Annual Report
A recap of our work for our members in 2011
Dear Environment Georgia members,

2011 was a year of significant “firsts” for Environment Georgia. Our list of supporters and activists finally broke the 10,000 mark; we were able to stop the construction of a new coal-fired power plant; we helped pass the toughest rules for mercury pollution so far; and—most fun—we took our first organizational hike along the Appalachian Trail.

For all of our bigger victories this year there were dozens of smaller steps forward that added up to real protections for our rivers, forests and the air we breathe. Take the 7 percent increase for green space funding we helped secure in Congress. Despite being a modest step forward, the increase is an encouraging sign we’re making progress in our ongoing campaign to preserve priceless land that surrounds the AT.

Your support helped make these victories—large and small—possible.

Thanks for standing with us,

Jennette Gayer
Advocate
Securing clean energy

We use too much energy, and too much of it comes from coal and other sources that wreak havoc on our environment. The good news is that we are surrounded by an abundance of clean energy options. By using energy more efficiently and tapping our state’s vast renewable energy resources, we can move toward 100 percent clean energy that doesn’t pollute and never runs out.

Two proposed coal plants cancelled

This past winter we took two great steps toward a greener and cleaner energy future in Georgia. First, LS Power canceled plans to build a new coal-fired power plant in Southwest Georgia after over 10 years of opposition from Environment Georgia and our allies. Second, Cobb EMC announced they would no longer fund efforts to build two new coal-fired power plants in Georgia.

- Following the February announcement, we joined coalition partners to deliver more than 1,000 valentines to Cobb Energy, thanking them for stopping investments in coal.

- An Environment Georgia report found that the proposed plants would have dumped 88 pounds of toxic mercury into our air every year while releasing 9 million tons of global warming pollution.

- Other, smaller utilities are still pushing for the new plants. We’re urging them to follow Cobb’s lead.
Georgia’s great waters

From the Chattahoochee River to Lake Lanier, Georgia’s waters are vital to our ecology, our economy and our quality of life. Yet these waterways still face serious pollution from illegal dumping, reckless development, factory farm runoff and many other sources. Environment Georgia is working to secure a cleaner future for our rivers, lakes and streams.

Steps taken to strengthen the Clean Water Act

For nearly 40 years, the Clean Water Act has helped protect Georgia’s rivers, lakes and streams. But a pair of misguided U.S. Supreme Court decisions opened a gaping hole in the law, leaving more than half of Georgia’s streams without any legal protection. This year, Environment Georgia made significant progress toward restoring protections to all our waters.

• On April 27, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson announced her proposal to restore clean water protections to streams and wetlands across the country. Megan Severson of Wisconsin Environment, one of Environment Georgia’s allied groups, joined Jackson for the announcement.

• Mining companies, developers and other polluters attacked the plan in the media and urged their allies in Congress to stop the EPA. ExxonMobil threatened the White House with “legal warfare” over the issue.

• In response, we launched a grassroots campaign to build enough public support to defend the EPA’s clean water plan from Congress. Along with our national federation, we talked to 450,000 people about threats to clean water and won media coverage in newspapers, TV and radio stations across Georgia.
New report: Georgia’s Dirty Dozen

Despite progress at the federal level, major problems have gone unaddressed at the state level. Environment Georgia is part of the leadership of the Georgia Water Coalition and works in concert with organizations around the state to fight water pollution. Examples include:

Ogeechee River: For five years, King America Finishing, Inc. discharged toxic substances into the Ogeechee. Their discharge is likely linked to the death of 38,000 fish near the plant, the largest fish kill in Georgia history.

Altamaha River: For over a half century, Rayonier’s Jesup pulp mill has discharged noxious waste into the state’s largest river, the Altamaha, that fouls the river for miles.

Chattahoochee River: Though the Environmental Protection Department established pollution limits near a sewage treatment plant for the Chattahoochee at Peachtree Creek, they have never attempted to enforce them.
Georgia’s trails

The breathtaking vistas, the cool mountain streams, the lush forests... It’s easy to see why the Appalachian Trail is one of Georgia’s biggest natural draws. Unfortunately, some of the natural areas surrounding the AT are privately owned and lack long-term protections. This year, Environment Georgia continued its campaign to protect this priceless land.

New progress for the Appalachian Trail

This year, Environment Georgia joined forces with The Nature Conservancy and The Conservation Fund to lobby Georgia’s congressional delegation to fund critical preservation programs, then put those dollars to work protecting vulnerable land along the Appalachian Trail and across Georgia. Our state loses 100 acres of green space every day to encroaching development.

- Environment Georgia organizers have fanned out across the state, speaking with thousands of people about vulnerable land around the Appalachian Trail and throughout Georgia. Nearly 3,000 Georgians signed a petition urging Sen. Johnny Isakson to push for adequate funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, an important source of federal funding for preserving green space.

- We also partnered with outdoor recreation stores, including Patagonia and The North Face, to educate shoppers about the critical land at stake and urge them to take action in our campaign to protect trails.

- Environment Georgia then joined forces with business owners along the Appalachian Trail to add signers on to a letter to Congress, making the case that green space is critical for our rural towns’ businesses.
An early victory for green space

This year, at the urging of more than 3,000 Environment Georgia supporters, our leaders in Washington restored funds to a key preservation program that can now protect some of our most striking landscapes. Despite cuts to many other programs, Congress increased funding for our green spaces by 7 percent—thanks in part to the deluge of input from Georgians and others across the country.

