



Solutions for a Cleaner, Healthier, and Stronger New York

Natural Resources Defense Council





For more than 30 years, NRDC has won environmental victories around the country and in our own backyard: New York City, where we got our start and where we are today. Our New York team includes more than a dozen attorneys, scientists, and other experts who fight for clean air and water, protect our natural resources, and make communities cleaner, better places to live. By partnering our expertise with your support, NRDC is the most effective force for environmental protection in the New York.

Safeguarding the Health of Our Families



Keeping the Drinking Water Safe

TODAY'S VICTORIES

NRDC and our coalition partners won protection from development for more than 70,000 acres of land surrounding New York City's drinking water reservoirs.

TOMORROW'S SOLUTIONS

To ensure a safe water supply for future generations, we are designing an innovative land-use and purchase program in upstate New York to protect an additional 150,000 acres. We are fighting to preserve the ecosystem of the Catskill and Delaware watersheds by partnering with local communities to advance watershed protection programs and by pushing for smart growth alternatives to sprawling development.



Protecting People from Toxic Chemicals and Pollutants

TODAY'S VICTORIES

NRDC teamed up with West Harlem Environmental Action to protect the children most at risk from exposure to harmful rat poison. Together, we won a court order directing the EPA not to revoke a rule requiring pesticide manufacturers to put bittering agents in rodenticides. The bitter taste deters children from eating the poison. And after securing more than \$1 million for environmental health programs in Albany neighborhoods contaminated by lead, NRDC then helped broker an agreement that ensures the city will safely remove lead paint from Albany homes.

TOMORROW'S SOLUTIONS

NRDC provides legal and technical advice to groups seeking environmental justice for low-income neighborhoods and communities of color. Partnering with groups that request our assistance, we use our scientific, legislative, and courtroom skills to help protect communities from pollution.



"Working with NRDC, we won a victory against the EPA that marks an important step toward safeguarding children in communities of color. The basic safety measure the court required will protect children from poisoning while still allowing communities to keep their parks, streets, and schools free of rodents."

PEGGY SHEPARD
FOUNDER AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WEST HARLEM ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Improving New York's Cities and Communities



Shaping Green Building Practices

TODAY'S VICTORIES

Since paving the way for environmentally sound construction by passing a green building tax credit in New York, we have partnered with Enterprise Foundation to launch the Green Communities Initiative—a five-year, \$550 million national commitment to build more than 8,500 environmentally friendly affordable homes. NRDC also spearheaded a mandate that future New York City public buildings, as well as renovations to existing buildings, must meet green building standards.

TOMORROW'S SOLUTIONS

NRDC's green building work began with the construction of our energy-saving New York City office in 1989 and we continue to shape green building practices across the region. For example, we are advising builders on how to make the new Bank of America's towering headquarters the most environmentally friendly skyscraper ever built when it opens in 2008.

Strengthening Recycling Programs

TODAY'S VICTORIES

We helped create the nation's largest and most visible recycling program and rescued it from dismantlement by showing that recycling can save the city money.

TOMORROW'S SOLUTIONS

Many electronics such as computers and televisions contain toxics that can be released into the environment if the products are just thrown away. NRDC is helping to modernize New York's recycling programs by promoting "e-cycling" of electronic devices. And we continue to strengthen and expand the city's core recycling program, including pushing for reforms that will improve collection and processing, boosting public awareness of how and what to recycle, and developing new markets for bottles, cans, and other recyclables.

"NRDC is one of the nation's most powerful environmental groups."

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Protecting New York's Oceans and Natural Resources



Cleaning Up Rivers and Coastal Waters

TODAY'S VICTORIES

We have taken our fight against toxics in our waterways to Newark Bay, preventing dredging projects from interfering with the world's largest dioxin spill. And we have joined with the City of New York to develop a plan to protect and restore Jamaica Bay, a national wildlife refuge that is visited every year by the 20 percent of the continent's bird species—the only such refuge accessible by subway.

TOMORROW'S SOLUTIONS

After twenty-five years of legal wrangling, NRDC and Hudson Valley groups—groups that helped win a federal decision to clean up toxic chemicals dumped into the Hudson River by General Electric—are still fighting to be sure that the harmful chemicals are fully cleaned up.



