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LEAGUE OF
CONSERVATION
VOTERS

GOVERNOR'S REPORT CARD

2015 / 2016

Review of Conservation Policy
of Governor Rick Snyder

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CONTACT

Ann Arbor Office
3029 Miller Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

—
734 222 9650

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400 Ann Street NW
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—
616 288 3057

Lansing Office
216 N. Chestnut Street
Lansing, MI 48933

—

Traverse City Office
148 E. Front Street, Ste 303
Traverse City, MI 49684

—
231 486 5286

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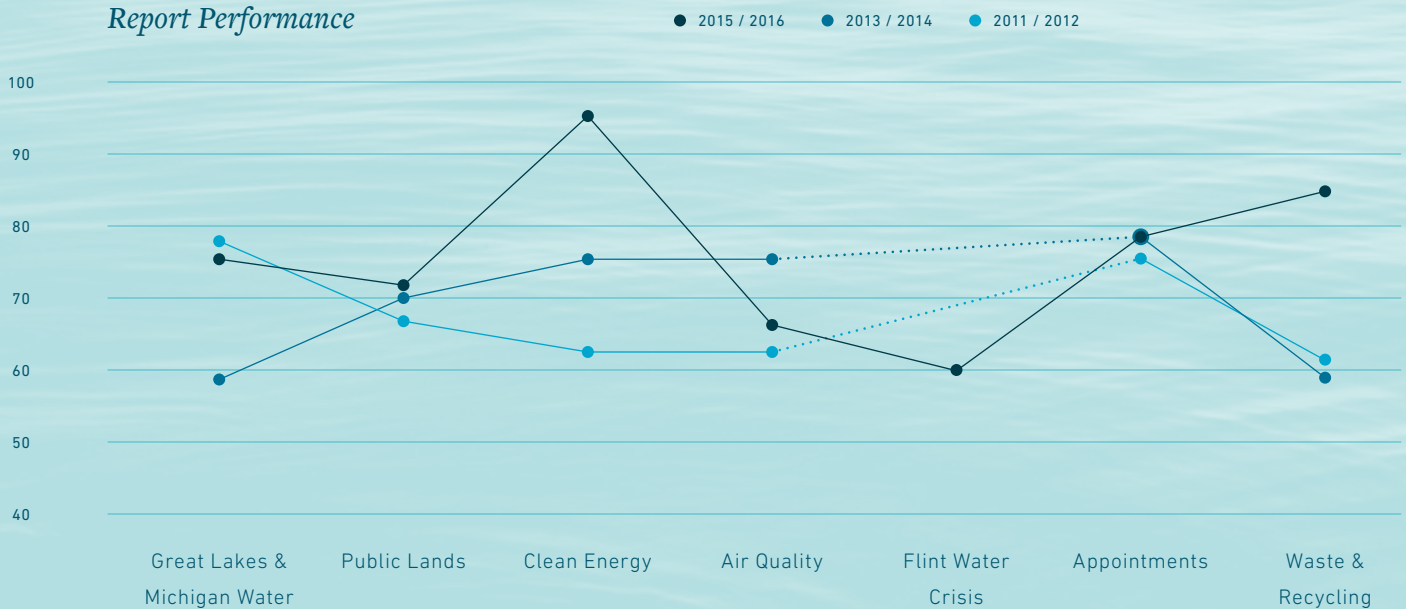
28 Appendix

2015 / 2016 REPORT SUMMARY

Michigan LCV had high hopes that Governor Snyder would be a pro-conservation governor for Michigan, which is why we endorsed him in the 2010 Republican Primary Election. Unfortunately, his record—as measured both at the end of his first term, and now mid-term in his second four years—is not where it should be.

Governor Snyder rightly deserves accolades for his role in strengthening Michigan’s clean energy policy. He came out early with a plan for greater investment in clean energy and energy waste reduction, and his administration was instrumental in helping shepherd the bill package to a bipartisan compromise that moves Michigan toward a clean energy future. However, Governor Snyder and his administration will likely be most remembered for what happened—and didn’t happen—in Flint. The Flint water crisis offers a stark reminder of what happens when a government makes decisions with only dollars and cents in mind. In this case, the health of a city and an entire generation of its most vulnerable residents were compromised. History’s bottom line does not exist on a balance sheet: it lives on in the legacy we leave our children. In Flint, that legacy is, currently and sadly, a shameful one.

Report Performance



During Governor Snyder's final two years in office, he has the opportunity to reshape his legacy into one that prioritizes the protection of our natural resources for our economy, health, and way of life. The Governor has a chance to turn the Flint water crisis into action to address long overdue water quality, environmental justice, public health, and infrastructure needs across both of our peninsulas.

In fact, the time is now to head off future economic and public health crises by not only addressing infrastructure challenges, but by proactively addressing the unchecked growth of toxic algal blooms and shutting down aging pipelines in our Great Lakes.

Comparing Governor Snyder's Report Cards

	2015 / 2016	2013 / 2014	2011 / 2012
Flint Water Crisis			
Clean Energy			
Air Quality			
Public Lands			
Great Lakes & Michigan Water			
Waste & Recycling			
Appointments			

DEAR CONSERVATION VOTER,

In 2018, the citizens of Michigan will be asked to make a decision that will have enormous consequences for our land, air, and water: we will be asked to choose a new governor.

Michigan LCV is committed to being your nonpartisan, political voice on conservation issues. We fight to elect candidates from both sides of the aisle who will make protecting the health of our precious natural resources—and, therefore, the health of our families—their priority while in office.

The governor is a key decision-maker when it comes to protecting our Great Lakes, the air we breathe, and the water we drink. That's why one of our top priorities is ensuring that a pro-conservation governor is elected to office in November 2018.

Once a governor is elected, Michigan LCV holds them accountable through the release of our biennial *Governor's Report Card*, which tracks the governor's actions across a host of issues—air pollution, invasive species, drinking water, etc.—all of which have enormous implications for the health of our communities and the health of our waterways. Fundamentally, our *Report Card* serves as an important and much-needed source of information for citizens across the state who want to know: is our governor truly working to protect my family, my hometown, and the state we love?

What do we mean when we say a “pro-conservation governor?” We mean a leader who recognizes that keeping Michigan and her people healthy requires a commitment to keeping our water and air clean, and preserving our natural areas. We mean a leader who understands that a healthy economy in the Great Lakes State is dependent on a healthy environment. We mean a governor who allows science, research, and long-term sustainability—not near-term profits for donors and special interests—to drive decision-making.



*from Lisa Wozniak
Executive Director*

Protecting Michigan's drinking water does not start and end with addressing the crisis in Flint. Our waterways and drinking water face many challenges statewide. For instance, did you know that Michigan is the only state in the country without standards that govern how septic systems are designed, installed, or maintained? Or that the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality estimates that there are more than a hundred thousand failing septic systems in Michigan, leaking approximately 31 million gallons of raw sewage into our waters every day.

Nutrient pollution from leaking septic systems, outdated municipal sewer systems, and agricultural runoff are contaminating our clean water. These threats are creating ideal conditions for toxic algae blooms to thrive in our lakes, causing beach closures and no-touch advisories. Our drinking water is being compromised, putting the health of our families and communities at risk. These are problems that can be fixed, and we are counting on Governor Snyder to roll up his sleeves and commit to getting the job done.

Governor Snyder can still take action to ensure that no other Michigan community faces the nightmare of a poisoned water supply. His initial plans to invest state resources in professional support for Flint children exposed to lead, as well as his plans to address our state's woefully inadequate, out-of-date infrastructure and strengthen Michigan's lead and copper standard are steps in the right direction.

