked on, together. And this is the work we must accomplish with urgency—now more than ever.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rhea Suh', with a stylized, flowing script.

Rhea Suh, *President of NRDC*

OUR

**NRDC FOCUSES ON FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES
THAT REPRESENT TODAY'S GREATEST
CHALLENGES AND BIGGEST OPPORTUNITIES.**

PRIORITIES

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1.5 DEGREES

BUILDING A CLEAN ENERGY REVOLUTION

On the lofty slopes of Hawaii's Mauna Loa volcano, scientists have spent decades measuring the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. In 2015, they recorded carbon levels in excess of 400 parts per million on more days than in any other year. That's an alarming finding—especially to those of us who know that avoiding devastating climate change requires that we keep carbon pollution below 350 parts per million.

But there is another set of statistics indicating that the climate movement is finally achieving a powerful convergence of the forces of public support and political will. These numbers, and more like them, are what it will take to reduce the measurements on Mauna Loa and begin building a new, low-carbon future. The following numbers show what momentum looks like.

- **8 million:** the number of signatures sent to the EPA demanding limits on carbon pollution from power plants
- **32 percent:** the reduction in carbon pollution the United States would achieve under the Clean Power Plan
- **430,000:** the number of concerned citizens who took to the New York City streets for the People's Climate March in September 2014
- **785,000:** the number of people who marched for climate action in cities all over the world on the eve of the Paris Climate Summit in December 2015
- **50 percent:** the amount of all new power-generation capacity in the United States that came from renewable power
- **177:** the number of nations that came to the 2015 Paris climate talks with actionable plans
- **30,000:** the total number of leaders, scientists, activists, and others who attended the Paris climate talks
- **5,000:** the number of people who gathered in St. Peter's Square to celebrate Pope Francis's powerful encyclical underscoring our moral obligation to tackle the climate threat in the name of justice, human dignity, and service to the poor and vulnerable

The Tipping Point

On a hot morning in August 2015, President Obama took his place behind a podium in the White House and announced that the United States would take aggressive action to combat climate change, continuing a fundamental economic shift away from dirty fuels and toward a clean energy future. "I am convinced that no challenge poses a greater threat to our

future and future generations than a changing climate,” Obama said as he set the first national limits on carbon pollution from power plants, which are responsible for more U.S. carbon emissions than any other source.

NRDC President Rhea Suh and other NRDC policy experts were in the audience that day—a tribute to the fact that NRDC helped design and build support for the president’s historic Clean Power Plan. NRDC’s science and policy teams had created a conceptual framework in 2012 for how pollution limits might be achieved, urged the administration to put standards in place to address the issue, then pushed to make draft rules released in June 2014 even stronger.

Their work didn’t end with the president’s announcement. NRDC policy analysts jumped into the details and began helping governors, state utility regulators, and business leaders understand their roles in meeting carbon pollution reduction targets. NRDC litigators prepared to help defend the plan from fossil fuel industry lawsuits—and when the U.S. Supreme Court’s conservative wing put polluter profits first by temporarily blocking

implementation of the plan, NRDC launched the Climate Action Legal Defense Fund to ensure their challenges would not prevail. NRDC advocates worked to shore up support for the plan in Congress and briefed international allies about this sign of U.S. climate leadership in advance of the Paris climate talks. And



the NRDC communications team built public awareness and support—letting our 2.4 million members and activists know that this plan will create tens of thousands of jobs, make our air safer to breathe, and save the average family \$85 a year on energy costs.

A Vision for the Future

Though implementation of the Clean Power Plan over industry objections would represent a major breakthrough, it’s only the beginning of what we must do to protect our health, our food and water supplies, our ecosystems, and even our cities from the devastating impacts of climate change.

Our goal? Global carbon pollution must be cut 80 percent by 2050.

Naysayers argue that it isn’t feasible. But 10 years ago, they didn’t believe wind power would be affordable. Now it’s becoming our cheapest energy resource, bar none. “It’s our job to think five steps ahead,” says Susan Casey-Lefkowitz, NRDC’s chief program officer. “We don’t just focus on what seems reasonable at the time. We envision what is possible, and we lay the groundwork to create it.”

To achieve those deep pollution reductions, we must make changes over the next 10 to 20 years, using proven tools like emission limits, efficiency codes, and clean energy incentives. We’ll need to demonstrate successful climate action at the city, state, and national levels. And

we’ll need to stop fossil fuel infrastructure and leasing that would lock in decades of pollution. “Whenever we face a choice of which energy pathway to take,” says Casey-Lefkowitz, “we must choose the clean, not the dirty. This is how we will get where we need to go.”

A large wind turbine is the central focus, its three blades blurred from motion. It stands on a grassy hill. In the background, a series of smaller wind turbines are visible, along with a line of electrical transmission towers. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

The climate movement
is finally achieving a
powerful convergence
of the forces of public
support and political will.

VICTORY FOR WHALES

NRDC took the U.S. Navy to court over its high-intensity sonar and explosives training off the coasts of Southern California and Hawaii, which threatened the wellbeing of more than 60 whale, dolphin, seal, and sea lion populations. In September 2015, following a major legal victory and extensive negotiations, the Navy agreed to designate significant habitat in those areas off-limits to such military exercises. The settlement is not the end of the war, however. Now NRDC is working to establish sonar-free areas in other marine mammal habitats.

PROTECTING COMMUNITIES FROM FRACKING

NRDC has been working for years to ensure that science—not industry—guides state decisions on fracking. Our efforts have paid off on several fronts. On June 2015, New York State officially banned fracking due to possible health risks; just one month prior, Maryland enacted a two-and-a-half-year fracking moratorium. NRDC will continue to advocate for citizens' rights to prevent this harmful practice in their communities and will also work to advance clean energy alternatives in these states and across the country.

CITIES PAVE THE WAY TO EFFICIENCY

If U.S. buildings were a country, they would be the third-largest greenhouse gas emitter in the world. NRDC and the Institute for Market Transformation launched the City Energy Project in early 2014 to help 10 major American cities drastically reduce carbon emissions by boosting energy efficiency in buildings. The groundbreaking initiative has put those cities on track to cut nearly \$1 billion in energy costs by 2030, and the project will reach even more cities in the coming years, as it expands from a \$10 million to a \$20 million effort.



21 YEARS IN COURT
TO PROTECT
MARINE MAMMALS
FROM HARMFUL
SONAR

BLOCKING ARCTIC DRILLING

In October 2015, after relentless pressure from NRDC, our millions of members and activists, and other environmental groups, the Obama administration canceled proposed oil and gas lease sales in our Alaskan Arctic waters—the last pristine sea on the globe, whose shores are home to polar bears, seals, and other iconic wildlife. The previous month, facing NRDC lawsuits aimed at enforcing environmental laws, Shell abandoned drilling in the region. NRDC is now working to ensure that the area is put permanently off-limits to oil and gas companies.

CALIFORNIA DOUBLES DOWN ON CLEAN ENERGY

When it comes to efficiency, the Golden State is once again leading the way. In October 2015, NRDC's efforts helped ensure the adoption of Senate Bill 350, a law that will double energy efficiency savings targets, increase renewable energy generation 50 percent by 2030, and put more Californians behind the wheels of electric vehicles. Another approved measure, Assembly Bill 802, boosts energy efficiency standards in buildings and helps residents better understand their home energy bills and use.

Q & A

BATTLING DROUGHT



Tracy Quinn, NRDC senior water policy analyst, explains how education and efficiency are helping California cope with dangerously dry conditions and prepare for the future.

How bad is California's water situation?

California is suffering through the fourth year of an epic and unprecedented drought—the worst in 1,200 years—and we don't know when it will end. Unsustainable water demands are driving fish and wildlife species to the brink of extinction while also draining groundwater aquifers. Even the recent El Niño rains won't make up for the loss. This dire situation could be a preview of the new normal as climate change models predict more frequent and intense droughts for the arid West.

How has NRDC helped the state respond?

