SHOWING UP WHEN IT MATTERS MOST.
At the OEC, we may be approaching our golden birthday, but we still learn something new every single day, and we use those important lessons to strengthen our case for the health and environment of all Ohioans.

A few years ago, we launched the first field office in Lorain and brought our Northeast Ohio Regional Director, Max Schaefer, on board. Max’s energy fueled the momentum to expand to Northwest Ohio, where we started building power in Toledo with Nick Mandros. From there, it spread across the Ohio River Valley to Southwest Ohio where we welcomed Sedrick Denson in Cincinnati (who just got elected to the Statehouse). And finally, this year, we hired Carol Davey and started growing our network in my home region in Appalachia.

The impressive growth and power of this program has been truly inspirational. It has brought in new voices we haven’t heard before — from local brewers in Toledo impacted by toxic algae, to teachers who are leveraging clean energy to help support the tax base for schools, to doctors looking to protect their patients, to concerned families who were forced to evacuate after a well pad explosion in Powhatan Point. This field program, along with the expert team here in Central Ohio, has given us a newfound understanding, passion, and determination to break down barriers that have divided us for too long.

As more and more people find their way to this movement, the OEC offers the resources and tools communities need to fight injustice in their own backyards. We work with unlikely allies and build long-lasting partnerships with folks who never before considered their impact on our natural resources.

Now, more than ever, we have the ability to bridge the divide between those who have been silenced on environmental issues, and I can’t wait to see where the 50th year of the OEC will take us.

None of this would be possible without the generous support from OEC members like you. The support we’ve received from membership has given us the opportunity to grow and speak up for those who have lost their voice.

Now, let’s reflect on this year’s many accomplishments and celebrate the new voices contributing to our common goal of protecting Ohio’s environment.

Yours in the fight,

Heather Taylor-Miesle
Executive Director
YOUR VOICE. YOUR OEC.

As an OEC supporter, the successes in this report are yours! Whether we’re at the Statehouse testifying in favor of a new law, challenging big polluters in court, or organizing communities to stand up for safe drinking water and clean air, this work is for and because of you.
When a well pad blew up in the small town of Powhatan Point, Ohio in February of this year, the event was largely ignored by the media. The XTO well pad explosion represented one of the largest methane disasters in our state’s history and forced a hundred people out of their homes for nearly a month. Local schools were canceled and the residents were left with nothing but questions and a company line that led directly to the public relations department.

OEC showed up and worked with partners and experts to offer a comprehensive view of the incident, and helped identify actions community members could take to feel more empowered in getting information about environmental risks, and to stand up for better protections. Following the event, one resident said they were used to folks taking from their community, whether it’s a photograph, a story, or natural resources. She added it had been a long time since anyone came to their remote area to give back. The OEC is hard at work supporting impacted communities like Powhatan Point all over the state, and holding big polluters accountable so that we can ensure a safe, healthy environment for all Ohioans.
LEADING ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY

This year, the OEC accepted the AEP Ohio 2017 Leadership Award for our collaboration and “sincere partnership” with the utility on Combined Heat and Power (CHP) Incentives. This award acknowledged more than five years of work promoting CHP technologies, and improving efficiency rebates and incentives geared toward manufacturers, hospitals, universities, local governments and other larger energy users who are considering installing a CHP project. We were honored to receive this award, and will continue to strengthen our growing alliance of manufacturers who strive to be more energy efficient.

PROTECTING OUR AIR AND OUR HEALTH

There are hundreds of abandoned oil and gas wells scattered throughout the state — and maybe even more that have yet to be documented — posing risks to the health and safety of landowners and neighbors, as well as local air and water quality. The OEC played an instrumental role in passing legislation to make it easier for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to take action to plug abandoned and orphaned oil and gas wells. The new law streamlines the process by which ODNR identifies orphan wells, secures funding, and hires contractors to get these wells safely plugged once and for all. Supporting this legislation fostered an unlikely alliance with oil and gas drillers and their state associations, as many industry members also want orphan wells to be properly plugged. This was a huge victory for the OEC and for the many landowners who have dealt with the burden of discovering old, abandoned wells on their property. It also underscores the OEC’s willingness to work with any and all who come to the table seeking solutions to Ohio’s most pressing environmental concerns.

