



MAKING MANUFACTURERS TAKE OUT THE TRASH

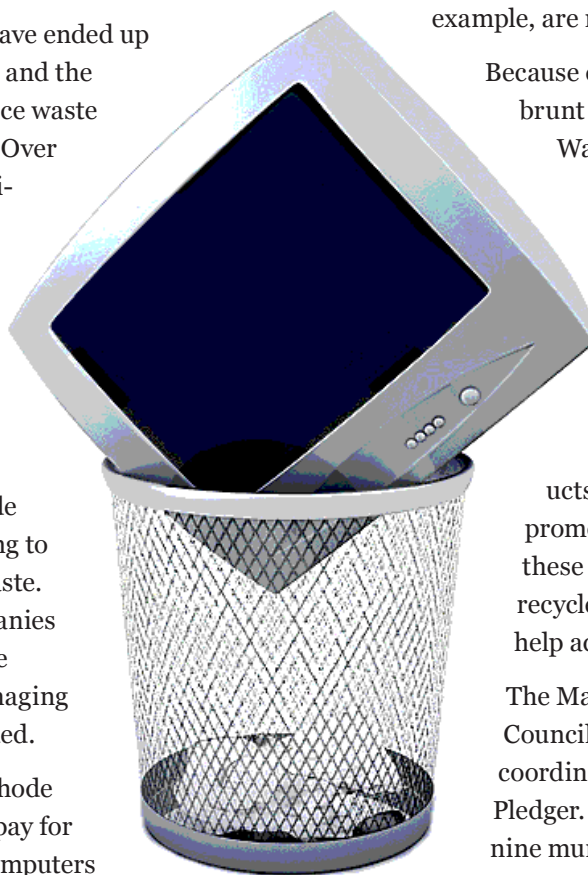
Americans generate a lot of trash — some would say, much more than their “fair share.” Many people feel that each individual should be responsible for reducing their own waste, perhaps along with the local community recycling program.

The reality is that cities and towns have ended up bearing most of the responsibility — and the costs — for figuring out ways to reduce waste and make recycling programs work. Over the past ten years, however, new policies challenging this conventional approach have started gaining traction. Thirty-two states have now passed “producer responsibility” laws that make manufacturers pay for the collection and recycling of their products.

By extending responsibility to include manufacturers, these laws are helping to reduce the volume and toxicity of waste. They work because they make companies that design and put products into the marketplace pay for the costs of managing their products after they are discarded.

Connecticut, Maine, Vermont and Rhode Island all require manufacturers to pay for the collection and recycling of old computers

and televisions. Each New England state has at least one law for products that contain mercury. Manufacturers now have a financial incentive to create products that are less toxic, more durable, or more recyclable. Thermostats, for example, are now made without mercury.



Because city and town governments bear the brunt of managing product wastes, Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund have worked with Massachusetts and Rhode Island municipalities to form Product Stewardship Councils in both states. The Councils provide a forum for local governments to address environmental and budgetary challenges posed by discarded products and packaging. The Councils also promote new policies needed to address these problems, engaging local businesses, recyclers, haulers and other stakeholders to help advance solutions.

The Massachusetts Product Stewardship Council (MAPSC), organized in 2010, is coordinated by Clean Water Action’s Lynne Pledger. Its Steering Committee represents nine municipalities and includes three city

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*from the Director of
New England Clean Water Action*

Cindy Luppi

This is a very high stakes moment in time for all of us who value clean air, safe drinking water and healthy communities. As we write this, the Senate is approaching a vote that could undermine the foundation of our clean water laws: the concept that ALL waters are protected by the Clean Water Act.

This distressing situation is a symptom of a bigger problem — industrial polluters driving extreme roll backs of common sense health protections in Washington, as well as in our neck of the woods. It is more important than ever for Clean Water Action members and others who care about these issues to get involved and speak out in support of our core health and environmental values.

Clean Water Action has been out in force, knocking on doors and organizing community events to provide easy ways for people to get involved. Hopefully we ran into you in person this fall.

We thank members and friends who joined us at receptions held in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. It was wonderful celebrating this year's victories with you and getting your input on the coming year's plans and campaigns.

Thank you for your support and for standing up to protect your community's health with us. Read on for more updates on what we have been able to accomplish together, so far!

Onward!

Cindy Luppi
New England Director
Clean Water Action

ANNOUNCING THE CLEAN WATER CARD

Clean Water Action announces a new partnership with Capital One®.