We've done a ton of eye-opening research. To promote the solutions we know are well within reach, we released a report last year that outlined areas of untapped potential in California's water supply and laid out a road map to drought resilience. An aggressive statewide investment in agricultural and urban efficiency, along with efforts to capture stormwater runoff and to reuse water, would create a surprising amount of excess water—more than what all of California's cities use in one year. Obviously, that would go a long way in a state prone to droughts.

With NRDC's help, the state adopted emergency water conservation regulations to provide critical short-term drought relief. These measures require Californians to reduce their outdoor water use, instruct utilities to report data on water usage and enforcement efforts, and allow water suppliers to issue fines to water wasters. Statewide, average urban water demand has dropped 25 percent in just two years. That's incredible.

And, using an NRDC proposal, the state also just implemented the strongest standards in the country for water-efficient toilets, faucets, and urinals that will save Californians more than 100 billion gallons of water annually. That's *three times* as much water as the entire city of San Francisco uses in a year.

How will NRDC help California in the long run?

We're helping craft policies and regulations that ensure the people, businesses, and ecosystems of California have a safe and sufficient supply of water. In cities and on farms, we're advocating for more efficient use of this precious resource. NRDC is even helping to design the home of the future through our 25x25 campaign. By 2025 our goal is for residences to use 25 percent of the water used in homes today.

To get there, we've been working to improve plumbing codes for new buildings so they waste less water from day one. We've also teamed up with developers and a few cities to make sure new houses come with plumbing systems that make it easier to capture gray water and reuse it in yards or toilet tanks. We want communities to be locally sustainable and resilient by capturing more stormwater—which will also reduce pollution in our rivers and oceans—and by reusing wastewater wherever possible. We should think of water the same way we think of a plastic bottle or an aluminum can. It should be recycled, not used once and thrown away.

Additionally, NRDC helped shape California's new model landscape ordinance, which will encourage more drought-tolerant native plants

and limit the use of thirsty turf. We're also working to dedicate some of the resulting water savings to the replenishment of parched rivers and streams so that California can maintain the bountiful fisheries and aquatic environments that make the state such a special place.

What progress have you seen already?

There is a lot of good news. We've already seen some communities far exceed their conservation goals. Water-efficient products now dominate the shelves of local home improvement stores, and more and more households are removing their lush green lawns or simply allowing them to transition to "California gold." In Southern California, \$350 million in turf replacement rebates were claimed in just a few short months.

One of the most exciting things we've noticed is how these water policies are now part of the mainstream conversation. Even *Keeping Up with the Kardashians* had an episode where the family discussed the appropriateness of their green landscaping in light of the drought.

25%
DROP IN DEMAND FOR
CALIFORNIA'S URBAN WATER
USE IN JUST TWO YEARS



HOW

**NRDC USES A DYNAMIC SET OF TACTICS THAT
INCLUDES EVERYTHING FROM SCIENCE TO
LITIGATION TO COALITION-BUILDING.**

WE WORK



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JUSTICE FOR COMMUNITIES IN MAINE

Imagine a chemical company sets up shop along the banks of one of Maine's most beautiful and mightiest rivers, the largest estuary in all of New England. Imagine that plant starts dumping toxic mercury directly into those waters and continues to do so for well over a decade.

Now imagine the people who live downstream from that plant are completely unaware of this dangerous pollution. So they continue to catch, sell, and eat lobsters and crabs from those waters without any idea of the health risks involved.

That's just what happened after Mallinckrodt opened a plant in Orrington, Maine, in 1967 to produce chlorine bleach for the state's paper mills. From that year until about 1982, the facility discharged up to 12 metric tons of mercury into the Penobscot River. To put that

in perspective, think of this: A single teaspoon of mercury, a potent neurotoxin especially hazardous to children and pregnant women, could contaminate enough fish to fill an entire railroad car.

In 2000, NRDC and the Maine People's Alliance, a citizens' group, brought a joint lawsuit against Mallinckrodt.

The Alliance had been organized around the issue for years before NRDC came on board, but it had been missing one critical tool: lawyers. "They had everything except litigation," says Nancy Marks, a senior attorney at NRDC who has worked on the case from the beginning. "It was a perfect match."

A perfect match, indeed. After two years in court, a federal judge found Mallinckrodt responsible for the mercury contamination. He ordered the company to foot the bill for

an independent study that would determine just how much mercury it had discharged into the river, and to what extent that pollution had affected local wildlife and public health. Mallinckrodt appealed, and an appellate court upheld the ruling.

A group of scientists spent nine years conducting the investigation, and the results in their 2013 report were damning. The Penobscot contained at least nine metric tons of mercury, with concentrations in sediment 10 to 20 times higher than in other Maine rivers. In one section of the river, the level of toxic mercury in lobster tails was found to be 2.5 times higher than what Maine deems safe for human consumption. Songbirds in a marsh adjacent to the river channel also had blood mercury concentrations higher than any recorded in the scientific literature.



Kenneth Wyman has been fishing for lobsters and crabs for 27 years from his home in Stockton Springs, 20 miles downstream from Orrington. He had no idea the river was polluted with mercury until the state closed the fishery. “I was sickened to the core,” he said in court testimony. “I don’t know that much about mercury other than it is a poison, and I’ve been feeding it to the general public, to tens of thousands of people, for 25-plus years.” That included his pregnant daughter-in-law. Without intervention, the scientists estimated it would take more than six decades for the mercury to drop to levels that weren’t hazardous to humans or wildlife.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Mallinckrodt balked at the panel’s findings and spent millions of dollars disputing the science, doing whatever it could to continue to avoid taking responsibility for its toxic mess. Following the state of Maine’s decision to put seven square miles of the lower Penobscot off-limits to lobster and crab fishing as a result of the report’s contamination findings, NRDC and the Maine People’s Alliance returned to federal court. The goal was straightforward: Force Mallinckrodt to clean up its pollution—if a cleanup is viable.

“The cleanup is for the people who look to the river for healthy food, for their livelihood, for recreation, and for spiritual sustenance,” said Marks in a pretrial statement. “The cleanup is also for the imperiled birds, fish, and wildlife that populate the river’s shores and waters.”

Marks also pointed out that this was a case about corporate responsibility. “Mallinckrodt made a profit while poisoning the Penobscot with mercury, endangering public health and the environment,” she said. “For over forty years, the burdens of that contamination have been borne by Maine communities. Both federal law and principles of fairness demand that Mallinckrodt shoulder the burden now for cleaning up its pollution.” The judge agreed.

On September 2, 2015, acknowledging that the Penobscot continues to suffer irreparable harm from mercury contamination, he ordered the company to take steps to clean up its mess, once and for all.

Engineers must now determine the best possible method for getting rid of the mercury, at Mallinckrodt’s expense. If the engineers find a way, then NRDC and the Maine People’s Alliance will go back to court a final time to try to force the corporate polluter to make things right.

This monumental victory is a story of true community justice. It holds the promise of protecting the health of countless people, preserving Maine’s lobstering and fishing economy, and restoring an ecosystem spanning more than 20 miles in and along the river.