KEEPING UTILITY BILLS LOW FOR ALL OHIOANS

Sometimes the most significant wins for the environment happen in the seemingly mundane world of utility regulations. Thanks to our ongoing presence at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), Ohioans will continue to see savings on their electricity bills when they practice energy efficiency in their homes. The OEC has effectively defeated two fixed charge increases proposed by utilities that would have hurt energy efficiency efforts throughout the state. There will be no fixed charge increase through 2024 in AEP territory. Duke’s territory will likely see the same result based upon settlement filings. Dayton Power & Light has agreed to a very low fixed charge increase to keep them in line with other utilities but, the OEC and our allies beat back their original proposal that would have impacted those on a fixed income. As a result of this, energy efficiency will continue to be affordable for Ohio families and help us reduce our carbon emissions.
$300M in federal funds for Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to protect and restore the Great Lakes

$36M in state funds for Clean Lake 2020 plan to clean up Lake Erie

77+ Congressional and state legislator meetings

274 UNIQUE LETTERS to Governor Kasich to retain the Ohio River’s pollution control standards
CLEANING UP LAKE ERIE

The OEC has worked closely with lawmakers on a bipartisan bill that will provide $36 million to clean up Lake Erie and halt toxic algae. The Clean Lake 2020 Plan, which was signed by Governor Kasich in July, outlines several tactics including better farm management practices to reduce runoff of chemicals like phosphorus that feed the algae, funding for local soil and water districts, and important research and monitoring tools that will help us track and predict the algae and protect drinking water. This is the first big step our elected officials have made to fund this issue, and the OEC is eager to continue working toward a clean, healthy, and beautiful Lake Erie.

THE ALGAE MONSTER RETURNS

The OEC partnered with Maumee Bay Brewing Co. on a special limited-run beer called “Ale’gae Blooms.” The beer, which is a cartoonish green color, features a 1950’s style “algae monster” emerging from the Maumee River. Although the beer is fun (and delicious), it sends a serious message that the toxic algae plaguing Lake Erie and surrounding watersheds is no laughing matter. The beer was released on the four year anniversary of the Toledo Water Crisis, which left nearly a half million people without clean drinking water for three days. Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz spoke at the release event, which garnered national media attention. The OEC logo is featured on the label of the can, which has been distributed statewide, and promotes a website that informs consumers about the health and economic impacts of toxic algae. This was a unique and non-traditional way to raise awareness about toxic algae, and we hope to form a long-term partnership with Maumee Bay Brewing Co. to do more projects like this in the future.

TALKING ABOUT WATER ON A LOCAL LEVEL

With the ongoing threat of toxic algae in Lake Erie and increasing concerns about the safety of our drinking water around the state, we have been actively engaging with the public to educate Ohioans on the complexity of these issues. We worked with the Alliance for the Great Lakes and the National Wildlife Federation to host local water roundtables that brought together activists, residents, and local community leaders in Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati, and Toledo to learn more about localized water issues and gauge Ohioans’ concerns. We gained valuable insight about drinking water affordability, downstream pollution prevention, and agricultural runoff that will inform our conversations with policymakers, and lead to better resources to start tackling these issues at their core.
Carol Davey, our Southeast Ohio Regional Director, has been hard at work mobilizing this often-overlooked corner of the state. Carol continues to make huge strides in building power in southeast Ohio around supporting clean air, land, and water. So far this year, Carol has driven over 13,000 miles crossing the region to bring real impacts to small communities. For the Wayne National Forest revision plan, we are the only non-profit folks in every room, every time. When the plan is released, we know it will incorporate the views and vision of the OEC and users of the Wayne because we are leading the conversation in the community. Beyond the Wayne, Carol is giving a face to policy and a voice to those who are marginalized. We’ve made great strides in amplifying not only the needs, but the innovation and ingenuity of the region to state and national groups. The OEC offers resources not readily found in the region and we are looking forward to continuing these collaborative efforts in 2019.