Through this partnership, Clean Water Action and NJEF members and supporters applying for the **Clean Water Action VISA® credit card**, will be able to select between three different credit options to fit individual needs. Purchases made with your Clean Water Action VISA card will help support our Clean Water Action movement.

You can select between three great card art designs, and choose the credit option that you feel best meets your needs while showing your support for Clean Water Action. Great rewards, low introductory interest rate, or build your own credit — you decide.

Members who apply and qualify for the Rewards card will earn 1.25 miles for every \$1 spent on purchases with the card.

This Clean Water Action VISA® card is the only credit card offered to support our cause. Apply today at www.cleanwatercard.org!





THE DIESEL POLLUTION SOLUTION: *Making Air Healthier and Combating Climate Change*

Have you ever looked at the black exhaust coming from diesel trucks, buses and construction equipment and worried about the impact on your health? Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund are helping to lead the charge in a national initiative to reduce diesel exhaust from lung-level tailpipes. These preventable emissions harm community health and accelerate global warming.

In 2012, Clean Water Action will partner with local groups and youth-organizing programs to engage leading institutions and municipal officials across New England and beyond. The goal is to tackle some of the biggest sources of diesel pollution: excessive diesel vehicle idling and the significant pollution caused by the oldest, least efficient and dirtiest diesel fleets. Efforts will concentrate first on those urban neighborhoods where vehicles' diesel pollution is the worst, and residents are already overburdened by multiple environmental health risks.

Making Progress at the Federal Level

Clean Water Action and its more than five hundred partner groups in the National Diesel Clean-Up Campaign (www.dieselecleanup.org) have convinced Congress to extend diesel clean-up program funding

through 2016, while adding innovative new elements to the programs.

Next up is winning passage of the Clean Construction Act of 2011, now before both the U.S. House and Senate. The legislation would require and provide funding for cleaner diesel engines and equipment used on publicly-funded transportation projects. This cost-effective approach would complement "Clean Construction" principles included in the Federal Transportation Reauthorization bill, now called the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21).

Momentum to pass a federal clean construction policy has been building, as the Diesel Clean-Up Campaign's national network of environmental health/justice, industry and labor allies have worked together to advance similar diesel clean-up policies in states and communities around the country. With so much divisive debate in Congress, the diesel clean-up legislation appeals to common sense and efficiently addresses multiple issues affecting people in urban, suburban and rural areas nationwide.

Visit [Clean Water Action's web site](http://CleanWaterAction.org) to learn more and help these diesel clean-up measures win the strong, bipartisan support they need to win passage.

MAKING MANUFACTURERS TAKE OUT THE TRASH *(continued from page 1)*

councilors, municipal recycling staff, a conservation commission committee member, and other municipal officials. In May 2011, an MAPSC panel of five municipalities testified before state lawmakers on the need for producer responsibility legislation to cover wastes from the wide array of electronics products not addressed by existing state law.

MAPSC's Rhode Island counterpart (RIPSC) formed earlier this year and is coordinated by Clean Water Action's Ellie Leonardsmith. Its leadership represents six urban and rural municipalities, including Providence. Legislation now being promoted with support from RIPSC members would create an overall producer responsibility structure for how products should be managed, rather than regulating wastes product-by-product.

Pledger (lpledger@cleanwater.org, in Massachusetts) and Leonardsmith (eleonardsmith@cleanwater.org, in Rhode Island) are available to Clean Water Action members and others who may be interested in learning more, supporting producer responsibility campaigns, or engaging with one of the Product Stewardship Councils.

CONNECTICUT

Great News for Clean Energy

Together with nine other nonprofits, Clean Water Fund won a competitive grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to run an innovative grassroots energy efficiency campaign, the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge. Organized on behalf of fourteen Connecticut towns and administered by the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund, the campaign is projected to create more than \$150 million in lifetime energy cost savings which can be used to strengthen local economies across the state.

The Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge engages community residents directly, helping them reduce their energy waste by an aggressive twenty percent. Participating towns were selected based on their size (populations under 35,000) and on their leadership in energy efficiency.

The pilot program aims to demonstrate how community-based outreach can greatly increase participation in energy conservation and clean energy programs, thereby making them more successful.

At the program's March 2011 launch in Hartford, Governor Dannel Malloy told a crowd of community leaders, "We need to help our neighbors be as efficient as they possibly can in the use of energy in their homes. We've got to do it person by person, neighbor by neighbor... To all of you who share my concern, I want to say thank you. Let's get this job done. Let's quickly rise to be the most efficient state in the nation."