“None of this would be happening—the fact that the river is polluted with mercury would not even be known—if it weren’t for this case and for the citizens who took up the fight,” says Mitch Bernard, NRDC’s founding director of litigation and current chief operating officer. Bernard also notes that this case is a demonstration of NRDC’s tenacity and values;

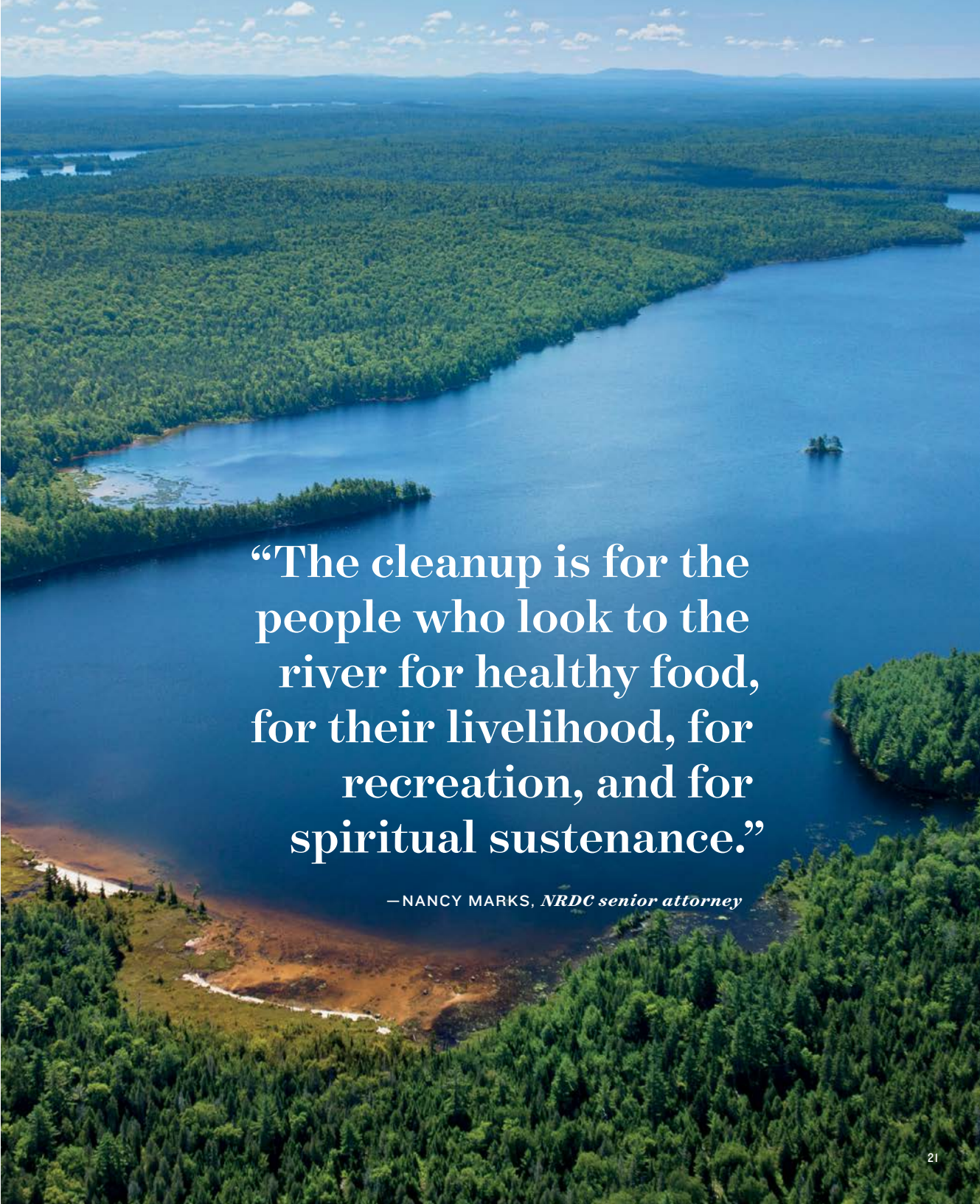


no other organization would devote the resources and have the endurance to stick it out. “We’ve been at this for 15 years and counting, and we’re going to persist until the polluter is held fully accountable. The river does not belong to a private company; it belongs to the people of Maine. That is what we’re fighting for.”

DID YOU KNOW?

When NRDC opened its doors in 1970, it was America’s first nonprofit dedicated to taking dirty industries to court. In those early days, there were few U.S. lawyers suing polluters—and even fewer environmental laws on the books. NRDC changed all that by helping pass the Clean Water Act and other bedrock environmental statutes.

Over the past 45 years, NRDC litigators have taken on formidable adversaries including the U.S. Navy, big oil companies, and chemical manufacturers. These cases often take years to win, but NRDC stays the course because of what’s at stake, shielding people from things like cancer-causing pollution and giving them a fighting chance against deep-pocketed industries. As Mitch Bernard, the founding director of NRDC’s litigation team, says, “A little bit of justice is a beautiful thing.”



“The cleanup is for the people who look to the river for healthy food, for their livelihood, for recreation, and for spiritual sustenance.”

—NANCY MARKS, *NRDC senior attorney*



KEYSTONE XL REJECTED

When TransCanada filed a permit application for its Keystone XL tars sands oil pipeline in 2008, NRDC was the only environmental group to stand up against its construction. In November 2015, after seven years of heated debate and tireless advocacy, President Obama officially rejected the proposal—citing our nation’s obligation to be a leader on climate action—before heading into the Paris climate talks less than a month later. This win was possible thanks to the dedication of a grassroots coalition of partners—from ranchers in Nebraska to First Nations communities in Canada, from student activists to climate advocates.

SAYING NO TO SUPERBUGS

Industrial livestock operations routinely give antibiotics to animals that aren’t sick. Exposed to too many of these drugs, bacteria can mutate into “superbugs” that have become immune to those antibiotics. In October 2015, the restaurant chain Subway responded to an NRDC campaign by committing to eliminate antibiotics from its meat supply. Pressure from NRDC and others earlier that year also drove Perdue and Foster Farms to stop giving antibiotics to healthy animals. And California set the strictest antibiotics standards in the nation with a measure NRDC helped strengthen.

27.4M

METRIC TONS OF CARBON
POLLUTION PREVENTED PER YEAR
BY STOPPING KEYSTONE XL



80%

OR MORE OF IVORY IN
CALIFORNIA COULD BE
LINKED TO POACHING,
ACCORDING TO AN
NRDC INVESTIGATION

SAVING AFRICAN ELEPHANTS

Poachers killed more than 100,000 African elephants for their tusks between 2010 and 2012. In October 2015, NRDC helped secure a ban on ivory sales in California after an NRDC-commissioned investigation of the state's ivory market revealed that at least 80 percent of the ivory sold in Los Angeles and San Francisco was likely linked to poaching. The California victory followed successful 2014 efforts to shut down the country's largest ivory markets in New York and New Jersey. NRDC plans to move the campaign to other states and will continue to push for strong federal regulations.

INTERNATIONAL ACTION FOR BUTTERFLIES

Because the monarch butterfly's migration route covers much of North America, protecting these pollinators requires widespread action. In the United States, NRDC has helped create butterfly highways by lining hundreds of miles of roads with milkweed and continues to fight for stronger regulations of pesticides. Thanks in large part to the advocacy of NRDC supporters, the UNESCO World Heritage Committee agreed in June 2015 to examine the plight of the monarch—an important step toward securing international protections.

TRANSLATING SCIENCE



Kim Knowlton, deputy director of NRDC's Science Center, explains how scientific analysis can educate the public, influence decision makers, and lead to effective solutions.

How does science help advance NRDC's mission?

Science is the foundation of everything we do—our litigation, our advocacy, and our policy work. We're one of the few NGOs that can boast a wide range of in-house scientific expertise as well as a rigorous independent scientific peer-review process. We not only publish groundbreaking research but translate complex data—both for the public and for policymakers—so people can make decisions based on facts, not rhetoric.

What role did scientific research play in initiating NRDC's recent climate and health work in India?

When we began to talk about the health risks of heat waves in India as part of NRDC's India Initiative, people disregarded the climate projections and said, "It's always been hot in India." It was science and evidence that made our point. We had the data to back up our assertion that 1,300 deaths in the city of Ahmedabad during the 2010 heat wave could have been avoided. This was a wake-up call for city leaders.

How has NRDC equipped decision makers to prepare for future heat waves?

Before we began this work, the Indian Meteorological Department, which is like our National Weather Service, didn't typically publish 5-day or 10-day forecasts. They would only relay that day's weather. To address this issue, NRDC partnered with some colleagues in the United States who were able to develop a 7-day forecast system for Ahmedabad so decision makers could

see extreme heat coming. They could put local hospitals on alert and advise people to stock up on water, avoid the sun during the hottest hours, and wear light clothing. Now that we've helped highlight a demand for this information, 100 cities in India receive extended forecasts.

What kind of results have you seen?