I encourage you to take the time to review Michigan LCV's *Governor's Report Card* and use it to hold Governor Snyder accountable for his record while in office. Thank Governor Snyder for what he has done well, and be clear that you expect him to double down on protecting Michigan's land, air, water, and public health during his remaining time in office.

Onward!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Wozniak". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Lisa Wozniak
Executive Director

FLINT WATER CRISIS



The drinking water crisis in Flint is a shameful failure of leadership in Michigan, a state surrounded by 80 percent of our nation's freshwater.

In the aftermath of the Flint water crisis, the Governor has taken steps to aid the city in its recovery and to help the citizens most affected. However, there is little question that Governor Snyder and his administration deserve a failing grade for their central role in causing a drinking water crisis in one of Michigan's largest cities. As he said in his 2016 State of the State address, "You deserve better. You deserve accountability. You deserve to know the buck stops here with me."

The drinking water crisis in Flint is a shameful failure of leadership. In Michigan—a state surrounded by 80 percent of our nation's freshwater—communities have every right to believe that their drinking water is clean and safe. Instead, the residents and children of one of our oldest urban centers were poisoned by their tap water, and officials in the Snyder administration and Governor Snyder himself are primarily responsible for this ongoing tragedy.

KEY DECISIONS

02 / 11 / 15

Governor Snyder Issued Executive Order Cutting Funding for Drinking Water Infrastructure, State Parks, and Trails

04 / 24 / 15

State Notified EPA about Lack of Corrosion Control at Flint Drinking Water Plant Long after Switch to Flint River

08 / 20 / 15

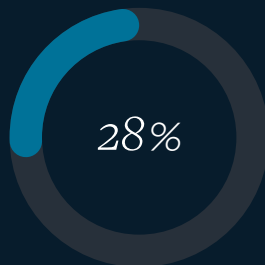
The Department of Environmental Quality Manipulated Flint Water Testing Results

02 / 02 / 16

Governor Signed Emergency Supplemental Funding for Flint

02 / 09 / 17

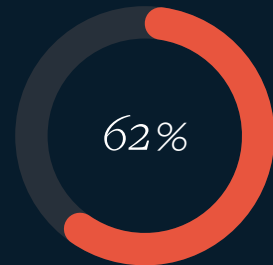
State Ended Water Credits for Flint Residents and Funding for Connection to Detroit Water




POSITIVE DECISIONS



NEUTRAL DECISIONS



NEGATIVE DECISIONS



When Flint's Emergency Financial Manager—who was appointed by Governor Snyder—decided to move the City of Flint off the Detroit water system starting in April 2014 and begin drawing water from the Flint River to help balance the budget, the lives of Flint's most vulnerable citizens and children were put on the line.

This decision was clearly driven by financial considerations, but it is the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) that failed to do the science and catch the mistake. When the switch was made, the DEQ did not have a plan to treat the Flint River water to reduce its corrosiveness. As a result, pipes throughout Flint's water system broke down at a rapid rate, including the city's many largely forgotten lead service lines.

Regardless of the reason—whether it was pressure to prioritize financial expediency, or dwindling departmental resources, personnel, and expertise—the DEQ botched the science and a public health crisis was born. Almost two years of delays and inaction followed, highlighted by the DEQ publicly and privately discrediting outside researchers, residents, and whistle-blowers. It was the DEQ who told citizens in July 2015 that “anyone who is concerned about lead in the drinking water in Flint can relax.” Perhaps most inexcusably, as their own test results started to show higher lead levels in August 2015, DEQ employees manipulated their own data to avoid admitting their mistake and prevent federal intervention.

Lead poisoning is irreversible, capable of causing developmental delay and learning difficulties for young children and innumerable physical maladies for adults. The children of

Flint already have the deck stacked against them growing up in a city plagued by disproportionate levels of poverty and violence. It is unconscionable that they now must confront lead in their drinking water.

Our state government is responsible for ensuring that safe, clean drinking water is accessible to all. State leaders made irreparable mistakes, mismanaged the crisis, and their delays in action led to the poisoning of an entire generation.

What happened in Flint could happen in countless other cities in Michigan that are relying on aging water infrastructure. Governor Snyder and his administration know this, and realize that decades of disinvestment in our municipal drinking water infrastructure puts us on the brink of another disaster.

We have seen Governor Snyder take some tangible and encouraging steps: including the creation of a long-term action plan for Flint with provisions for professional support for children under six who have elevated lead levels in their bodies; replacement of water fixtures in public facilities; replacement of the city's lead service lines; and increased resources for schools.

While this action plan represents a necessary and appropriate course of action, the governor and his administration still have a lot of work ahead. During the last two years of his term, he must work tirelessly to ensure that a public health crisis of this magnitude never happens again anywhere in the Great Lakes State. This will require desperately needed investment in our infrastructure and a renewed focus on environmental justice in policy making.

Flint by the numbers:



Average use by a single Flint family with contaminated water

\$49,576

\$24,862

\$24,300

Fed Poverty Line
for a home of four

Median household income
of Michigan residents

Median household income
of Flint residents

*"You deserve better. You deserve accountability.
You deserve to know the buck stops here with me."*

GOVERNOR RICK SNYDER



Flint residents are
African-American

Flint population

Flint residents live
below the poverty line

CLEAN ENERGY

A

Governor Snyder showed marked improvement on clean energy issues during his second term, jumping two full letter grades from a C to an A. This advancement is primarily due to the key role he played in passing bipartisan clean energy reform in 2016.

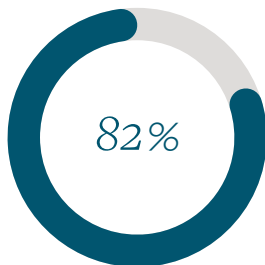
KEY DECISIONS

09 / 01 / 15

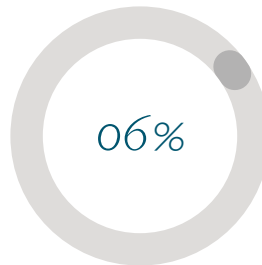
MAE and DEQ Announced Plans to implement the Clean Power Plan

12 / 28 / 16

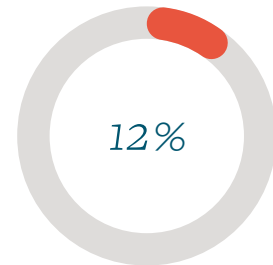
Governor Snyder Signed Bipartisan Clean Energy Package



