

CLEAN ENERGY COLORADO!

Clean Water Action helps move federal and state legislation forward.

In Washington: Great news for clean energy! The last 12 months have seen impressive gains for the clean energy economy in Colorado. Clean Water Action has been knocking on doors since January 2010 promoting a “Clean Energy Jobs” campaign that will put Coloradans back to work, cut pollution, and fight climate change.

Our door-to-door and phone efforts have sent over 10,000 letters and 1,000 faxes (from you!) to our federal decision-makers urging them to move forward with a clean energy jobs agenda. After many months of work, finally in May 2010, the “American Power Act” was introduced into the U.S. Senate.



We will be aggressively pushing this Act forward as an important first step in fighting climate change.

Another federal bill that recently moved through the U.S. House of Representative — the “Home Star” Bill (also known as “Cash for Caulkers”) — would provide billions of dollars for home energy efficiency upgrades. This and other bills are all a part of the federal agenda of Clean Water Action to promote clean energy and new green jobs for Coloradans.

In Colorado: In the 2010 Colorado state legislature, the clean energy economy saw extraordinary gains. First and foremost, Colorado raised its renewable energy standard from 20% to 30%, giving our state the 2nd highest renewable standard in America. Raising the standard will help create even more green jobs and cut air pollution across the state — estimates suggest that 23,450 jobs will be created in the clean energy economy due to the bill’s passage.

Second, the state legislature passed a bill to phase-out two old and dirty coal-fired powerplants and replace them with cleaner-burning natural gas. The



two plants that will be phased-out are the Valmont and Cherokee plants (in Boulder and Denver) which are significant contributors to air pollution in the Denver metro area. Converting these plants to natural gas will also cut climate change emissions by about 50%.

Colorado continues to be at the cutting edge of the clean energy economy, and Clean Water Action is pushing that edge farther and faster. Our door-to-door and phone canvasses, as well as our programmatic outreach, inform the public, the media, and decision-makers about the importance of clean energy to Colorado’s environmental and economic future.

COLORADO CURRENTS

SUMMER UPDATE 2010

Clean Water Action is a national citizens' organization working for clean, safe and affordable water, prevention of health-threatening pollution, creation of environmentally-safe jobs and businesses, and empowerment of people to make democracy work.

Clean Water Action organizes strong grassroots groups, coalitions and campaigns to protect our environment, health, economic well-being and community quality of life.

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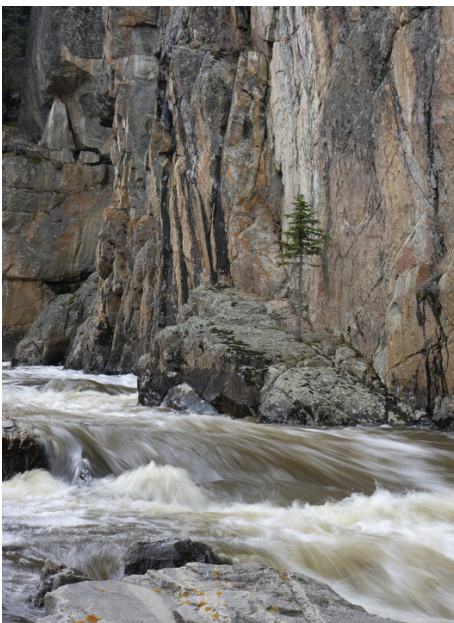
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Cache La Poudre river in northern Colorado.

CLEAN WATER COLORADO!

Legislation for clean water and water conservation continues to make gains.

In Washington: Great news on the clean water front! The effort to fix the Clean Water Act is finally moving forward in the U.S. House of Representatives. Called the “Americans Committed to the Clean Water Act” (ACCWA), the bill was introduced into committee in April 2010. Clean Water Action has been pushing this bill forward for the past five years. In Colorado, our door-to-door and phone campaigns generated over 12,000 letters and 2,000 faxes (from you!) to federal legislators requesting that this bill move forward. ACCWA will fix the problems that were created by previous administrations that weakened the Clean Water Act that opened loopholes for polluters. Clean Water Action believes that protecting America’s waters is of paramount concern, and we will follow this legislation closely as it moves through the Congress.

In Colorado: In the 2010 state legislature, clean water and water conservation scored more victories. First, the legislature passed a bill requiring all larger water utilities to report their water use rates to the public. Knowing water use rates allows the public, governmental agencies, and non-profits like ours to focus more attention on needed water conservation programs and strategies.

Second, the legislature passed a bill encouraging “Water-Smart Homes” — the bill requires that sellers of new homes offer water-smart features, including low-flow faucets and shower heads, Energy Star-rated

washing machines and water-efficient landscaping.

Clean Water Action continues to push for strong state regulation and oversight for uranium mining and radioactive materials used in uranium processing. We are especially concerned about the uranium mine just 10 miles northeast of Fort Collins that has been proposed by a foreign mining company. The State of Colorado is moving forward with its “rulemaking” process for uranium mining, and Clean Water Action continues to participate in a coalition of groups pushing for strong mining rules. The state legislature also passed a bill for stronger regulation of uranium mills — Clean Water Action supported the bill.

Local and Regional Efforts: Clean Water Action continues to be a partner in several efforts to protect rivers and lakes in Colorado, including efforts to protect Cherry Creek Reservoir in Denver and to protect the Cache la Poudre River of northern Colorado. In addition, Clean Water Fund — our 501c3 non-profit — helped lead an effort to bring together businesses and foundations to protect and restore the Colorado River from its source in Rocky Mountain National Park all the way to the Sea of Cortez in Mexico. The effort is called the “Save the Colorado River” campaign and can be seen on the web at www.SaveTheColorado.org.

For more information, please contact us at cocwa@cleanwater.org or at our Ft. Collins office at (970) 221-0148.