Preserving Valuable Open Spaces

TODAY'S VICTORIES

NRDC halted plans to build multiple immense casinos on thousands of acres of natural space in the Catskills. Through advocacy and legal action, we prevented this area from the heavy traffic, increased smog, and other environmental impacts that accompany sprawling development. NRDC also helped defeat a massive coal-burning cement factory proposed along the Hudson River, avoiding increases in fine soot air pollution that could have damaged public health throughout the Hudson Valley.

TOMORROW'S SOLUTIONS

NRDC promotes vibrant communities by championing urban parks and preserving our region's natural spaces. And in New York City, we are working to create an uninterrupted stretch of parkland from the Upper West Side to the Battery along the Hudson River.



Saving Ocean Habitats

TODAY'S VICTORIES

NRDC is successfully pushing New York State to address gaps in marine protection and become a strong leader on ocean policy. Because NRDC raised awareness that New York must act now to save its ocean life, the state is creating a new fund to support protecting the ocean and Great Lakes.

TOMORROW'S SOLUTIONS

NRDC is developing a package of legislative actions that will expand oceans protections in New York. We continue to press for a New York oceans and bays protection council that could oversee the state's diverse marine resources and develop a strategic ocean protection plan. And we are working with New Jersey to adopt the same set of protections for its shores and waters.

"It's hard to find a major environmental law that [NRDC] hasn't helped shape within Congress, the courts and federal agencies."

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Promoting Clean Energy Innovations and Global Warming Solutions



Putting Cleaner Vehicles on the Road

TODAY'S VICTORIES

Combining legal action, tough negotiations, and an inventive ad campaign, NRDC brought pressure on the state government to cut diesel pollution from New York City's public transit buses. Now, thousands of buses use cleaner fuels and technologies. More recently, NRDC helped put gas-saving hybrid taxis on the streets. We worked with City Council to draft special legislation to approve the vehicles, which reduce greenhouse gas emissions. And in a landmark victory for clean air, NRDC successfully fought for new measures that will require all city school buses, tour buses, sanitation trucks, and other publicly owned vehicles to use ultra-low-sulfur diesel and install modern pollution controls.

TOMORROW'S SOLUTIONS

Our campaign for cleaner air in the region includes working to reduce harmful chemicals in diesel exhaust, fighting for clean-fuel school buses, and forcing the replacement of old, heavily polluting power plants with state-of-the-art facilities.



Spurring a Shift to Cleaner Energy

TODAY'S VICTORIES

To keep New York on the cutting edge of clean energy initiatives, NRDC helped forge a landmark agreement among northeastern governors that will reduce global warming pollution by 10 percent by 2019. This market-based program—the first of its kind in the country—will bring hundreds of millions of dollars of new clean energy investments into the region and set a precedent for future federal action. This follows our success in winning pledges from the states of New York and New Jersey to increase the amount of electricity sold in those states from renewable sources such as wind and sun.

TOMORROW'S SOLUTIONS

NRDC is partnering with state governments to slash power plant pollution. We are working to reduce our reliance in the region on oil and gasoline by moving to renewable fuels created from homegrown crops. We will continue to use our years of leadership to bring clean energy to the region, including convincing more states to join the landmark northeastern states agreement to reduce global warming and replicating this effort at the national level.



"NRDC has grown to be a kind of shadow EPA. It has influenced laws on air pollution, water pollution, toxics, drinking water, pesticides, nuclear wastes, strip-mine reclamation, land use, energy conservation and much more."

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

The Natural Resources Defense Council

We are national, nonprofit environmental organization with more than 1.2 million members and online activists. NRDC's lawyers, scientists, and other environmental specialists work to protect public health, natural resources, and the environment. Since our founding in 1970, NRDC has been a powerful force for environmental protection in New York. In addition to our New York City headquarters, NRDC has offices in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Beijing.

Become a Member of NRDC

To support NRDC's environmental work, including our campaign to protect the New York region, become a member of NRDC. Contact us by email at membership@nrdc.org or join via our website: www.nrdc.org.

Join Our Activist Network

To receive regular updates and participate in decision-making on environmental issues that affect the country and the New York region, join NRDC's Earth Activist Network: www.nrdc.org/action.

Natural Resources Defense Council

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