POSITIVE DECISIONS



NEUTRAL DECISIONS



NEGATIVE DECISIONS

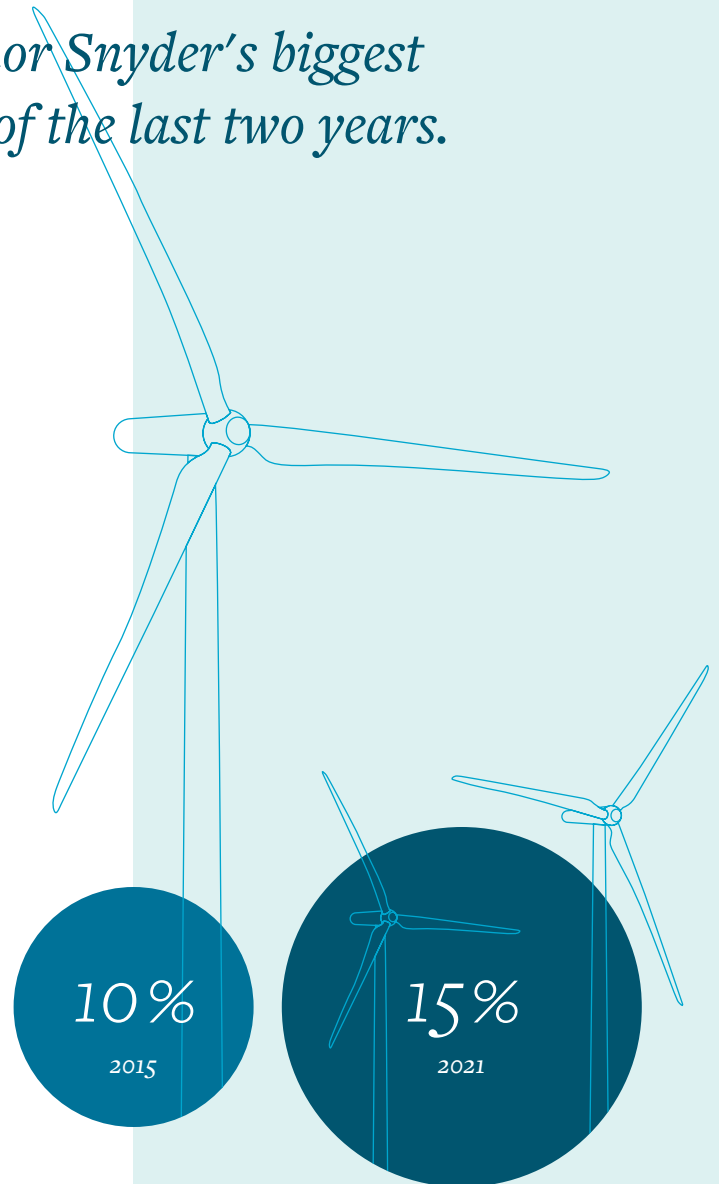
Energy reform was Governor Snyder's biggest conservation success story of the last two years. Early on, he laid out a plan to build upon the success of bipartisan clean energy standards passed in 2008.

Energy reform was Governor Snyder's biggest conservation success story of the last two years.

Following two years of hard work, the Legislature passed a new energy plan that increased Michigan's renewable energy standard from 10 to 15 percent by 2021. It also continued the requirement that electric utilities reduce energy waste by at least 1 percent each year, with financial incentives for utilities to further invest in their efficiency efforts and push past that minimum standard.

While not a perfect solution to our clean energy needs, this compromise plan builds off the success of the 2008 standards and moves us closer to a clean energy future. We thank Governor Snyder for the role he played in helping secure this bipartisan plan in a time of hyper-partisanship.

Finally, although the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Power Plan (CPP) was recklessly scrapped by the Trump administration, Governor Snyder and his administration deserve credit for announcing in 2015 that Michigan would move forward with creating a plan to meet the carbon reduction goals laid out in the CPP. It is unfortunate that the Snyder administration halted plan development when the CPP became entangled in legal battles. However, we look forward to working with the Snyder administration to ensure that Michigan continues to transition toward a cleaner energy economy.



The new bipartisan energy plan increases Michigan's renewable energy standard from 10 to 15 percent by 2021, an increase of 50 percent.

AIR QUALITY



Snyder opposed a plan by the EPA to strengthen national standards for ground-level ozone, commonly known as smog.

In a departure from our previous Governor's Report Cards, we decided to separate Governor Snyder's grade on clean energy from his grade on clean air.

The resulting A grade on energy and D+ grade on air quality reflect the differing levels of priority shown to each issue by his administration over the last two years.

In 2015, Snyder opposed a plan by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to strengthen national standards for ground-level ozone, commonly known as smog. In his letter, Governor Snyder said that adopting the proposed changes could "thwart growth in business development." Protecting the bottom lines of our state's business community does not have to come at the expense of the quality of air our children breathe every day. Smog is not only a major trigger for those suffering with asthma and other respiratory diseases, but is also a heat-trapping gas that contributes to climate change.

Additionally in 2015, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) proposed a reckless plan to completely stop monitoring and managing the use of approximately 600 untested chemicals that are released by smokestacks throughout Michigan. The proposal would have given polluters the green light to emit these chemicals without any assurance to

local families that the air was safe to breathe. Amid the repercussions of the Flint water crisis, the DEQ scrapped this proposal, acknowledging that the health risks were significant enough to warrant greater caution.

Soon after that, the Snyder administration helped rein in harmful air pollution from the Marathon Oil Refinery in Southwest Detroit. In a permit application to the DEQ, Marathon initially proposed adding 22 additional tons of sulfur dioxide to the air each year in an area already out of compliance with federal air protection for unsafe levels of sulfur dioxide. After negotiations between Marathon, the DEQ, the residents of the surrounding

communities, and the city of Detroit, Marathon agreed to voluntary measures that will reduce emissions overall.

While these recent actions perhaps hint at a newfound commitment to keeping our communities safe from air pollution, the Snyder administration will ultimately need to take a much more comprehensive approach in the years ahead. Considering strong signals from President Trump that he intends to significantly rollback many of our nation's environmental protections, it will be imperative that the State of Michigan takes more seriously its job of ensuring clean air for our communities going forward.

KEY DECISIONS

03 / 11 / 16

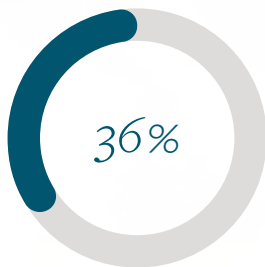
DEQ Failed to Submit a State Implementation Plan on Sulfur Dioxide Levels in Southeast Michigan

04 / 04 / 16

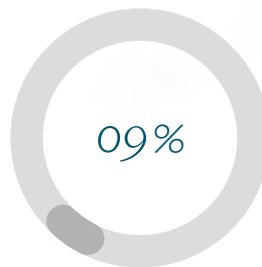
DEQ Updated Permitting Rules, Rejected Calls to Reduce Oversight of Toxic Emissions

05 / 27 / 16

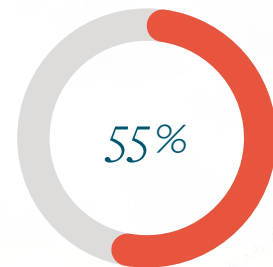
DEQ Approved Changes to Marathon Refinery's Sulfur Dioxide Emissions



POSITIVE DECISIONS

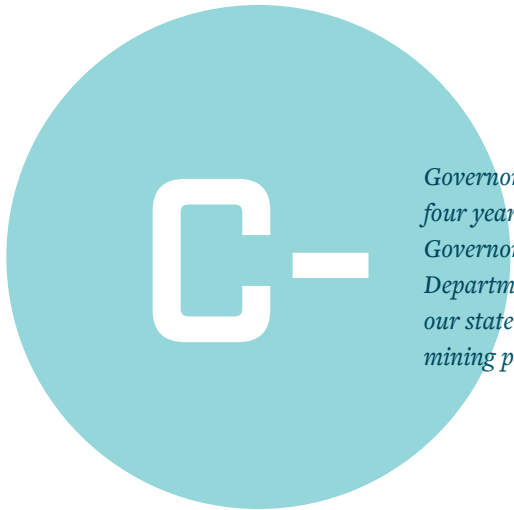


NEUTRAL DECISIONS



NEGATIVE DECISIONS

PUBLIC LANDS



Governor Snyder scored an average C- on land conservation during his first four years, and so far that trend has continued in his second term. While the Governor has consistently advocated for responsible funding levels for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, his record on land conservation and protecting our state parks has been marred by several high-profile approvals of controversial mining projects that threaten the integrity of ecologically sensitive public lands.