Learn more about Carol’s story at: http://bit.ly/Favorite-Places
DEFENDING AGAINST FRACKING AND CLEARCUTTING

The 245,000-acre Wayne National Forest is Ohio’s best air and water filter, its deepest carbon sink, and its most expansive natural area. At the same time, the Wayne is threatened by 40,000 acres of oil and gas leasing proposals. New Trump Administration directives are pushing for more and larger clearcuts. In April, the Wayne began revising its multi-decade management plan. We have a tough road ahead, but with your support of our programs, we’re defending Ohio’s largest forest. Our attorneys are litigating the oil and gas threat in federal court. Our public lands team is blunting clearcutting proposals with emerging science and conversations with decision-makers. Our Southeast Ohio Regional Director is building networks throughout the region to bring power to the Wayne’s forest revision process. 2018 has been a big year for the Wayne, and 2019 promises to be even bigger.

GROWING OHIO’S PUBLIC LANDS

One of the OEC’s priorities is increasing public access to the outdoors. Our “ReCreation for All” campaign has long advocated for state acquisition of the “AEP ReCreation Land,” an important natural area in eastern Ohio. Our work paid dividends in July when a nearly 6,000-acre portion of the ReCreation Land was purchased by the state, and officially dedicated as the new Jesse Owens State Park and Wildlife Area. This is an exciting win, and gives us momentum going into 2019 to make sure Ohio’s newest park keeps growing. Full state acquisition of the ReCreation Land will give Ohioans miles of hiking and riding trails, hundreds of lakes, and dozens of campsites.

AMPLIFYING COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR LOCAL PARK LEVIES

Our sister organization, the OEC Action Fund, had tremendous success over the last year working on local park levies across Ohio. In November 2017, we endorsed and helped pass levies for Metroparks Toledo, Preservation Parks of Delaware County, The Olander Park System in Sylvania (also in Lucas County), Miami County Park District, and Pickaway County Parks. In 2018, we endorsed and helped pass the Wood County Park District levy during the May primary election. Each of these levies will contribute to greater park access for communities, and higher quality park operations. Our efforts, whether financial or employee time, contributed to ensuring our public lands remain protected for generations to come. We were proud to work with these park districts, helping each of their levies pass.
LAW CENTER ADVOCACY
BY THE NUMBERS

24
COMMENTS
to state and federal agencies, totaling 280 pages

8
INTERVENTIONS
before the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

5 CASES
Party to in state and federal courts
A SERIES OF VICTORIES FOR THE SAWMILL WETLANDS

Starting with a lawsuit against the state in 2012, the OEC has been on the front lines alongside citizens advocating for the protection of a small patch of land that sits squarely in the middle of a shopping development and apartment complex — one of the last remaining forested wetlands within the Columbus I-270 corridor. We submitted thousands of your comments, raised awareness at public forums, and partnered with groups like the Friends of the Sawmill Wetlands to urge the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and Governor Kasich to appeal a disastrous trial court decision that would have stripped protections from this important wildlife haven. This March, the 10th District Court of Appeals in Franklin County ruled in favor of ODNR to save this land from the hands of developers. Following an appeal by the developer, the Ohio Supreme Court intervened, putting the case to rest once and for all, with the Sawmill Wetlands securely in the hands of the people. Thanks to the many members like you who spoke up and made their voices heard, Ohioans will be able to enjoy this urban ecological treasure.

OEC HOSTS ITS FIRST-EVER ENVIRONMENTAL LAW CONFERENCE

For many years, the OEC Law Center has sought to host an annual conference for environmental law, yet it seemed a moonshot goal that felt out of reach. This past September, the OEC hosted the first ever Ohio Public Interest Environmental Law Conference. With the help of our partners at The Ohio State University, Green Energy Ohio, Defend Our Future, The University of Toledo College of Law, The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, the Moritz Energy and Environmental Law Society, Capital University Environmental and Energy Law Society, and attorneys Mark Wallach and Bill Gruber, we were able to make this conference a reality. We had more than 150 attorneys, students, activists, and industry professionals come together to talk about Ohio’s rich history in spurring national environmental policies. Our past informs our future, and the 2018 Conference is just the first of many where we’ll explore how to guarantee clean energy, air, land, and water for many generations to come.