The Energy Department grant for the campaign supports:

- Community-outreach to educate residents, community organizations, and towns about the program and serve as a resource and guide over the next 3 years;

Landmark Bill to Ban BPA in Receipt Paper

In July, Connecticut again led the nation in protecting citizens from exposure to Bisphenol-A when Gov. Malloy signed into law *An Act Prohibiting The Use Of Bisphenol-A (BPA) In Thermal Receipt Paper*. Just days after a unanimous favorable vote in the Senate, on the last evening of the legislative session, the House voted 112-33 in favor of the ban.

BPA, a known endocrine disruptor, is a chemical used to make polycarbonate plastics and also epoxy resins often used to line aluminum cans. It is also found in thermal receipt paper, where BPA is used as a developer, eliminating the need for printer ink. BPA in thermal receipt paper



Neighbor to Neighbor Energy team at the project's launch in Hartford, Connecticut in March..

- Web-based energy advisory software and supporting materials such as flyers, banners, light bulbs, etc.; and,
- Rewards and recognition for towns and community organizations.

As communities take steps to reduce their energy use, each community earns points that can be redeemed for pre-approved prizes and other incentives such as a solar electric car charging station.

Clean Water Fund's professional outreach team, led by Roger Smith, Jessica Bergman, Madeline Priest, and Shannon McAvoy Hanley, guides the overall campaign, working closely with municipalities and community organizations. The Clean Water Team also mentors an enthusiastic staff of 11 recent college graduates who are participating under auspices of an Americorps year of service with the Student Conservation Association.

Learn more at the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge web site, www.ctenergychallenge.com

readily transmits and is absorbed through skin. The new law requires that as of October 2013 no person can sell, offer for sale or distribute any thermal receipt paper that contains BPA.

Clean Water Action and the Coalition for a Safe and Healthy Connecticut worked closely with policy makers, state officials and community activists to build support for the bill during a very tough session. Connecticut's continued leadership on environmental health protection is helping to lay the groundwork for additional needed chemical policy reforms at the state and federal levels.

RHODE ISLAND

Trash Incineration Pushed to the Back Burner Again

Once again, Clean Water Action successfully defended Rhode Island's 20-year ban on municipal trash incineration. Legislation had been moving forward that would have overturned the ban and gone even farther, making trash burners eligible for the same financial incentives as clean, renewable energy sources. Clean Water Action members and renewable energy industry leaders rallied with other environmental and community groups to fight back.

The winning campaign to defeat the bill delivered this message, loud and clear: "Rhode Islanders don't want more polluting power sources, we want real green jobs and clean energy."

Priorities for 2012 include two measures for which hearings were held in 2011 but which never came to a vote:

- **An Act to Provide Leadership Regarding the Responsible Recycling, Reuse and Disposal of Consumer Products** – would build on the state's electronics waste law by allowing the Department of Environmental Management to create producer responsibility programs for other consumer products.
- **The Transportation Investment and Debt Reduction Act** – would create sustainable funding for roads and bridges, public transit and reduce the amount of borrowing through bonds. The budget passed in 2011 began that process, but neglected to include funding for the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority.



Rhode Island Electoberfest 2011:
U.S. Rep. David Cicilline spoke at the annual Electoberfest benefit event in Providence, Rhode Island, after being introduced by Clean Water Action's Rhode Island Director, Sheila Dormody.



November Benefit Event in Hartford:
Roger Smith, New England Energy Director for Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund spoke at the organizations' first annual Connecticut fundraiser event, held November 10.



2011 John O'Connor Award Winners: *Massachusetts State Rep. Lori Ehrlich and longtime Massachusetts Director of Air Policy presented community leaders representing the Salem Alliance for the Environment and Health Link with the John O'Connor Grassroots Environmental Leadership Award during Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund's 17th Annual Benefit event this October, at the Garden in the Woods in Framingham, Massachusetts. This year's awards recognized the recipients' persistent and effective clean air activism.*



MASSACHUSETTS

Global Warming Pollution Fight Goes Local

Massachusetts' landmark 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act requires climate-

changing emissions in the state to be reduced in two stages. By 2020, the mandate is for 25 percent below 1990 pollution levels. Progress toward that goal is on track.