KEY DECISIONS

04 / 15 / 15

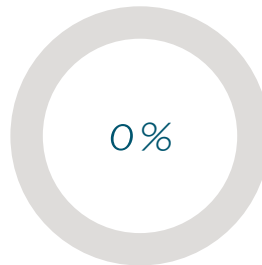
DNR Approved Application for Mining Operation on Public Lands

02 / 07 / 17

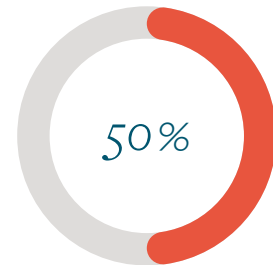
DNR Approved Exploratory Copper Mining in Porcupine Mountains



POSITIVE DECISIONS



NEUTRAL DECISIONS



NEGATIVE DECISIONS

Michigan is home to one of the largest state park and forest networks in the country. Protecting our public land is part of our way of life and a promise to future generations that the same sand dunes and shorelines will be here for them to enjoy. Unfortunately, Governor Snyder has not been a reliable partner in upholding critical protections for our remarkable natural areas.

Over the last two years, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has approved a number of controversial mining proposals in the Upper Peninsula. First came the approval

Just a few short weeks later, the DNR approved a new sulfide mining lease on a 40-acre parcel of public land along the Yellow Dog River, which flows into Lake Superior and is a federally designated Wild and Scenic River. When exposed to air or water, sulfide ore creates sulfuric acid which can easily contaminate nearby waterways and groundwater, damage wildlife and their habitat, and harm human health.

Additionally, recent approval of exploratory mining in Porcupine Mountains State Park has been a particularly ominous development,


Over the last two years, the Michigan DNR has approved a number of controversial mining proposals in the Upper Peninsula.

of the largest sale of public land in Michigan history. This resulted in the creation of a vast 13,000-acre limestone mine, including 1,806 acres of surface rights on land managed by the state and 7,026 acres of mineral rights under additional public lands. Construction and operation of this large-scale mine pose significant risks to the ecological health of large tracts of critical continuous forest land and fragile wetlands.

doing little to assuage concerns going forward about Governor Snyder and his administration's priorities when it comes to protecting and preserving our parks and public lands.

GREAT LAKES & MICHIGAN WATERS





Governor Snyder's grade for dealing with issues facing our Great Lakes and Michigan waterways rose to a C from the disappointing F that he received at the tail-end of his first term. While a definite improvement, he is still not receiving marks as high as one would like to see from the governor of the Great Lakes State.

Governor Snyder has seen consistently underwhelming grades in this category largely because he has not been willing to make some of the tough decisions that need to be made for the long-term health of our lakes and waterways.

Given that the Great Lakes State is surrounded by 80 percent of our nation's fresh water, our leaders need to live up to the responsibility of protecting this incredible resource for current and future generations. Six years into his administration and Governor Snyder still has not stepped up to the plate in a way that will ensure the long-term protection of our state's incredible freshwater resources.

Throughout the Great Lakes Basin, excessive runoff pollution, primarily from agricultural fields, has created conditions for toxic algae to prosper in our waterways. Lake Erie has been particularly hard hit with toxic algae, contaminating drinking water supplies, closing beaches, and even creating ecological dead zones in one of our Great Lakes. But it's not just Lake Erie. Many of our inland lakes, from Lake Macatawa to Torch Lake have suffered from the spread of toxic algae.

Promising steps to address the Lake Erie water issue were taken in the summer of 2015 with Governor Snyder pushing for and signing a collaborative agreement with Ohio and Ontario. This agreement called for a 40 percent reduction in phosphorous levels within the next decade. However, the Snyder administration's plan so far appears largely symbolic as it relies on ineffective voluntary programs to address runoff pollution from the agricultural sector. While the current

plan falls short of the mark, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) took a significant step forward in late 2016 when it listed Lake Erie as impaired under the Clean Water Act. In doing so, the state took a key step to publicly recognize the severity of the lake's problems.

Governor Snyder does deserve praise for his administration's proactive opposition to factory fish farms. If commercial fish farms were to be established in the Great Lakes, we would see thousands of pounds of concentrated fish waste dumped directly into our waterways with severe consequences for the lakes' long-term health and our state's economy. Governor Snyder's administration found that open water fish farms on the Great Lakes would create significant environmental risks and generate little benefit for the state—creating just 17 new jobs and threatening many thousands more in the tourism and recreation industries alone.

KEY DECISIONS

01 / 14 / 16

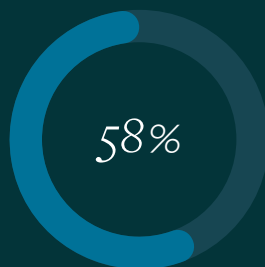
DEQ Released Toxic Algae & Lake Erie Implementation Plan

03 / 10 / 16

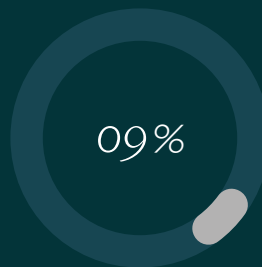
Michigan Agencies Came Out Against Great Lakes Fish Farming

11 / 10 / 16

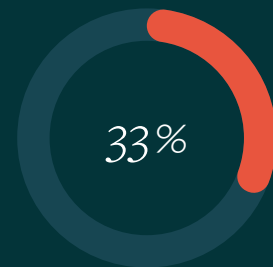
DEQ Added Lake Erie to List of Impaired Waters



POSITIVE DECISIONS



NEUTRAL DECISIONS



NEGATIVE DECISIONS

WASTE & RECYCLING

B

Governor Snyder improved his record on waste and recycling, moving from a C during his first term to a B for the first half of his second term. Positive action on statewide recycling efforts boosted his performance, but he missed the mark when he failed to protect the power of local governments to implement local recycling solutions to suit their own communities.

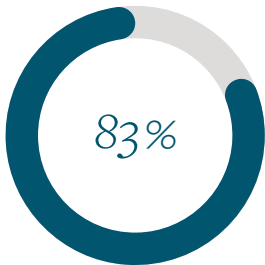
KEY DECISIONS

03 / 29 / 16

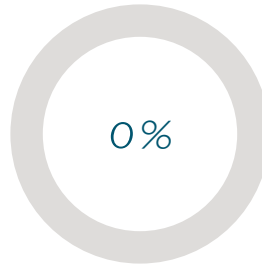
Governor Snyder Signed Legislation that Creates a Data Collection System for Recycling Programs

12 / 30 / 16

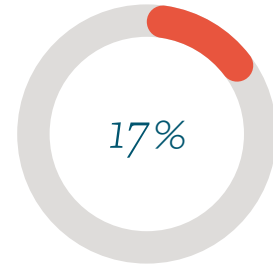
Lt. Governor Calley Signed Legislation that Blocked Local Ability to Regulate Single-use Plastic Bags



POSITIVE DECISIONS



NEUTRAL DECISIONS

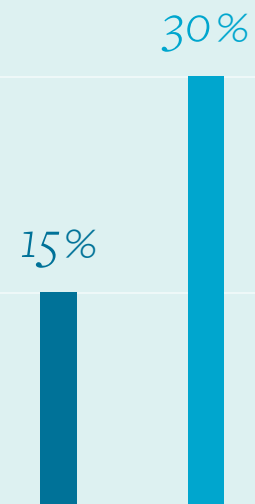


NEGATIVE DECISIONS

During his first term, Governor Snyder proposed doubling Michigan's recycling rate for household solid waste.