THE LAW CENTER PETITIONS THE U.S. EPA TO REGULATE DANGEROUS CHEMICALS IN THE OHIO RIVER

For decades, communities in southeast Ohio along the Ohio River have lived in fear that their drinking water isn’t safe due to thousands of unregulated manufacturer chemicals known as “PFAS” polluting the waterways. In response to a study that confirmed the chemicals were found in the Ohio River, the OEC sent the U.S. EPA a Petition for Rulemaking, which would push the agency to regulate these chemicals. What is still uncertain is how dangerous most of these chemicals are to our health and safety. Only one of the chemicals has been thoroughly researched and was found to be a likely carcinogen and has been linked to serious diseases. Federal law requires the agency to respond to our Petition, but if they remain silent, the OEC is prepared to take additional legal action.
IN MAY, OHIOANS RESOUNDINGLY STOOD UP FOR FAIR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS. WITH OVER 74% OF VOTERS APPROVING THE BALLOT INITIATIVE, OHIOANS IMMEDIATELY PUT INTO PLACE A SYSTEM FOR DRAWING CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS THAT KEEPS COMMUNITIES TOGETHER, AND ENCOURAGES BIPARTISAN APPROVAL OF DISTRICT MAPS.

The OEC became involved in this battle because we know legislators play a major role in protecting the environment. If our democracy is weak, and decision-makers can ignore their voters, it is safe to assume they can also ignore dirty water coming out of our tap and the changing climate around us. Our work means that we’ve created a system for fairer congressional maps in Ohio, leading to elected officials more beholden to their voters, and our environment.
CAMPAIGNS & COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

ON AIR
STALLING ACTION ON COAL AND NUCLEAR BAILOUTS

Early in 2017, the state legislature was considering two bills that were aimed at bailing out coal and nuclear power plants in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Indiana that were owned, in part or in whole, by Ohio’s electric utilities. The legislation would have raised energy rates in Ohio to bail out these struggling power plants. The OEC Action Fund quickly worked to get a television ad up on the air in key regions of the state, drawing attention to the action at the Statehouse. Once this ad started running, pressure began to mount, and the bills have been stalled ever since.

CLIMATE AND COCKTAILS

From January to May, Max Schaefer, our Northeast Ohio Regional Director, hosted a series of happy hours called “Climate and Cocktails” that were a fun and relaxing way for the community to learn about environmental issues. At each event, we had speakers from partners like Clean Fuels Ohio and Ohio Sea Grant. The events were a great way to strengthen those partnerships as well as allowing a new group of citizens to discuss these issues with the OEC, who has a growing presence in the region. The OEC is educating and engaging citizens on environmental issues that affect their lives on a micro- and macro-level.

ENGAGEMENT NUMBERS

JULY 1, 2017 TO JUNE 30, 2018

TARGETED ACTIONS

1.84M EMAILS DELIVERED

2,350 NEW FOLLOWERS

50,530 ENGAGEMENTS

13,915 TOTAL FOLLOWERS

14,920 ACTIONS TAKEN

2,343 PETITIONS SIGNATURES

9,597 ACTION TAKERS ENGAGED

4,742 ENGAGEMENTS

7,481 TOTAL FOLLOWERS

238 NEW FOLLOWERS
YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK

THE OEC IS A CAREFUL STEWARD OF YOUR INVESTMENT IN A CLEANER, MORE BEAUTIFUL OHIO.

FY 2018 JULY 1, 2017 TO JUNE 30, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAMMATIC EFFICIENCY</th>
<th>REVENUE BY SOURCE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Programs $1,917,610</td>
<td>Grants $1,721,094</td>
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<td>Fundraising $155,188</td>
<td>Other $30,129</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong> $2,230,493</td>
<td><strong>Total</strong> $2,490,202</td>
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The OEC continued to increase our budget by exceeding our fiscal year 2018 fundraising goals by more than $200,000 and diversified our fundraising efforts to sustainably fund the OEC’s mission.
This list represents only a fraction of the generous Ohioans who make our work possible. Thank you to all our donors, group members, community supporters, and volunteers. Below are listed our contributors of $1,000 or more between January 1, 2017 and August 31, 2018. We thank these donors and everyone who made gifts of less than $1,000.