During the heat wave of May 2015, there were more than 2,300 heat-related deaths across India, but because it was prepared with a Heat Action Plan, Ahmedabad reported only seven. That's a big difference from the 1,300 in that city just a few years earlier. NRDC is now helping several cities and states in the same region formulate their own heat action plans. We're also redoubling our outreach to vulnerable populations and the medical community in Ahmedabad and having discussions with national authorities about including extreme heat in India's disaster relief and response activities.

How does it feel to see your data analysis spark a real-world solution?


It's a great example of what the Science Center does so well. We build bridges across issue areas within NRDC and between our organization and the scientific community to make sure we are having the right conversations and establishing the right collaborations to advance our work. The Heat Action Plan helped create strategies that can help build climate resilience and protect millions of people. You never know which little stone you throw is going to be the one that ripples through the pond.

1,300

HEAT-RELATED
DEATHS IN
AHMEDABAD
DURING THE 2010
HEAT WAVE

7

HEAT-RELATED
DEATHS
REPORTED IN THE
HEAT WAVE OF
MAY 2015



WHERE

NRDC IS ON THE GROUND IN
CITIES, STATES, REGIONS,
AND COUNTRIES THAT HAVE
FAR-REACHING IMPACT FOR
THE REST OF THE WORLD.

WE WORK



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PROTECTING THE WEST

The greater sage grouse, a spike-tailed bird known for its unique wagging, thumping mating dance, is an icon of the American West; its very name comes from the sweeping sagebrush landscape that extends all the way from Montana to New Mexico.

Unfortunately, that grassy habitat is now just half the size it was a century ago. Development, ranging from livestock grazing to oil and gas drilling, has chipped away at the grouse's home and caused its population to plummet—from 16 million in 1900 to as few as 150,000 today. And the problem is far more complex than the health of just one species. The sage grouse is a bellwether for its entire ecosystem: As sage grouse numbers decline, so do those of more than 350 other wildlife species that share its habitat.

This kind of degradation of critical habitat is all too common across the Rocky Mountain

West. “We live and work in a spectacular, wild part of the country where wolves, grizzly bears, bison, wolverines, and all sorts of other wild critters still exist,” says Matt Skoglund, director of NRDC’s Northern Rockies office in Bozeman, Montana. “We’re working hard to protect that wildness as well as fight the expansion of dirty energy projects and push for the clean energy future our world desperately needs.”

That hard work is paying off. In September 2015, after decades of advocacy by NRDC in collaboration with other conservation groups, the Interior Department and the Forest Service adopted one of the most ambitious plans ever contemplated, one that secures protections for a whopping 35 million acres of sage grouse habitat across 10 states.

Along with safeguarding the future of the sage grouse, the historic action helps hundreds

of other Rocky Mountain species (including elk, mule deer, pronghorn, and golden eagles) that rely on that land—good news not only for conservationists but for hikers, campers, hunters, anglers, and business owners.

Increasingly, ranchers are joining that unofficial coalition, understanding that what’s good for the bird is good for the herd. “The successful conservation of the greater sage grouse, our livelihoods, and the future of our children depend on coordinated plans for managed grazing and healthy working landscapes,” says Doug Thompson, a rancher from Lander, Wyoming, who serves on the state’s Sage Grouse Implementation Task Force.

The entire Northern Rockies region, with the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem as its center of gravity, is at an important turning point. A surge in fracking, coal mining, and other fossil

fuel development has taken a toll on the area's diverse ecosystems. But wins like the greater sage grouse victory not only help set the stage to dial back fossil fuel extraction, but also ramp up development of renewable energy that will safeguard wildlife and preserve our public lands while protecting the health and economies of local communities.

"The new sage grouse plan basically puts the conservation of wildlife habitat on equal footing with the interest to develop," says Bobby McEnaney, senior lands analyst at NRDC. "Incorporating conservation concerns in the permitting process for oil drilling is a critical difference."

Of course, the sage grouse is but one example of Rocky Mountain wildlife threatened by

increasing development. Skoglund and NRDC's other experts based in Bozeman work on the ground throughout the region, fighting for lasting protections for species including grizzlies and the pallid sturgeon, and working with ranchers to help them protect their cattle from wolves and bears without resorting to lethal methods.

In September 2014, NRDC won a lawsuit that restored protections under the Endangered Species Act for Wyoming's wolves, and the organization continues to work to improve wolf management plans in the Northern Rockies by submitting formal comments and pushing for key changes.

And in December 2015—four years after NRDC teamed up with the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, Sierra Club, and Defenders of Wildlife to launch the Bison Coexistence Fencing Project to help reduce potential conflicts between wild bison and landowners—Montana Governor Steve Bullock made an unprecedented move by giving Yellowstone's wild bison expanded year-round habitat. Now the animals have more opportunities to migrate outside of the park's borders and stay in Montana in all seasons.

These victories are a testament to determination and the incredible power of collaboration. They show that the combined efforts of a wide range of stakeholders—despite their sometimes wildly differing perspectives—can go a long way in helping to preserve our natural heritage. And they prove that not only can wild species coexist with smart, clean energy development and land management, they can thrive.

35M

ACRES OF HABITAT
PROTECTING WILDLIFE IN
THE AMERICAN WEST

350

OTHER WILDLIFE SPECIES
SHARE THE SAME HABITAT
AS THE SAGE GROUSE



“We live and work in
a spectacular, wild
part of the country
where wolves,
grizzly bears, bison,
wolverines, and all
sorts of other wild
critters still exist.”

— MATT SKOGLUND, *director of
NRDC’s Northern Rockies office*



FEATURE

Protecting Fragile Oceans Around the World

Forests of rainbow-colored coral thrive in rugged canyons deep below the surface of the Atlantic. However, these vibrant refuges—hundreds if not thousands of years old—can be permanently destroyed by one swipe of an industrial fishing boat's bottom-trawl net.

The delicate coral provide sanctuary for a wealth of unique deep-sea creatures, including the whiplash squid and sea butterfly. Some of the species could contribute to advances in cancer treatment and human bone repair; others have yet to be identified by scientists.

NRDC has found ways to protect precious seascapes from harmful industry and development just as we do for critical habitat on land. To fight for these deep-sea corals, NRDC's senior attorney Brad Sewell and senior policy analyst Alison Chase spent three years providing scientific and legal analysis to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and in June 2015, bottom trawling was banned in 38,000 square miles of waters. "Spanning from New York to Virginia, that area is now the largest protected area anywhere in the U.S. Atlantic or Gulf of Mexico," Sewell says.

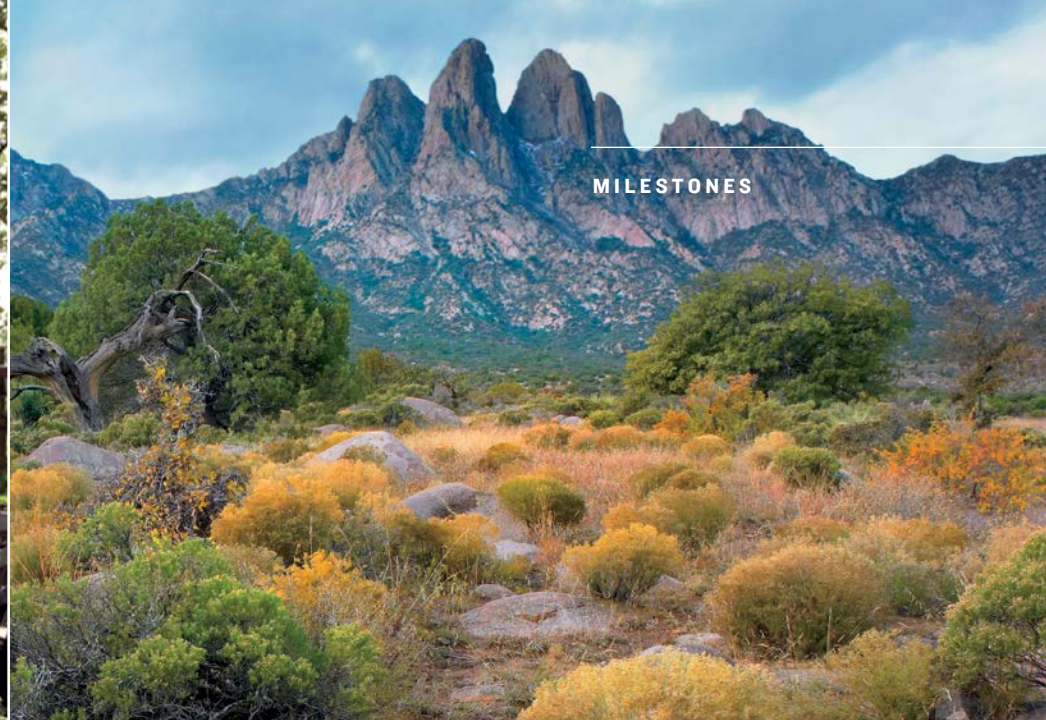
Different ocean waters call for different conservation tools. For more than a century, presidents have protected iconic landscapes through the designation of national monuments, so NRDC urged President Obama to apply the same principle to the seas.