During his first term, Governor Snyder proposed doubling Michigan's recycling rate for household solid waste and set his administration to work developing a plan to get the job done. The plan is to include strategies for reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills as well as development of new, lucrative markets for recycled goods. The results of the plan were not released until after this *Report Card* went to print; however, preliminarily, the plan is a good step and his administration also deserves credit for securing funding to get the program off the ground. Governor Snyder's work with the Legislature to create a data collection system for recycling efforts in Michigan sets the state up for long-term improvements in our recycling rates by establishing a baseline of information with which to drive decisions going forward.

Unfortunately, Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley gave his seal of approval to a counter-productive law that prevents local communities from banning or restricting single-use plastic bags. Given Governor Snyder's ambitious recycling goals, it is painfully ironic that this action undermined local efforts to deal with plastic bag waste and will result in increased costs for recycling plants. Recyclers cite single-use plastic bags as a consistent driver to disruption of their operations. Washtenaw County reports that disruptions by plastic bags constitute a full 25% of mechanical problems at the County's recycling facilities.



In an effort to double Michigan's current recycling rate of 15 percent, a bill was signed into law that created a statewide data collection system to accurately track recycling programs and recycled material.

APPOINTMENTS



Governor Snyder's record on appointments held steady at a C+. This score reflects a series of mixed decisions about who he put at the helm for key posts on conservation, environmental, and energy issues.

Following the resignation of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Director in the wake of the Flint water crisis, Michigan LCV joined with leading environmental, conservation, and public health organizations across the state to call on Governor Snyder to appoint a new DEQ Director with a strong background in environmental and public health issues. We urged him to hire someone who would recommit the agency to making decisions based upon concern for public health, respect for science, and enforcement of existing law.

When Governor Snyder appointed Heidi Grether to the post in early 2016, the decision was met by widespread indignation and concern due to her years of experience working as an oil industry lobbyist and public relations expert in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon disaster. However, at her appointment hearing, Grether

stated unequivocally, "This is not a job of public relations. It's about protecting the environment and human health. [Rebuilding trust] will come from all of our deeds and by being stewards of our environment ... words alone will not get us there."

Knowing that actions speak louder than words, Michigan LCV has worked closely with Director Grether over the past year to ensure that she lives up to that commitment. While not always making decisions we agree with, she has taken her responsibility to comply with environmental and public health standards seriously, and has offered important course corrections on a number of ill-considered policies. We remain committed to working with Director Grether in the years ahead as she leads and rebuilds this vitally important department, and we hope that she continues to prove her critics wrong.

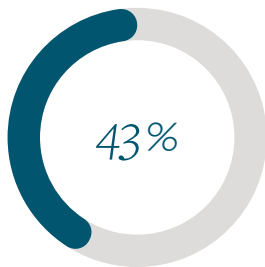
KEY DECISIONS

01 / 04 / 16

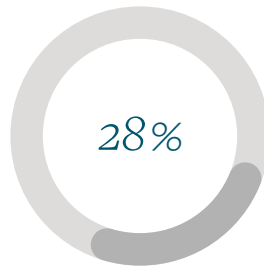
Governor Snyder Appoints Sally Talberg as Chairwoman of the Public Service Commission

07 / 14 / 16

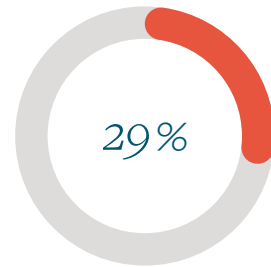
Governor Snyder Appointed Heidi Grether as DEQ Director



POSITIVE DECISIONS



NEUTRAL DECISIONS



NEGATIVE DECISIONS

OUR SCORING SYSTEM

Since day one of Governor Snyder's first term, MLCV has tracked every action taken by his administration that impacts the environment.

Our online accountability tool, *How Green is Your Governor?*, compiles all of the actions of the Snyder administration—bill vetoes, appointments, executive orders, speeches, permit approvals and denials—and assigns each one a score of either positive, neutral, or negative.

In 2015, we released our *2013-2014 Governor's Report Card*. Drawing on actions over the second half of the Governor's first term, the *Report Card* provided an assessment of how the Governor performed in individual categories, such as Land Conservation and Water. Two years later, our new edition of the *Governor's Report Card* grades the Governor on environmental decisions made throughout the first half of this second term.

To create the 2015 - 2016 edition of our *Governor's Report Card* we reviewed every *How Green is Your Governor?* action from January 2015 through early January 2017 and assigned each a point weight—from 1 to 4—based on its environmental impact. From there, we calculated a score for each action, multiplying the weight by +1, 0.5, or 0 for a positive, neutral, or negative action, respectively.

We categorized the actions by issue area and then summed up the total points possible for each action in each issue category and the total score received. We calculated a raw percentage ranging from 0 percent to 100 for each issue category by dividing the total score by the total points. We shifted the raw percentage score using a multiplier into the percentage grade scale that corresponds with letter grading systems. We then assigned the corresponding letter grade (A through F) to the percentage category grade.

We have included appendices at the end of the *Governor's Report Card* with every categorized action, and a table explaining how the actions were weighted.

SCORING KEY

Summaries of each action with the accompanying score can be found at: michiganlcv.org/reportcard

KEY OF WEIGHTED ACTIONS

The first step in creating the *Governor's Report Card* is to assign a weight to every *How Green is Your Governor?* action, based on its environmental impact. At Michigan LCV, we weighed each action in the following appendix on a scale from one to four using the system below:

- 1 ●
Little Impact: Unlikely to affect Michigan's environment to a great extent. The impact that it has will probably be localized.
- 2 ●●
Moderate Impact: Will affect certain facets of Michigan's environment, but impacts will probably be minimal.
- 3 ●●●
Extensive Impact: Will affect several facets of Michigan's environment and will change the status quo. Will create visible changes in Michigan's environment.
- 4 ●●●●
Highest Impact: Will affect most, if not all, facets of Michigan's environment. These decisions have such a great impact that they could alter the environment, and the role it plays in Michigan's economy, on a statewide scale.

SCORING APPENDIX

- 28 Flint Water Crisis
- 32 Clean Energy
- 34 Air Quality
- 36 Public Lands
- 38 Great Lakes & Michigan Waters
- 42 Waste & Recycling
- 43 Appointments

FLINT WATER CRISIS | ALL ACTIONS

01 / 02 / 15

Administration Bought Bottled Water for Government Offices in Flint | Flint water is found to be in violation of the Safe Drinking Water Act because of the level of total trihalomethanes (TTHM), in the water. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) some types of TTHMs are possible carcinogens for humans. In response, Governor Snyder's administration started buying bottled water for its employees at government offices, but not for Flint residents.

01 / 12 / 15

Flint Emergency Manager Rejects Offer to Reconnect to Detroit Water System | Gubernatorial appointed Emergency Manager Darnell Early turned down an offer from Detroit Water and Sewer Department to reconnect Flint to Detroit's water system.