**LEGACY CLUB**

We are especially grateful to these generous donors who have included the OEC in their wills.

Anonymous (2)
Marketa Anderson
Kathy Barber*
Richard Behymer*
Linda Butler & Steven Nissen
Beth Crane & Richard McKee
Ryan Donzelli
Ruth Ellen & Gerald Butler*
Babette Gorman
Peter & Joanne Griesinger
Vince Hand & Ann Hagerman
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Jeanne Smith*
Joe Sommer
Wendy Stewart
Heather Taylor-Miesle and Don Miesle
Chris Thorman
Ellen Weston
Gene & Sandy Wright

* An asterisk denotes a Legacy Club member who has passed away. We are especially grateful to these generous donors who have included the OEC in their wills.

Learn more about the Legacy Club at [WWW.THEOEC.ORG/BEQUESTS](http://WWW.THEOEC.ORG/BEQUESTS)

**$100,000 +**

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
The Energy Foundation
The George Gund Foundation
The Joyce Foundation

**$50,000 – 99,999**

Clean Water for All Coalition
Environmental Defense Fund
League of Conservation Voters
League of Conservation Voters Education Fund
RE-AMP Network
The Skoll Global Threats Fund
The Wilderness Society

**$10,000 – 49,999**

Anonymous (1)
Bob Allen
Alliance for the Great Lakes
Meridith Beck
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Coalition for Redistricting Reform
The Conservation Alliance
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Cleveland Foundation
Robert E. Holmes Natural Resources Fund of The Columbus Foundation
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**$5,000 – 9,999**

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Barb Andrews and Dennis Cooke
Julia Backoff and Christopher Burke
Benua Foundation Field of Interest Fund of The Columbus Foundation
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Community Shares of Mid-Ohio
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Dayton Foundation
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Bill and Lynn Ondrey Gruber
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Sears-Swedtland Family Foundation
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Gina and Andy Stevenson

**$1,000 – 4,999**

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Kara Bell and Mark Wallach
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Kenneth Dahms
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Dixie Davis
Janis Dugle
Environmental Law and Policy Center
Joan Esther
Jill and Brandon Evans
Elmore Evans
Evans Charitable Foundation
Scott and Paulette Felker
Foundation for Appalachian Ohio
John Funk
Ann Geddes
Pat and Charley Geiger
Jason Golden
William Graham
Susana Gray
Great Lakes Brewing Company
Ellen Greene Bush
David Greer
Paul Hammond and Tracee Laing
Pat Hartman
Sue Hollingsworth
Honest Beverages
Hopt Culture Magazine

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JM2
Rosemary Joyce
JPMorgan Chase Foundation
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Benjamin Kile
Paul and Jane King
Jill Jeffrey Kingsley
Sue and George Klein
Michael Kohr
Cindy Kuhlman-Voss and Charles Voss
Roger and Barbara Kussow
Lake Erie Energy Development Co.
Lepla Associates, Ltd.
Irwin and Heather Lowenstein
MacArthur Foundation
Maloney + Novotny
Judge Dean Mandros
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Ralph and Jon Mester
Eric and Debby Miller
Steve and Amanda Morris
Marjorie Mulcahy
Jane Mykryant and Jake Johnson
Dan and Lori Nelson
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Newhouse, Prophater, Kolman & Hogan, LLC
Northstar Cafe
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Owens-Illinois, Inc.
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Pamela Siegenthaler
Sierra Club
Sierra Club Central Region
Paul and Betsy Sittenfeld
Peggy Smith
Joe Sommer
Karen and Michel Soubeyard
Wendy Stewart
William and Tamara Strang
Tom and Tracy Tappan
Jamie and Liz Taylor
The Columbus Foundation
The Nature Conservancy in Ohio
The Ohio State University
David Trout
Dick Tuttle
Molly Wambold and Jon Young
David and Deege Wilhelm
Dave and Joanne Woodyard
The Ohio Environmental Council, working with our affiliate/sister organization OEC Action Fund conducted OEC’s statehouse lobbying, campaign tactics, and legislative communications.

You can learn more about the Ohio Environmental Council Action Fund at www.OECActionFund.org.