In September 2015, the administration agreed to consider giving marine national monument status to several New England deep-sea canyons and underwater mountains. Now, NRDC is urging the Obama administration to permanently protect two additional canyons as well as Cashes Ledge, home to the largest kelp forest in East Coast waters.

Many other important marine ecosystems exist in the international waters of the high seas, which constitute nearly two-thirds of the world's oceans. These areas lie beyond the authority of any one country, and are subject to rules that don't adequately protect this vast wilderness from fishing or other industrial activity, creating a Wild West mentality.

NRDC spent a decade advocating at the United Nations to rein in this confusion. Finally, in January 2015, the international community agreed to develop a new treaty that would, among other things, allow the full protection of high-seas areas with exceptional biodiversity.

"Scientists are telling us the most important thing we can do for oceans in the face of acidification and industrialization is protect hotspots of marine biodiversity," Lisa Speer, director of NRDC's International Ocean program, says. "This new treaty will finally allow us to do that in international waters, which cover nearly half the entire planet. It's a huge step forward."



MILESTONES

FIGHTING HEALTH THREATS IN THE MIDWEST

On Chicago's Southeast Side, NRDC worked with community groups to battle a Koch brothers-affiliated company over piles of petcoke—a dusty, toxic byproduct of oil refining that was coating the neighborhood. In February 2015, BP announced it would stop shipping petcoke for storage in Chicago. And the company holding the petcoke was forced to close one of its sites and remove piles from a second. Across Lake Michigan, NRDC is bringing legal action against the city of Flint and the state of Michigan for knowingly exposing residents to dangerous levels of lead in drinking water.

PRESERVING NATIONAL TREASURES

In a pioneering move, and after pressure and encouragement from NRDC, President Obama used the power the 1906 Antiquities Act to protect some of today's important wild places and historic sites. The president started by declaring the San Gabriel Mountains a national monument in October 2014 and then gave that designation to six other special areas in 2015: the Pullman District in Chicago, Colorado's Browns Canyon, Hawaii's Honouliuli Internment Camp, Berryessa Snow Mountain in California, Nevada's Basin and Range region, and the Waco Mammoth fossil bed in Texas.

38K

SQUARE MILES
OF MID-ATLANTIC
OCEAN WATERS
PROTECTED

Q & A

FIXING FASHION

Linda Greer, director of NRDC's Clean by Design program, explains how improving the efficiency of textile mills is giving the industry a much-needed makeover.



You've spent much of your career battling industrial pollution. Why focus on textiles?

The fashion industry has always had a big environmental footprint, and the problem got worse when companies started shifting much of their textile manufacturing to countries abroad. That change created the perfect storm: big potential environmental impacts with little oversight. Factories making textiles in China and other developing countries now use more than twice the water and energy used by similar factories in the industrialized world. Many also rely on toxic chemicals that are no longer allowed in the United States. In fact, the textile industry is responsible for 25 percent of global chemical use!

How does NRDC's Clean by Design program work with factories?

After studying the Chinese textile manufacturing process for a year, we developed a suite of 10 best practices any mill can adopt to reduce its environmental impact and save money. These improvements allow mills to be far more efficient: They'll burn less coal for heat and use less water and fewer chemicals. Convincing factory owners to care about their environmental footprints can be like pushing a rock up a steep hill, but reducing costs gives them a competitive edge in scoring business from multinational apparel companies.

How effective have these strategies been in curbing pollution and saving money?

They've exceeded our expectations! The 33 mills in China that completed NRDC's Clean by Design program in 2014 used three million fewer tons of

water and 400 fewer tons of chemicals, reduced energy consumption by 6 percent, and saved a total of \$14.7 million in operating costs. The top five performing mills each saved more than \$800,000 that year.

How have big clothing companies responded?

NRDC's Clean by Design team has had great results working with Target, Gap, Levi Strauss, and H&M, and we're reaching out to many more companies.

We've learned that most clothing brands don't consider environmental performance when they are selecting suppliers, and they tend not to have an active relationship with their fabric mills. Keeping this kind of opaque supply chain allows them to avoid responsibility for any pollution problems that might arise from the production of their clothing.

To tackle this issue, NRDC is working with a wonderful Chinese NGO, the Institute for Public and Environmental Affairs, on a corporate transparency index. Some really big clothing brands have terrible scores, and we're putting pressure on those companies to take responsibility for their supply chains rather than risk having their brand reputation damaged.

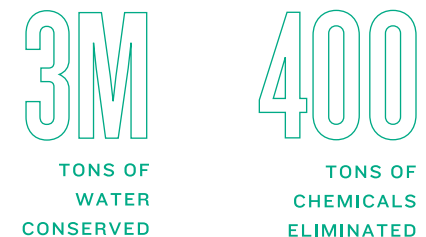
What is the ultimate goal of the program?

We're seeking deep reductions in the environmental footprint created by manufacturing our clothing in China. From a technical engineering perspective, this huge pollution problem is actually not that hard to fix. The real roadblock is just lack

of motivation. I'm convinced that the only way to drive the necessary change is through radical transparency. When customers can get information on their cell phones about the behavior of their favorite brands, those companies will be motivated to fix their pollution problems.

How does Clean by Design differ from your previous work on industrial pollution?

This project is so interesting because I'm taking everything I've learned during my decades at NRDC and adapting it so that it makes sense in China. Plus, people ask me all the time what I'm wearing. That never happened when I was working in pesticides, cement, or steel!