But meeting the next target, due in 2050, of achieving 80 percent reductions of 1990 levels could be much tougher. That is because the earlier 25 percent goal can be realized through measures, such as expanded energy efficiency programs, which are financially and politically easier to achieve.

For Massachusetts to meet the 2020 goals and also stay on pace toward the 80 percent target for 2050, additional bold climate emissions reduction measures need to be set in motion immediately. This requires nothing short of a visionary re-imagining of the state's energy system.

To meet this challenge head-on, Clean Water Action and allies have launched a new Global Warming Solutions Project, which will work to make sure that the Commonwealth is able to deliver the kinds of changes needed realize the promise of the 2008 law.

Massachusetts' three remaining half-century-old coal burning power plants are among the most significant obstacles, according Clean Water Action and the Project's other coalition leaders. Phasing the plants out of operation over time and replacing them with efficiency and clean renew-

able energy sources such as wind and solar would remove these major sources of climate-changing pollution from the power grid. Residents' health would also benefit, with the dramatic drop in toxic pollution that would accompany the plants' closure. Phasing out the plants would also create new opportunities for a transition to clean, modern energy alternatives, bringing well-paying green jobs and keeping municipal tax revenues strong.

This transition will benefit from Clean Water Action's experience as a member of the Green Justice Coalition, which unites community groups, labor unions and environmentalists in campaigns to grow the state's green economy. For example, one clear path to meeting the Climate Act's pollution reduction goals involves focusing on economically disadvantaged communities. The Coalition is able to improve access to energy efficiency programs in these communities, and ensure that jobs created through public investments in efficiency are shared equitably and pay fair wages. Doing this will maximize the returns in both climate protection and economic benefit.

Clean Water Action is building a Steering Committee for the Project led by citizen volunteers from the neighborhoods and towns with the greatest environmental, economic and health protection stakes. This includes people in the Holyoke, Salem and Somerset areas nearest to the old, polluting coal plants.

Contact Clean Water Action to learn more or get involved, 617-338-8131, ext. 208.

Massachusetts Moving Forward on Safer Products, Energy Efficiency

Momentum is building for success on Clean Water Action's current priorities for the Legislature:

- **The Safer Alternatives Bill** – to create a program to replace toxic chemicals with safer alternatives wherever feasible.
- **The Electronic Waste Producer Responsibility Bill** – to make manufacturers of electronic products responsible for financing effective recycling programs for their products.
- **The Green Jobs and Energy Efficiency Bill** – to improve data collection, jobs standards and access for low-income communities in the state's energy efficiency programs.

Clean Water Action allies have organized top-notch testimony by staff and volunteer experts for well-received hearings on all three measures. The Safer Alternatives and Electronic Waste bills have recently been given favorable reports by the influential Environment Committee, an important step forward. This bodes well for winning passage in 2012. The current legislative session continues until July 2012.

Turn this:
CLEAN WATER
into this:
CLEAN WATER

When it comes to year-end giving, you already know that Clean Water Action and Clean Water Fund are smart choices to receive your financial support. Your gifts can have a huge positive impact, helping to protect water and health, now and for the future.

Here are four tips for how you can make the positive impact from your year-end giving even greater.

YEAR-END GIVING TIPS

1. Matching Gifts. Many employers will match donations made to **Clean Water Fund** dollar for dollar or sometimes even 2:1 or 3:1. That could allow your \$100 donation to have a \$200 or \$300 impact for our water.

2. Giving at Work. You can support Clean Water through your company's payroll deduction program. Federal employees can designate Clean Water Fund to receive their gifts through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC #10636). Contact us for help adding Clean Water Fund as a workplace giving option, or establishing a payroll deduction program in your workplace.

3. Retirement Resource Opportunity. 2011 is the last year for special retiree-only giving incentives created by the federal government. Until December 31, 2011, anyone 70^{1/2} or older can donate up to \$100,000 tax free to nonprofits like Clean Water Fund from their Individual Retirement Accounts (traditional or Roth IRAs). Mandatory IRA distributions are otherwise subject to income tax, but not if they're given directly to charities in 2011. Call Clean Water Fund for details, (202) 330-2379.

4. Give the Gift of Clean Water. You can designate your online donation(s) as gifts in honor or memory of a special person or occasion. Visit the "Donate" buttons on the [Clean Water Action](#) or [Clean Water Fund](#) web sites to learn how.

Questions? Contact us by e-mail, development@cleanwater.org or phone (202) 330-2379.



New England Currents

WINTER UPDATE 2011

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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