

# A Summer of Environmental Activism with PennEnvironment

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Environmental Studies Intern



## What is PennEnvironment?

PennEnvironment is Pennsylvania's statewide citizenbased environmental advocacy organization. PennEnvironment conducts research on the environmental challenges facing our environment and aims to educate the public and take action

### Responsibilities and Projects

I was one of fourteen interns. Specifically, I was a Climate Defender Intern. This means I worked on projects that were related directly to our changing climate. My primary focus was on expanding PennEnvironment's reach into the Lehigh Valley, but I also worked on a variety of other projects and campaigns.



## 100% Renewable Energy Lobby Day

- 100% Renewable Energy Lobby Day, Harrisburg, PA.
- Attended by PennEnvironment staff, volunteers, and over 400 concerned citizens.
- Among the attendees were religious leaders, business owners, health professionals, local and state legislators, and children.
- Lobbying for support of HB 1425 in the House and SB 630 in the Senate.
- HB1425/SB630 would require the Commonwealth to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2050.
- FIVE new cosponsors signed on, bringing the total to 95 cosponsors! (the bill has 103 now)
- First of its kind to have bipartisan support
- Met with 90 legislative offices and dropped by 70.



## Drink Philly Tap Project

- Partnership with Philadelphia Water Department
- Talk with residents about water use and plastic consumption at local farmers markets, public parks, and free events.
- Main Goals: Increase trust in public drinking water, reduce single use plastic bottles, educate consumers on the financial costs of drinking bottled water instead of tap water.
- Aim: Collect 10,000 pledges from Philadelphia residents between May and August.
- Collected: 6,000 by August 22, 2019

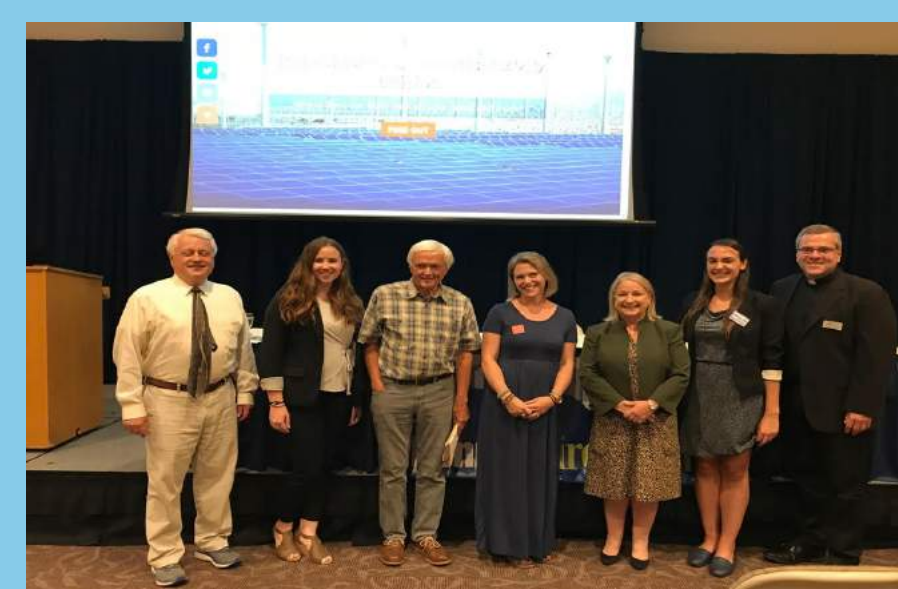


#### I'm going to:

- Drink tap water at home instead of buying bottled water
- Carry a reusable water bottle when I'm out
- Ask for tap water when I'm offered bottled water
- Ask my friends to share this pledge

## Key Takeaways

- Expanded my knowledge and understanding of grassroots organization and environmental advocacy.
- Enhanced my communication skills so that I can effectively share my ideas and passions with people from varying backgrounds and mindsets.
- Fostered an appreciation for engaging in purposeful dialogue about the impacts we have on our environment.
- Met with elected officials and learned more about grassroots organizing.
- Improved my writing skills to communicate my ideas in a concise and convincing manner.



## Letter Writing Party

- July - Letter writing party in Bethlehem, PA
- 14 members of the community attended
- Educated and informed community members about how to write letters to their elected officials and to their local newspapers
- Discussed the importance and influence of these actions
- During my internship I wrote six letters to the editor, four of which were published in local newspapers; The Morning Call, The Pocono Record, and The Scranton Times-Tribune.
- I also co-authored an op-ed that was published in the Pocono Record.



## Clean Energy Expo

- August - Clean Energy Expo at DeSales University
- Promoted renewable energy solutions for the Lehigh Valley
- Featured 20 local clean energy suppliers such as wind, solar, geothermal, and environmental groups
- Featured four electric vehicles from Tesla and BMW
- Appearance by Congresswoman Susan Wild, who cosponsored HR-9, The Climate Action Now Act, which reaffirms the United State's Commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement
- Panel discussion on Our Clean Energy Future featuring State Representative Steve Samuelson, and other environmental experts and religious leaders
- Over 90 Lehigh Valley residents attended!