2.4M

MEMBERS
& ACTIVISTS

800

FOUNDATIONS
& INDIVIDUALS

2.3K

LEGACY
LEADERS

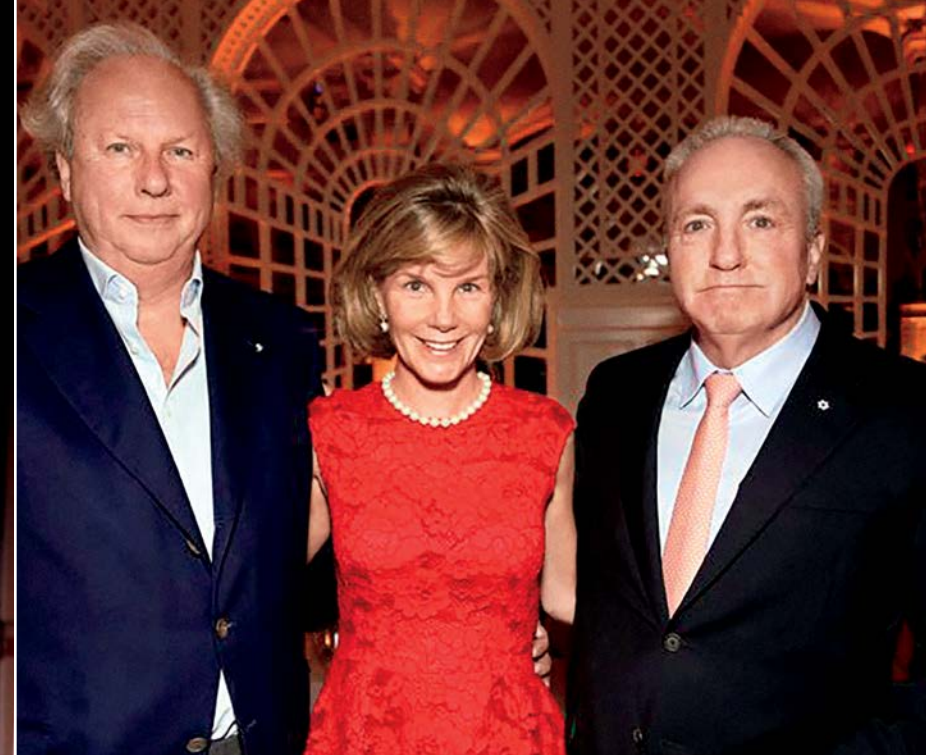




THANK

OUR SUPPORTERS AT ALL LEVELS
ARE KEY TO ENSURING THAT NRDC
HAS THE RESOURCES TO DEPLOY OUR
STRATEGIES IN THE MOST EFFECTIVE
WAY POSSIBLE. WE TRULY COULDN'T
DEFEND THE EARTH WITHOUT YOUR
FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT.

YOU



NRDC'S NIGHT OF COMEDY

New York, November 5, 2014

Wednesday, November 5th, marked NRDC's first Night of Comedy benefit in New York. It was a terrific night with a first-rate lineup of comedians including Larry David, Susie Essman, Amy Schumer, and Jerry Seinfeld and a special video appearance by Julia Louis-Dreyfus. Seth Meyers hosted, and the laughs lasted the whole night. A very special thanks to NRDC Trustee Anna Carter for her vision and leadership in creating this event. And thank you to Graydon Carter for his tremendous support of NRDC. Special thanks also to Robyn Todd Steinberg

and David Steinberg for his sage events advice and humor, and to David and Pam Zaslav and Discovery Communications for generously underwriting the evening. We would also like to thank our other co-chairs: Betsy and Andy Lack, Lorne Michaels, and Lisa and Richard Plepler. Thanks also to our terrific NRDC Trustees Claire Bernard, Shelly Malkin, Josie Merck, and Mary Moran for their generous support, and to Sara Marks, Matt Ullian, and Jennifer Button for being such wonderful friends to NRDC.



LEFT PAGE: PICTURED, FROM LEFT:
Amy Schumer; Graydon and Anna Carter
and Lorne Michaels. PHOTO CREDITS:
Matt Cohen (2)

THIS PAGE: PICTURED, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT
(L TO R): Waris Ahluwalia and Claire Bernard;
Larry David and Seth Meyers; Jerry Seinfeld;
Guest, Aasif Mandvi, Susie Essman, and
David Steinberg. PHOTO CREDITS, CLOCKWISE
FROM TOP LEFT: Matt Cohen (2); Bryan Beddler/
Getty Images for NRDC; Matt Cohen



NEW YORK COUNCIL

Panel Discussion on Sustainable Fashion

New York, March 4, 2015

NRDC's New York Council hosted its fifth annual luncheon and panel discussion on Sustainable Fashion and our Clean by Design work at the Colony Club in Manhattan. Linda Greer, director of NRDC's Health and Environment program, moderated the panel, which included Laurent Claquin of Kering Americas, Scott Mackinlay Hahn of Loomstate, Adam Mott of The North Face, and model and environmental activist Angela Lindvall. The discussion examined how the panelists and their companies are transforming their business practices in alignment with sustainability and environmental principles, and the necessary steps to accelerate the movement. Special thanks to our co-chairs Anna Scott Carter, Mary Moran, Grace Cowan, Claire Bernard, Julie Gilhart, Tracy Toon Spencer, and Elettra Wiedemann.

NEW YORK COUNCIL

Fifth Annual Farm-to-Table Dinner

New York, May 13, 2015

The New York Council's Farm-to-Table dinner was held outdoors on the historic farm property of the Vander Ende-Onderdonk house in Ridgewood, Queens. NRDC President Rhea Suh, as well as NRDC's New York Urban program director, Mark Izeman, and Jennifer Grossman spoke about NRDC's local food work. Stephen O'Brien, director of food and menu management at the New York City Department of Education, also addressed the crowd about the DOE's work to shift the school food system, thanking NRDC for its partnership in the endeavor. At this sold-out event, guests enjoyed local food prepared by Poppy's Catering, and bluegrass music by the Birdhive Boys. Special thanks to our host committee: Claude Arpels, David Beveridge, Marion Hunt, Anna and Kyle Lonergan, Abigail Scheuer, Carrie Elston Tunick and Ali and Rich Winter.



THIS PAGE: PICTURED, CLOCKWISE
FROM TOP RIGHT (L TO R):
Bill and Ursula Niarakis and
Joel Reynolds; David and
Susan Rockefeller.
PHOTO CREDITS: Nick Wolf



NRDC OCEANS EVENT

Montauk, July 13, 2014

On July 13th, NRDC held its second annual fund-raising event in Montauk, Long Island, to benefit our Oceans work. Approximately 150 guests gathered at the Crow's Nest for a sustainable seafood picnic, paddleboarding, music by local artist Jim Turner, and a silent auction featuring a handcrafted surfboard from photographer Tony Arruza, and an hour on the water with big-wave surfer Laird Hamilton. Inspiring remarks by NRDC's Oceans Team and Frances Beinecke showcased the depth of NRDC's role in protecting our oceans. Thank you to our generous co-chairs: Patty Jen Arndt and Chris Arndt, Jasanna and John Britton, Dorothy Lichtenstein, Rachelle and Sean MacPherson and William and Ursula C. Niarakis.



EMMY AWARDS GREEN RIBBONS

Los Angeles, September 20, 2015

On September 20th, some of Hollywood's biggest stars demanded climate action from world leaders by prominently wearing a green ribbon at the 2015 Emmy Awards.

The green ribbons, distributed by NRDC Los Angeles Leadership Council supporters Cami Gordon and Sarah Timberman, were created to recognize that climate change is the most critical humanitarian crisis of our time and to demand that world leaders work together to finalize a new global agreement for combating climate change at COP21.

Jeffrey Tambor, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Louis C.K., Don Cheadle, Mandy Patinkin, Gaby Hoffmann, George R.R. Martin, Martin Starr, and David Nutter were among those who were spotted wearing the green ribbon to show support for strong climate action that will leave the world a better place for future generations.

THIS PAGE: PICTURED, CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT (L TO R): Cambria and Howard Gordon; Mandy Patinkin and Maury Sterling; Jeffrey Tambor. PHOTO CREDITS, CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: The Gordon family; Mark Davis/Getty Images (2).

RIGHT PAGE: PICTURED, CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT (L TO R): Jack Weeden and Hal Candee meet NRDC President Rhea Suh; Bob Deans, Annie Notthoff, Senator Barbara Boxer, Rhea Suh, and Joel Reynolds; Lindsay Millar, Lindsay Noren, Samantha Pavelko Abramo, and Lindsey Collins. PHOTO CREDITS, CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM LEFT: Anita Bowen (2); Annie Weis.



NRDC CALIFORNIA DREAMIN' EVENT

San Francisco, May 16, 2015

On May 16th, NRDC's friends, supporters, and program staff gathered at the Four Seasons in San Francisco to honor Senator Barbara Boxer as a Force for Nature for her unparalleled defense of our environment and public health in California and beyond. Guests had the opportunity to meet NRDC President Rhea Suh during the cocktail reception. During brunch, guests enjoyed remarks from Annie Notthoff and Joel Reynolds along with an intimate "fireside chat" about the future of California's communities and environment with Senator Boxer and Rhea Suh, moderated by Bob Deans.