02 / 11 / 15

Governor Snyder Issued Executive Order Cutting Funding for Drinking Water Infrastructure, State Parks, and Trails | Governor Snyder issued an executive order that cut nearly \$103 million in current year spending as part of a larger plan to address the State's budget shortfall. The executive order decreased funding for the Water Pollution Control and Drinking Water Revolving Fund by \$2.75 million and cut \$1.5 million from programs dedicated to supporting Michigan's state parks and trail system.

02 / 11 / 15

Governor Snyder Proposed Cutting Funds for the DEQ in Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget | Governor Snyder proposed cutting funding for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) by \$14.7 million in his FY 2015-2016 budget recommendations. The proposed budget would reduce state match funding for the Drinking Water Revolving Fund, which provides resources for local governments to make much-needed infrastructure improvements to their drinking water systems.

02 / 27 / 15

DEQ Claimed that Flint Water has Corrosion Control | In response to United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) questions, the DEQ claimed incorrectly that Flint has an optimized corrosion control program.

04 / 24 / 15

State Notified EPA about Lack of Corrosion Control at Flint Drinking Water Plant Long after Switch to Flint River | After the City of Flint had already made the switch to the Flint River as its source of drinking water, the DEQ notified the EPA that Flint did not have corrosion control treatment in place at the Flint Water Treatment Plant. Despite that notification and residents' complaints about the quality of the water, the Administration did not step in to switch Flint water back to the Detroit system nor warn residents about the potential for lead contamination from corroded pipes.

07 / 13 / 15

DEQ Publicly Claimed Flint Water not Impacted by Lead | In response to an internal memo from the EPA expressing concern about lead levels in Flint, DEQ spokesman Brad Wurfel said, "Let me start here — anyone who is concerned about lead in the drinking water in Flint can relax." Repeated denials of lead contamination from the DEQ delayed the implementation of solutions to the crisis and continued to expose Flint residents to harmful levels of lead.

08 / 20 / 15

DEQ Manipulated Flint Water Testing Results | The DEQ omitted two samples from its initial report on lead levels from the city. Manipulating the results by leaving out those two samples put the result within federally mandated levels, and allowed the DEQ to claim Flint water was safe to drink.

FLINT WATER CRISIS | ALL ACTIONS

09 / 02 / 15

DEQ Disputes Virginia Tech Findings | Virginia Tech University Researcher Marc Edwards informed the DEQ that according to his research the corrosiveness of Flint's water is leaching lead into residents' water. The DEQ disputed his findings.

10 / 16 / 15

Administration's Initial Steps to Address Flint Water Crisis | After Flint residents sounded the alarm for months, Governor Snyder and the DEQ finally acknowledged that lead levels in the city's drinking water increased, and announced plans to move Flint back to the Detroit water system. Additionally, the Snyder Administration released an action plan indicating that Flint and the State will provide free filters and water testing for Flint residents. While these steps were critical to providing relief to Flint residents and beginning the lead contamination remediation process, the Administration's slow response to the crisis in Flint was grossly inadequate, with repeated denials and efforts to discredit external research impeding swift action to address the looming public health crisis.

10 / 21 / 15

Governor Snyder Created Flint Water Advisory Task Force | Governor Snyder appointed an independent task force to examine what decisions led to the contamination of Flint's drinking water. Snyder's task force was charged with reviewing the history of all decisions relating to Flint drinking water, including practices that were implemented at the federal, state, and local levels. Additionally, they were given responsibility for providing recommendations to the Snyder Administration on laws and regulations that need to change and practices that need to take place in public water systems across the state in order to prevent a similar crisis from occurring elsewhere.

12 / 29 / 15

Governor Snyder Took Additional Steps to Address to Flint Water Crisis | Governor Snyder issued an apology, accepted the resignations of Michigan DEQ Director Dan Wyant and DEQ Public Information Officer Brad Wurfel, and declared a state of emergency for Flint and Genesee counties; all in response to delayed action by his administration to the public health crisis in Flint. Although the Governor took some immediate, necessary steps to address this crisis, the administration's delay in action, coupled with the ongoing lack of disclosure and a comprehensive, long-term plan to adequately address the drinking water crisis, led to undue, irreversible harm for the citizens of Flint.

01 / 15 / 16

Governor Snyder Created Committee for Long-term Flint Response | Faced with continued criticism for his administration's delayed response to the Flint water crisis, Governor Snyder created a 17-person, inter-agency committee, known as the Flint Water Interagency Coordinating Committee. This committee was charged with identifying solutions for the city, analyzing the effects of high lead levels, and recommending a long term action plan. According to Snyder, his intention was for this committee to be "made up of experts from the government and the Flint community... and carry on longer after the emergency declaration expires."

01 / 16 / 16

Administration's Slow Public Announcement about Spike in Legionnaires' Disease in Flint | Governor Snyder and Michigan public health officials revealed that the Flint area experienced a spike in Legionnaires' beginning in the summer of 2014, which resulted in 10 deaths in 18 months. State of Michigan officials knew that the switch in drinking water supply from Detroit to the Flint River had been identified as a potential source of Legionnaires' disease, but the residents of Flint and Genesee County were not made aware of this link until 15 months later. Legionnaires' disease is a severe, often lethal, form of pneumonia which is caused by bacteria found in water. The administration and public health officials now state that no solid evidence exists to prove that the increased levels in Legionella and the decision to use the Flint River as the city's source of drinking water were linked.

FLINT WATER CRISIS | ALL ACTIONS

01 / 19 / 16

In State of the State, Governor Snyder Failed to Outline Long Term Flint Water Solutions | Governor Snyder delivered his State of the State address with an emphasis on solutions to remedy the Flint water crisis. He began the speech by apologizing to the residents of Flint, then laid out a timeline documenting how the public health crisis happened and shared his proposed next steps. He agreed to release all of his 2014 and 2015 e-mails, and announced his intentions to request the Legislature to approved \$28 million in one-time funding for Flint. While these were steps in the right direction, this response was too little too late. The Governor failed to provide a comprehensive plan for Flint residents that were affected by this crisis, and while he claimed that the “buck stopped with him,” he repeatedly laid blame for the crisis on local officials, agency staff, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

02 / 02 / 16

Governor Snyder Signed Emergency Supplemental Funding for Flint | Governor Snyder signed a supplemental spending bill that focused on solutions to the public health crisis in the City of Flint, stating that it “would not be his last budget request for Flint.” The official supplemental appropriation was \$28.03 million, with an additional \$22.63 million coming out of the general fund. These funds were provided to support wraparound services for Flint residents, such as to hire additional school nurses and psychologists, fund healthy food options in the schools, and set up field operations for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Additional funds targeted replacement of aging infrastructure in key areas of the city and continued provision of bottled water, water filters, and replacement cartridges to residents. While more funding would be needed to fully respond to the public health crisis, it was a good first step towards healing the city of Flint and Genesee County.

03 / 21 / 16

Governor Snyder Outlined Long Term Plans to Address the Flint Crisis | Governor Snyder released a long-term action plan for Flint that included providing professional support for children under 6 who have elevated lead levels in their bodies, replacing water fixtures in public facilities, replacing the City’s lead service lines, and increasing resources for schools.

04 / 15 / 16

Governor Snyder Proposed New State Lead And Copper Rule Action Level Of 10 PPB | Governor Snyder and the Flint Water Interagency Coordinating Committee proposed that Michigan adopt a new Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) that would make Michigan’s standards more strict than federal guidelines require. In the wake of the Flint water crisis, it became clear that enforcement of Michigan’s existing LCR standards was failing Michiganders. Implementation of a more stringent LCR will help Michigan better safeguard its drinking water.