Environment Georgia members and supporters met one Saturday last summer for a hike up to Gooch Gap in Lumpkin County.
Cleaner air for Georgia

Our families should be able to breathe clean air. We should not have to worry about mercury in our bodies or soot in our lungs. Yet coal-fired power plants and other industrial polluters spew hundreds of thousands of tons of lead, mercury, soot and other dangerous pollutants into our atmosphere every year. We need to protect our health and our children’s health by requiring polluters to clean up their act.

Pollution endangers Georgians

In 2011, Environment Georgia released a new report, “Danger in the Air,” at Emory University’s Rollins School of Public Health. The report found that residents of the greater Atlanta area breathed dangerous air on 23 separate days in 2010—ranking Atlanta the seventh-smoggiest city in the nation.

• Though our final research is still pending, it appears that Atlantans experienced almost 40 days of unhealthy air in 2011—landing us among the nation’s top three smoggiest cities.

• Nationwide, smog pollution leads to roughly 4,700 premature deaths and 19,000 emergency room visits each year.

• Here in Georgia, we’re focused on reducing air pollution by improving transit systems across the state—especially in Atlanta—and by building cleaner, more efficient cars.

Top: Environment Georgia supporters attended a three-day hearing on new rules for coal-fired power plants.
Tomorrow’s leaders

Over the last few decades, Georgia’s environmental leaders have made great achievements—and it’s time to groom the next generation. Environment Georgia’s internship program aims to do just that, giving students a crash course in the fundamentals of advocacy, and setting them to work protecting our air, water and land.

Meet the class of 2011

Our interns joined Environment Georgia’s staff in the summer and fall of 2011 and played important roles in several campaigns:

Dominique Smith: Cobb EMC, a Georgia utility, pulled critical support from two proposed coal plants shortly after board members were replaced in a special election. Dominique helped to organize voter education events.

Barrett McMullan: This year, our leaders in Washington, D.C., restored funds to a key preservation program that can protect priceless land near the Appalachian Trail. Beforehand, Barrett built a coalition with the Appalachian Trail Club.

Sarah Alexander: In an effort to stop the Environmental Protection Division from issuing a permit for a new coal-fired power plant this year, Sarah testified at a hearing explaining the importance clean energy jobs could have for young people.
Citizen support is the cornerstone of Environment Georgia. Thousands of Georgia citizens supported Environment Georgia and the Environment Georgia Research & Policy Center by making membership contributions in 2011. The members listed below were particularly generous in backing the organizations’ research and advocacy. Names that appear in italics denote monthly supporters. These members provide stability to the organizations’ resources through our monthly giving program.

**Development Committee**

The following members supported Environment Georgia and/or Environment Georgia Research & Policy Center with contributions of $1,000 or more in 2011:

- Peter Fellman • Robert Fowler • Jason Gallegos • Elliott Jones • Douglas H. Phelps

**Patrons**

The following members supported Environment Georgia and/or Environment Georgia Research & Policy Center with contributions between $500 and $999 in 2011:

- Evelyn and Robert Brewer • Mati Chessin • David Gimnick • Eboni Holliday • Jane Horton • Cynthia Jeness • Wade and Sharon Levering • Michael Ritchie McNally • Michael Petelle • Haynes Robinson • Michelle Sobel • Rebecca and Hugh Stone • Tom and Suzanne Welander • Kathi Wurzel

**Sponsors**

The following members supported Environment Georgia and/or Environment Georgia Research & Policy Center with contributions between $250 and $499 in 2011:

- Susan Allen • Jepette and Wayne Bailer • David Bittner • Lua Blankenship • Mary Boyle • Anita Brown • Laura Cadenhead • Hope Campbell • Peter Carlson • Martha Clabby • Clark and Helen Cunningham • Stefanie Donham • Daphne and Rick Duncan • Bill Everitt • Alysann Fackler • Michael Fadil • Gregory Flannery • Barbara and Otto Froehlich • Richard Gallagher • Adam and Marianne Garber • Roseann Hansen • Andrea Holmes • Katherine Hopkin • Nicole and Scott Hudson • Ann and Rodney Hunter • Marcie Jones • Samuel and Pia Jones • Heather Joys • Margaret Kalvelage and Devereaux McClachy • Gary Ludi • Judith Marine • Harry Martens • Alison Mawle • Sharie McCaine • Pat and Bill McClain • Gretchen Messer • Agneta Mimms • Bethany Moreton • Elaine Neely • Cabot Norton • James and Jennie Odom • Barbara O’Neill •
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Foundation support

The Environment Georgia Research & Policy Center is a 501(c)(3) organization, and conducts research and public education on emerging environmental issues. Contributions to the Environment Georgia Research & Policy Center are tax-deductible. To find out more, contact Jennette Gayer at (404) 892-3573. The Environment Georgia Research & Policy Center would like to thank the Sapelo Foundation, the Rockefeller Family Fund, and the Elizabeth & Howell Adams Fund for supporting our work in 2011.

Financial information

The charts below represent the combined financial information for Environment Georgia and the Environment Georgia Research & Policy Center for the Fiscal Year 2011.

![Chart showing FY11 Income with Citizen Members 60% and Foundation Grants 40%]

![Chart showing FY11 Expenses with Program 77%, Fundraising 15%, Administration 8%]

![Chart showing FY11 Program Expenses with Preserving Georgia's Trails 57%, Clean Air 18%, Clean Energy Future 14%, Clean Water 11%]

Building a greener future

Environment Georgia and the Environment Georgia Research & Policy Center gratefully accept bequests, beneficiary designations of IRAs and life insurance, and gifts of securities to support our work. Your gift will assure that we can continue to protect Georgia’s air, water and open spaces for future generations. For more information, call 1-800-841-7299 or send an email to: plannedgiving@EnvironmentGeorgia.org.

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