

A stronger, smarter OEC

The OEC has gone through a tremendous period of change and growth under the new leadership of Executive Director Heather Taylor-Miesle. In one year, we've expanded staff from 16 to 23, increased our budget by 30%, attracted national-level talent to the organization, built strong, productive relationships with key government officials, and developed a bold new vision with our 5-year strategic plan. Learn more about the strategic plan at www.theoec.org/strategicplan.



Heather Taylor-Miesle moved back to her home state to bring her experience as director of the NRDC Action Fund to strengthen Ohio's environmental movement. She has more than 20 years of experience advocating for greater environmental and public health protections, and working with our nation's top decision makers to bring environmental issues into the political spotlight.

Victory

Strongest lead in drinking water protections in the country.

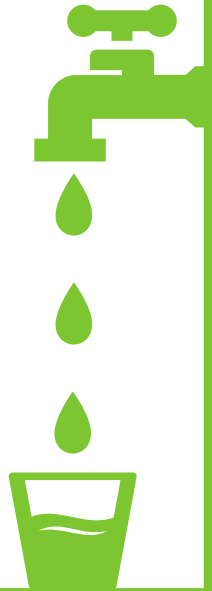
The OEC helped to secure a landmark win for drinking water this past year. As the news of Flint, Michigan was reverberating throughout the country, the OEC learned that we had our own mini-Flint right here in Sebring, Ohio. Knowing that Ohio children could be drinking lead-tainted water, we stepped into action immediately, analyzing state and federal rules on lead and putting forward a strong legislative proposal. We took this information to Ohio EPA leadership and Ohio lawmakers, to Washington, DC, and even to the White House. And all of this hard work paid off. In May, the Ohio General Assembly unanimously passed a bill to better detect and prevent lead in drinking water and to require the public be notified within 2 days (previous law required 60 days) when tests show lead is present in drinking water. The OEC's Melanie Houston stood next to Governor Kasich as he signed this landmark bill into law in June of this year.

Victory

Leading the charge in Ohio to reduce toxic algae-causing pollution.

On August 2, 2014 nearly a half-a-million people were told not to drink their tap water because of a toxic algal bloom in Lake Erie. The OEC quickly went to work, rallying with our partners in Ohio, Michigan, and Ontario to call for a 40% reduction of toxic algae-causing pollution. **We raised the issue in the press and worked with Ohio EPA leadership and our partners in Michigan and Ontario to secure a commitment to reduce toxic algae-causing pollution.**

As a result, in June 2015 the Governors of Michigan and Ohio and the Premier of Ontario signed a commitment to reduce algae-causing pollution by 40% by 2025. While Ohio's plan to achieve these reductions contains a number of positive proposals, it must be strengthened. The OEC will continue to work with our partners to push for a comprehensive solution to Ohio's toxic algae plague.



Victory

Slashing climate-warming pollution from the oil and gas sector.

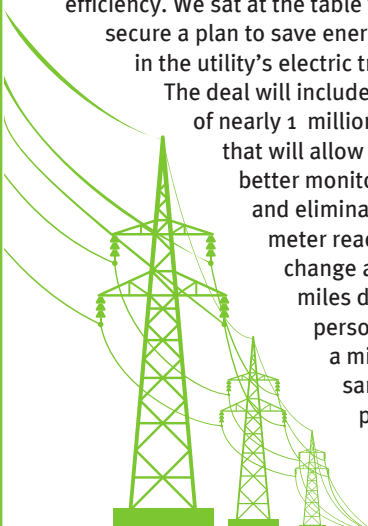
Methane is 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide. The US EPA issued new standards to limit methane emissions coming from oil and gas facilities such as wells, compressor stations, and other infrastructure. Working in partnership with environmental, public health, local government, and labor allies, **the OEC rallied public support for these new standards, as well as support from key decision-makers, including US Senator Sherrod Brown.** The current standard would only cover new oil and gas operations, which doesn't account for the thousands of existing oil and gas operations in Ohio. We're working to push these standards to include all oil and gas facilities, and ultimately, slash the methane pollution that oil and gas operations emit each year.

Victory

Making Ohio's electric grid more modern and efficient.

The OEC is working directly with utilities to help move the state toward renewable energy and energy efficiency. We sat at the table with AEP and helped secure a plan to save energy and reduce waste in the utility's electric transmission system.

The deal will include the installation of nearly 1 million "smart meters" that will allow customers to better monitor energy usage and eliminate the need for meter readers. This small change alone will reduce the miles driven by AEP-Ohio personnel by nearly half a million per year, the same amount of carbon pollution emitted from powering about 20,000 homes.



Victory

Bringing Ohio's environmental law experts together.

Many of the OEC's most significant environmental victories happen in the courtroom. This year, we created the OEC Law Center Roundtable, a core group of seasoned legal professionals with experience and expertise in environmental, energy, and civil rights law and litigation. The Roundtable has played an important role in advising and assisting with the OEC's ongoing legal fights to protect clean energy, water resources, and public lands. The round table weighed in on the recent threat to the Sawmill State Wildlife Area to craft a legal strategy to protect this property. Thanks to the Law Center's work, Ohio's environment has some of the brightest legal minds in our state proactively developing solutions to achieve lasting environmental protections.

Victory

Growing support for public forests.

The OEC's public forest protection work aims to increase the amount of protected state forest land by 50% over the next 5 years. The Law Center's focus on public lands has stopped logging in three exceptional areas of Ohio's state forest system. In addition, the Law Center is leading the legal effort to prevent fracking in the Wayne National Forest, Ohio's only national forest.



Victory

Building the Movement

When more Ohioans from all walks of life and all corners of the state raise their voices and call for environmental protections, the OEC and our partners can build stronger political will for real change. The OEC is using the most cutting edge tools and messaging tactics to reach Ohioans who care about the environment, but have not yet been engaged in any meaningful way to protect it. With the help of experts at the Yale Project for Climate Communications, we've identified 1.3 million Ohioans who are "alarmed by climate change." The OEC has launched a major effort to reach these individuals through targeted digital ads, canvassing, phone banking, and direct mail.

8,000

messages sent to decision makers

38,000+

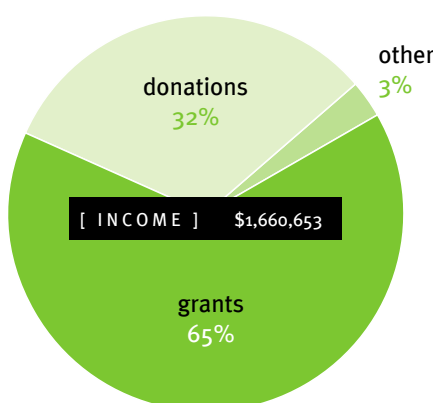
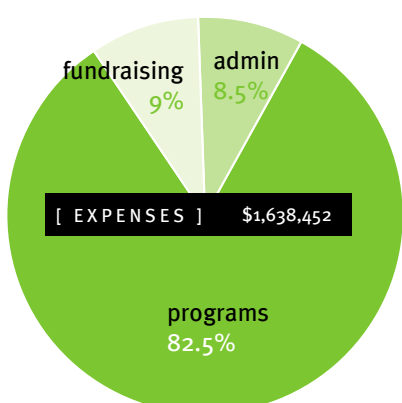
engaged digital activists

160,000

Ohioans sent vote-by-mail applications

12,000+

households sent targeted mail about clean energy standards



The OEC recently has transitioned to a July-June fiscal year from a calendar year. These charts represent financials from the OEC's most recent 12-month fiscal year, January to December 2015.

The OEC is a careful steward of your investment in a cleaner, more beautiful Ohio.