06 / 29 / 16

Governor Snyder Signed Budget that Provided Funding for Flint | Governor Snyder signed a budget that provided \$240 million to address the Flint water crisis. This included \$5.4 million for infrastructure improvements, corrosion control, water quality testing, and water service payments. \$15.1 million was dedicated to support nutritional services, lead investigations, and lead abatement. \$25 million was set aside to help the Michigan Department of Education pay for childcare and intervention for children with developmental delays.

FLINT WATER CRISIS | ALL ACTIONS

11 / 17 / 16



Administration Opposed Order to Deliver Bottled Water to Flint Residents | The Snyder Administration moved to block a federal court order requiring the State to deliver bottled water to Flint residents who didn't have properly installed and maintained water filters. In order for many Flint residents to have access to clean drinking water, they needed to pick up cases of bottled water at distribution centers. However, many residents lacked reliable transportation and found it difficult to move the heavy cases of water. As a result, U.S. District Judge David Lawson ordered state and city officials to deliver bottled water to all Flint homes, unless officials verified on a regular basis that the home had a properly installed and functioning water filter, or unless the residents declined delivery.

01 / 17 / 17



Governor Snyder Touched Briefly on Flint Water Crisis in 2017 State of the State Address | In his 2017 State of the State address, Governor Snyder talked only briefly about the Flint water crisis and the continued plight of the citizens of Flint. It took him 35 mins to mention the word "Flint," which is shocking given that it has been over 1,000 days since Flint water has been safe to drink. There were no specific plans articulated about how the State intends to move forward to ensure a more rapid response to Flint's continued crisis, nor concrete plans on the means by which to address our infrastructure challenges throughout the state. He spoke of the crisis as a dark chapter in Michigan's history and of the work that the State, federal, and local governments had done to help Flint over the past year but did not press the continued urgency of bringing clean, safe, drinking water back to the citizens of Flint.

02 / 09 / 17



State Ended Water Credits for Flint Residents and Funding for Connection to Detroit Water | After Flint's drinking water was contaminated by lead, Michigan began providing a credit to assist Flint residents with their water bill. On February 9, 2017, the city of Flint was notified that the state planned to end water credits for Flint water customers by March 1, 2017. The changes came as state officials touted improving water quality. However, city residents still did not have access to unfiltered, clean drinking water. In addition to the credits ending, the State will no longer provide funding for the city of Flint's connection to the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA), which amounts to about \$1.2 million a month.

CLEAN ENERGY | ALL ACTIONS

01 / 20 / 15

Governor Snyder Called for Energy Plan in State of the State | In Governor Snyder's 2015 State of the State address he acknowledged that Michigan needs a long-term comprehensive energy plan that includes renewable energy sources and energy efficiency. Governor Snyder started a constructive conversation about creating an energy agency to coordinate work on energy affordability and reliability while also protecting the environment.

02 / 13 / 15

Governor Snyder Delivered Message on Energy | Governor Snyder delivered a special message on energy emphasizing his three pillars of energy policy: reliability, affordability, and environmental protection. The special message called for eliminating energy waste by 15% over a 10 year period, opening up on-bill financing to all utility customers, and eliminating the spending cap on utility energy efficiency programs. It also pushed for meeting between 30% and 40% of Michigan's energy supply with a combination of renewable energy and energy efficiency by 2025. However, it did not call for increasing Michigan's standards for renewable energy or energy efficiency to ensure progress towards the 30% to 40% figures. Michigan LCV remains encouraged that the Governor released numeric goals for renewable energy and reducing energy waste. However, in the absence of clear support from the administration for increased clean energy standards, it remains unclear how the Governor plans to reach those goals.

03 / 18 / 15

Governor Snyder Issued Executive Order Creating the Michigan Agency for Energy | Governor Snyder issued an executive order creating the Michigan Agency for Energy. The new agency will house the Director of Air Policy, Michigan Energy Office, Energy Advisory Committee, and Michigan Public Service Commission. The Governor's creation of an energy agency is a step in the right direction for increased coordination and oversight of administrative work on energy policy.

09 / 01 / 15

MAE and DEQ Announced Plans to implement the Clean Power Plan | Michigan Agency for Energy (MAE) and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) announced plans to move forward with implementing the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan, which established the first-ever carbon pollution limits on existing power plants, addressing their impact on climate change. Implementation of the Clean Power Plan in Michigan would have included creating a plan to achieve a 32 percent reduction of carbon pollution by 2030, reducing pollution that contributes to respiratory diseases like asthma and curbing a significant contributor to climate change.

01 / 19 / 16

Governor Snyder Did Not Address Energy in State of the State | Governor Snyder failed to touch on energy policy in his 2016 State of the State address. Michigan's 10 percent renewable energy standard plateaued at the end of 2015, and no new comprehensive clean energy plan had been enacted to guide Michigan's energy future. Governor Snyder should have given a nod to the importance of renewable energy and energy efficiency to Michigan's clean air and economy, and pushed the Legislature to come to agreement around a new energy vision built upon our current, successful clean energy standards.

05 / 19 / 16

Governor Snyder Signed Bill Package to Increase and Improve Financing for Energy Efficiency Projects | Governor Snyder signed House Bills 4990-4994, which facilitate energy efficiency initiatives by allowing local governments to authorize an additional financing method for energy conservation projects, increase the financing period for energy conservation projects, and expand the types of energy conservation projects that qualify.

CLEAN ENERGY | ALL ACTIONS

05 / 19 / 16

Governor Snyder signed onto the Bipartisan Governors' Accord for A New Energy Future | Governor Snyder signed onto the Governor's Accord for a New Energy Future, which provides an avenue for participating states to share best practices and advance work on clean energy, energy diversification, clean transportation choices, a modern electrical grid, and planning for a new energy future. The Accord provides participating Governors with a platform through which their states can collaborate, learn from one another, and leverage partnerships in energy planning, policymaking, and attracting investments. Working with a bipartisan group of Governors to develop common goals and best practices will help move Michigan toward a clean energy future.

12 / 28 / 16

Governor Snyder Signed Bipartisan Clean Energy Package | Governor Snyder signed Senate Bills 437 and 438 into law, which strengthened our state's commitment to clean, renewable energy by increasing Michigan's renewable energy standard from the current level of 10 percent to 15 percent by 2021. The bipartisan solution for a clean energy future kept the requirement that utilities must reduce energy waste by at least 1 percent each year, and offered financial incentives to utilities for going above and beyond the 1 percent minimum requirement. This landmark legislation allowed Michigan to continue to build on our clean energy success story of creating jobs by increasing investment in our state, while saving Michiganders money and ensuring cleaner air for future generations.

AIR QUALITY | ALL ACTIONS

02 / 11 / 15

Governor Snyder Proposed Increasing Funding for Air Quality | Governor Snyder recommended an increase in the fee for Michigan's Renewable Operating Permit Program, which would assist companies with large-scale air emissions in meeting new federal air quality requirements.

03 / 02 / 15

Governor Snyder Fought Changes to Air Quality Standards | Governor Snyder wrote a letter to President Obama's administration urging them to reconsider proposed changes to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). In November 2014, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a plan to strengthen national standards for ground level ozone, commonly known as smog. The EPA's plan proposed lowering the allowable ozone standard from 75 parts per billion (ppb) to a range of 65 to 70 ppb. Smog is a major contributor to asthma and other respiratory diseases, and is also a heat-trapping gas that contributes to climate change. In his letter, Governor Snyder said that adopting the proposed changes could "thwart growth in business development," but businesses' bottom lines should not come at the expense of the quality of the air we breathe.