SAN FRANCISCO COUNCIL

Summer Victory Toast

San Francisco, June 25, 2015

On June 25th, SF Council members and friends gathered at the Park Tavern in San Francisco to raise a glass to NRDC's 2015 victories. Guests celebrated Foster Farms' announcement that it will reduce antibiotic use in chicken production, China's agreement to phase out its commercial ivory industry, and many other NRDC wins. Council members also toasted San Francisco Council chair, Danielle Ginach, as she passed the baton to the incoming co-chairs, Lindsay Millar and Nick Weber.



GLOBAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

NRDC's Global Leadership Council (GLC) is a group of leadership supporters and advocates from across the country who serve as ambassadors for NRDC and help draw attention to the most pressing environmental and health threats facing the planet, and the solutions at hand. GLC members help defend and advance meaningful protections for the environment and public health at the regional, federal, and international levels, and join NRDC staff on expeditions to vulnerable lands and communities to help inform their advocacy. The GLC launched in 2008, with NRDC Founding Director John Adams at the helm.

Global Leadership Council members, NRDC staff, and local partners convened in Moab, Utah, to learn about our joint lands protection work in the region. Participants witnessed first-hand the degradation of the landscape at the hands of the oil and gas industry, as well as the pristine beauty of this at-risk national treasure. Special thanks to our local partners, including Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance and Grand Canyon Trust.



LEFT PAGE: PICTURED: GLC immersion trip to the Greater Canyonlands region in southern Utah. PHOTO CREDITS: Emily Moyer (2); Steve Van Landingham



THIS PAGE: PICTURED, FROM LEFT (L TO R): LALC lobby trip to Sacramento, Rosanne Ziering, Dora Fourcade, Cambria Gordon, Kelly Meyer, Janet Friesen, Dusty Peak, and Dayna Bochco; LALC lobby trip to Washington, D.C. Top row, from left to right: Cambria Gordon, Jill Soffer, Rosanne Ziering, Jo Ann Kaplan. Bottom row, left to right: Courtney Gross, Senator Dianne Feinstein, Janet Friesen; LALC's delegation at the UN High Seas Summit, Brittany Baschuk, Lisa Speer, Cambria Gordon, Kelly Meyer, and Mari Snyder Johnson. PHOTO CREDITS, FROM LEFT: Courtney Gross; Marci Park; Courtney Gross.



LOS ANGELES LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Founded in 2001, NRDC's Los Angeles Leadership Council (LALC) is a volunteer group comprised of individuals from a variety of backgrounds and professions who leverage their exceptional environmental commitment and financial means in support of NRDC's mission: to safeguard the earth, its people, plants, and animals, and the natural systems on which all life depends. Members are engaged in NRDC's work at the local, national, and international levels, with an emphasis on fact-based advocacy and media outreach.

Special thanks to Apricot Lane Farms for hosting a LALC farm tour on May 6, 2015 and a discussion with NRDC staff attorney Claire O'Connor about the importance of healthy soil and NRDC's Food and Agriculture program. We are thankful to Leadership Council member Jena King for introducing us to John and Molly Chester, the farm's proprietors.

JOIN US

JOIN A LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Join the Friends of NRDC with a gift of \$500–\$999 and receive a complimentary copy of *War of the Whales* by Joshua Horwitz, the gripping story of NRDC's fight to protect whales from deadly U.S. Navy sonar as well as a subscription to Nature's Voice and more.

Be a part of our Council of 1,000 with a yearly donation of \$1,000–\$4,999 and we'll send you a copy of *Polar Obsession* by acclaimed wildlife photographer Paul Nicklen, plus invitations to regional events, special teleconferences, and more.

Become a member of the President's Circle with an annual gift of \$5,000 or more and you'll receive access to confidential issue briefings and progress reports, invitations to special events with NRDC's president, a complimentary copy of *Edge of the Earth/Corner of the Sky* by acclaimed nature photographer Art Wolfe, and much more.

BECOME A MONTHLY PARTNER

Increase the impact of your NRDC membership by becoming part of our valued monthly support network. Monthly Partners provide a reliable and steady source of funding that allows NRDC to wage and win long-term campaigns in defense of imperiled wildlife and wilderness.

MAKE A ONE-TIME DONATION

Become a full-fledged member of America's most effective environmental action group by making a contribution of any amount. Your gift will be put to work right away in our top-priority campaigns.

GIVE AN ECO-FRIENDLY GIFT

Show your friends and family how much you care by making a gift in their honor in support of one of NRDC's priorities. Choose from more than 30 environmental issues, ranging from protecting clean water to reviving rainforests to promoting renewable energy.

For more information, contact the NRDC Membership Department
MEMBERSHIP@NRDC.ORG 212-727-4600 NRDC.ORG/JOININGIVE

TAKE A LEAP

NRDC takes on big fights every year, championing new issues as we learn more about where our expertise is needed from our grassroots partners and environmental scientists. It is critical that we be able to leap when new policies threaten bedrock environmental laws. Significant gifts to NRDC make it possible for us to pick up that baton and do what we do best: defend the Earth.

If you would like to learn more about how to become a major donor or to join our Global Leadership Council with a gift of \$25,000 or more, please contact us at 212-727-4587.

MAKE THE EARTH YOUR HEIR

You can make a lasting commitment to the environment when you include NRDC in your estate plans. A gift through your will, trust, or retirement or life insurance plan will help preserve our magnificent natural heritage and protect the planet for generations to come.

For more information on how to include NRDC in your estate plans, or if you have already done so, please contact Michelle Mulia-Howell, director of gift planning at 212-727-4421 or at LEGACYGIFTS@NRDC.ORG.

GIVE THROUGH YOUR WORKPLACE

Donating with an automatic payroll deduction is a simple way to support NRDC. To find out if your company participates in EarthShare, or to add an environmental option to your company's workplace giving campaign, please call NRDC at 212-727-2700.



2015 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

NRDC finished FY15 in a strong financial position. Income for the year was higher than ever at \$152 million while expenses totaled \$133 million. Net assets closed FY15 at \$247 million, or \$13 million higher than prior year end. This robust financial picture led to a \$1 million operating surplus and allowed NRDC to secure crucial environmental protections.

Most of NRDC's FY15 revenue came from members, individual major donors, and foundations. The generosity and continued dedication to our work on the part of these critical supporters is deeply appreciated. NRDC also received income from draw-downs of the endowment, reserves, and special funds.

NRDC devoted 83.6 percent of overall operating expenses to programs that work towards a clean energy future, protect public health, foster sustainable communities, and

preserve natural systems. We applied the remaining 16.4 percent to management and general activities, fundraising, and recruitment of new members.

In FY15, with the support of NRDC, State Street Global Advisors developed the first publicly traded index fund that invests only in S&P 500 companies that do not own reserves of coal, gas, or oil. The SPDR S&P 500 Fossil Fuel Free Exchange Traded Fund (SPYX) allows anyone to invest in the broad and diversified strengths of the U.S. economy without exposure to fossil fuel reserves. NRDC invested in this new vehicle because it advances our core mission.

We strive to build a cleaner, more sustainable future in our programmatic efforts, operating practices, and financial management. With the close of a successful FY15, we head into the future with confidence and strength.

\$152M

REVENUE FOR
THE 2015
FISCAL YEAR

\$133M

TOTAL
EXPENSES FOR
THE 2015
FISCAL YEAR

HOW WE USE OUR FUNDS

83.6%

\$111.4 MILLION ON
PROGRAMS

CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE	47.9%
WILDLIFE AND WILDLANDS	11.8%
REVIVE OUR OCEANS	6.0%
PROTECT OUR HEALTH	9.5%
SAFE AND SUFFICIENT WATER	6.5%
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES	10.4%
MEMBERSHIP SERVICES	3.0%
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & MOBILIZATION VIA POSTAL	5.0%



9.0%

\$12.0 MILLION ON
FUNDRAISING TO SUPPORT
ONGOING OPERATIONS AND
MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

7.4%

\$9.9 MILLION ON
MANAGEMENT AND
GENERAL OPERATIONS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2015

	Operating	Unrestricted Designated	Total Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
REVENUES						
Memberships and individual contributions	\$58,966,044	\$7,380,426	\$66,346,470	\$34,466,611		\$100,813,081
Foundation grants	572,670	50,000	622,670	30,042,239		30,664,909
Government grants	874,317		874,317			874,317
Bequests		6,513,517	6,513,517	24,050		6,537,567
In-kind contributions	4,971,985		4,971,985	51,993		5,023,978
Awarded attorney's fees	693,111		693,111			693,111
Investment return appropriated for operations		3,829,141	3,829,141	1,282,383		5,111,524
Investment return for operating reserves	818,197		818,197			818,197
Other revenue	1,023,050		1,023,050			1,023,050
Net assets released from restrictions	66,370,795	(5,539,787)	60,831,008	(60,831,008)		
Total revenues	134,290,169	12,233,297	146,523,466	5,036,268		151,559,734

EXPENSES

Program services:						
Clean energy future	\$53,354,785		\$53,354,785			\$53,354,785
Revive our oceans	9,737,769		9,737,769			9,737,769
Protect our health	10,547,315		10,547,315			10,547,315
Wildlife and wildlands	15,533,768		15,533,768			15,533,768
Safe and sufficient water	7,283,759		7,283,759			7,283,759
Sustainable communities	11,596,215		11,596,215			11,596,215
Membership services	3,347,670		3,347,670			3,347,670
Total program services	111,401,281		111,401,281			111,401,281

	Operating	Unrestricted Designated	Total Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
EXPENSES, CONTINUED						
Supporting services:						
Management and general	\$9,865,377		\$9,865,377			\$9,865,377
Fundraising	6,986,357		6,986,357			6,986,357
Member recruitment	5,027,572		5,027,572			5,027,572
Total supporting services	21,879,306		21,879,306			21,879,306
Total expenses	133,280,587		133,280,587			133,280,587
Changes in net assets before non-operating activities	1,009,582	12,233,297	13,242,879	5,036,268		18,279,147
NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES						
Investment return, net of amounts used in operations	\$76,268	(\$957,809)	(\$881,541)	(\$525,916)		(\$1,407,457)
Change in value of interest-rate swap agreements		(260,844)	(260,844)			(260,844)
Pension-related activity other than net periodic						
pension expense		(2,662,892)	(2,662,892)			(2,662,892)
Change in value of split-interest agreements	3,500	(355,181)	(351,681)	(150,609)		(502,290)
Total non-operating activities	79,768	(4,236,726)	(4,156,958)	(676,525)		(4,833,483)
Changes in net assets	\$1,089,350	\$7,996,571	\$9,085,921	\$4,359,743		\$13,445,664
Net assets, beginning of year	14,701,368	136,485,218	151,186,586	62,090,940	20,005,907	233,283,433
Net assets, end of year	15,790,718	144,481,789	160,272,507	66,450,683	20,005,907	246,729,097

Copies of NRDC's complete audited financial statement are available upon request. This statement of activities represents the consolidated activities of the Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., and NRDC Action Fund, Inc.

YOUR SUPPORT
HAS BEEN A FORCE
FOR NATURE

A PERFECT ARRANGEMENT

“We love to camp and hike,” says Nancy Cruickshank. “The natural world has always been important to us.” That attraction to the outdoors has resulted in a history of commitment to NRDC, starting 30 years ago when her husband, Joe, was executive director of a large foundation that awarded grants to NRDC.

In his professional career, Joe carefully evaluated organizations that might receive funding. When he left the foundation, the couple turned their attention to personal philanthropy. “We had to decide what was truly important to us,” says Joe. “NRDC really impressed us, so it was an obvious choice for our own giving.”

In addition to their annual support, the Cruickshanks have established a legacy that will provide a future gift to NRDC. “It’s a perfect arrangement for us,” says Joe. “Our annual gifts support the organization for the challenges we face today, and our legacy gift will support NRDC for issues that arise in the future.”

The couple is emphatic about why that future support is so critical: “Frequently we feel we have no voice when the air and water are fouled,” says Nancy. “NRDC is our voice, and we want it to remain strong even when we are gone. Individuals like us can have a greater impact by giving to NRDC, now and for the future.”

For information about how to leave your own lasting legacy, contact Michelle Mulia-Howell, director of gift planning LEGACYGIFTS@NRDC.ORG | 212-727-4421



Special thanks to all of our
councils for their hard work
and support during the
past fiscal year.

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

NRDC's Global Leadership
Council is a group of informed,
engaged supporters and advocates
who serve as ambassadors for
NRDC in our battles to protect the
environment and human health.

John H. Adams, Co-Chair
Ira Ziering, Co-Chair
Celestine Arndt
Patricia and Chris Arndt
John and Nancy Bellett
Anthony Bernhardt
Andrew Blank
Dayna Bochco
Pierce Brosnan and Keely Shaye-Smith
Andrea Nadosy Bunt
Jim Cabot
Katie Carpenter
Anna Scott Carter
Dr. Peter Danzig
Christopher Elliman
John Esposito
Nancy Field
John Gates
David Goodman
Robert C. Graham, Jr. and Julie Graham
Oliver Grantham
Douglas L. Hammer and Patricia Durham
Amanda Hanley

Barbarina Heyerdahl
Jill Tate Higgins and James P. Higgins
Fred Hipp
Cindy Horn
Jesse and Mary Johnson
Jo Ann Kaplan
Nathan and Cynthia Kellogg
Jena King
William Kistler III
Christina Lang-Assael
D. Roger B. Liddell and
Florence W. Liddell
Larry Lunt
Timon and Lori Malloy
Leigh Merinoff
Kelly Chapman Meyer
Nicola Miner
Mary Moran
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LOS ANGELES LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Founded in 2001, NRDC's Los Angeles Leadership Council is a volunteer group comprised of individuals from a variety of backgrounds and professions who leverage their exceptional environmental commitment and financial means in support of NRDC's mission: to safeguard the Earth; its people, its plants and animals, and the natural systems on which all life depends. Members are engaged in NRDC's work at the local, national, and international levels, with an emphasis on fact-based advocacy and media outreach.

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NEW YORK COUNCIL

NRDC's New York Council is a varied group of New Yorkers who share a strong commitment to protecting the environment and who are dedicated to furthering the mission of NRDC on the regional, national and international levels. Council members will work to develop their knowledge of NRDC's programs; contribute their time and engage their social and professional networks to increase awareness of environmental issues and raise funds for NRDC.

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Cynthia Young and George Eberstadt

SAN FRANCISCO COUNCIL

Founded in 2006, NRDC's SF Council is a volunteer group of individuals in the Bay Area, who share a strong commitment to the environment and are dedicated to furthering NRDC's mission. The SF Council introduces its members to NRDC, raises awareness for environmental issues through exclusive educational opportunities, and facilitates a network for community engagement and networking.

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Nick Weber

MIDWEST COUNCIL

NRDC's Midwest Council brings together a diverse group of business, civic, philanthropic, and academic leaders to support NRDC's mission. Council members help shape and implement NRDC's programs in the Midwest while securing resources and raising awareness of NRDC's efforts in the region.

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15

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IN COURT
CHALLENGING
A CORPORATE
POLLUTER
IN MAINE

60

WHALE AND
DOLPHIN
POPULATIONS
PROTECTED
FROM SONAR

+800K

ACRES OF
WILDLANDS
ARE NOW
NATIONAL
MONUMENTS

7

NEW
NATIONAL
MONUMENTS
DESIGNATED

21

YEARS
IN COURT
TO PROTECT
MARINE
MAMMALS

30K

PEOPLE
ATTENDED
THE PARIS
CLIMATE
TALKS

2.4K

CITIES AND
STATES THAT
JOINED OUR CALL
FOR CLIMATE
ACTION

25%

DROP IN
CALIFORNIA'S
AVERAGE
URBAN WATER
DEMAND

185

COUNTRIES
COMMITTED
TO CLIMATE
ACTION

38K

SQ MILES OF
MID-ATLANTIC
OCEAN WATERS
PROTECTED

\$1B

SAVED IN
CITY
ENERGY
COSTS BY
2030