06 / 17 / 15

Governor Snyder Signed FY 2015-2016 Budget that Cut DEQ Funding | Governor Snyder signed the budget for fiscal year (FY) 2015-2016, which decreased funding for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) by approximately \$13.1 million; from \$514.7 to \$501.6 million.

07 / 16 / 15

DEQ Released Draft Rules to Deregulate Toxic Chemicals | The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) released a draft of rules that would significantly revise Michigan's air pollution control program, deregulating hundreds of toxic chemicals. Currently, any company that proposes emitting a toxic air contaminant must first quantify the amount of the emission, the toxicity of the chemical, and then perform a community health risk assessment that evaluates the potential impact a chemical emission may have on the nearby community. The proposed rule eliminates regulation of chemicals that have not been tested for their impacts on public health. Under this provision the DEQ could allow a chemical to be emitted without knowing if it is a human carcinogen, turning the communities located near the emitting facilities into testing grounds for potential impacts. The proposed rules also eliminated the least toxic 25 percent of chemicals from regulation, regardless of the quantity of the chemical emitted.

03 / 11 / 16

DEQ Failed to Submit a State Implementation Plan on Sulfur Dioxide Levels in Southeast Michigan | The United States Environmental Protection Agency formally designated a portion of Wayne County as a "nonattainment" area for having unsafe levels of sulfur dioxide in the air. This designation required the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to develop an air pollution abatement strategy—known as a State Implementation Plan (SIP)—that outlined how the state would reduce harmful sulfur dioxide emissions in the region. The DEQ failed to submit a SIP by the official deadline. Wayne County residents have long suffered from sulfur dioxide pollution levels that are harmful to human health. Sulfur dioxide can cause serious respiratory problems, and is especially dangerous for those most vulnerable: children, seniors, and those with respiratory illnesses.

04 / 04 / 16

DEQ Updated Permitting Rules, Rejected Calls to Reduce Oversight of Toxic Emissions | The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) rejected proposed changes to the toxic air contaminants (TACs) standards, which would have deregulated hundreds of toxic chemicals. It is vitally important that chemicals released into the air we breathe are reviewed for their potential health and environmental impacts. In light of the recent public health crisis in Flint, it was critical that the DEQ took this step and reaffirmed its commitment to safeguarding air quality for Michigan's residents.

AIR QUALITY | ALL ACTIONS

05 / 27 / 16



DEQ Approved Changes to Marathon Refinery's Sulfur Dioxide Emissions | The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) approved changes to the issuance of new air pollution permits for Marathon's Detroit refinery. Marathon initially proposed adding 22 additional tons of sulfur dioxide to the air each year; in an area that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has labeled a nonattainment area for federal air quality standards. After negotiations between Marathon, the residents of the surrounding communities, the city of Detroit, and the DEQ, Marathon agreed to voluntary measures that will reduce emissions overall. Instead of emitting the proposed additional 22 tons of sulfur dioxide each year, Marathon will reduce their emissions of sulfur dioxide by 71 tons each year under the new permit.

05 / 31 / 16



DEQ Submitted State Implementation Plan for Sulfur Dioxide in Southeast Michigan | Although submitted past the initial deadline, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) submitted its plan to reduce sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions in southern Wayne County to the United States Environmental Protection Agency as required under the Clean Air Act. The State Implementation Plan (SIP) required four industrial sources in the area to make substantial reductions in SO₂ dioxide emissions during the next 2.5 years.

06 / 29 / 16



Governor Snyder Signed Budget that Cut DEQ Funding | Governor Snyder signed the fiscal year (FY) 2016 - 2017 budget, which cut \$14.7 million from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

12 / 30 / 16



Governor Snyder Signed Legislation to Establish a 9 Month Delay in the Rulemaking Process | Governor Snyder signed Senate Bill 962 into law, which changed to the process by which administrative rules are created and established a 9 month delay in the rulemaking process. Rule-making in Michigan takes on average 500 days. This provision added an unnecessary, additional delay on an already lengthy process, and undermined the ability of state agencies to fulfill their regulatory duties including promulgation of rules critical to protecting our environment.

02 / 08 / 17



Governor Snyder Proposed Increasing FY 2017 - 2018 DEQ Funding | Governor Snyder delivered his Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) budget recommendation for the 2017 - 2018 fiscal year, which saw an increase from the previous year's budget. The Governor's proposed budget recommended total funding of \$510.8 million, of which \$51.3 million was general fund. The Executive Budget Recommendation highlighted the Governor's focus on protecting Michigan's water quality, promoting redevelopment of contaminated sites, safeguarding human health and the environment, and supporting compliance assistance to minimize environmental risks.

PUBLIC LANDS | ALL ACTIONS

02 / 11 / 15



Governor Snyder Issued Executive Order Cutting Funding for Water Quality, State Parks, and Trails | Governor Snyder issued an executive order that cut nearly \$103 million in current year spending as part of a larger plan to address the State's budget shortfall. The executive order decreased funding for the Water Pollution Control and Drinking Water Revolving Fund by \$2.75 million and cut \$1.5 million from programs dedicated to supporting Michigan's state parks and trail system.

02 / 11 / 15



Governor Snyder Proposed Increasing FY 2015-2016 DNR Funding | Governor Snyder delivered his budget recommendation for the 2015-2016 fiscal year, which recommended increasing funding for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) by \$4.8 million. The proposed increase in funding would have put \$500,000 toward the Local Public Recreation Facilities Fund, which provides grants for local communities to improve recreation opportunities. The Governor also proposed a \$2.2 million increase in funding for the restoration, conservation, and management of wildlife habitat.

03 / 19 / 15



DNR Approved the Graymont Mining Operation on Public Lands | Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Director, Keith Creagh, approved the Graymont limestone land exchange application. Under the final deal, which is the largest public land sale in Michigan history, Graymont—a Canadian mining company—purchased 1,806 acres of land, 7,026 acres of mineral rights, and acquired an additional 830 acres of state-owned land through a land exchange. Creagh's approval was the green light Graymont needed to construct a vast 13,000 acre limestone mine operation in the Upper Peninsula. Construction and operation of the large-scale mine poses huge risks to large tracts of critical continuous forest land and fragile wetlands.

04 / 15 / 15



DNR Approved Application for Mining Operation on Public Lands | The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) approved Eagle Mine's application for a mineral lease on a 40-acre parcel of public land along the Yellow Dog River, which is a federally designated Wild and Scenic River. The parcel is home to recreational trails and endangered species. DNR's approval of the permit made a nationally renowned river and ecologically significant area open to mining activity that has the potential to cause permanent damage.

06 / 17 / 15



Governor Snyder Signed FY 2015-2016 Budget that Increased DNR Funding | Governor Snyder signed the budget for fiscal year (FY) 2015-2016, which increased funding for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) by \$23.1 million; from \$356.1 to \$379.2 million.

02 / 10 / 16



Governor Snyder Proposed Cutting FY 2016 - 2017 DNR Budget | Governor Snyder delivered his Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) budget recommendation for fiscal year 2016-2017, which recommended total funding of \$397.9 million, of which \$39.6 million is general fund. This equated to a roughly 3% cut to the DNR, reducing its ability to proactively steward Michigan's precious natural resources.

06 / 29 / 16



Governor Snyder Signed FY 2016 - 2017 Budget that Increased DNR Funding | Governor Snyder signed the fiscal year (FY) 2016 - 2017 budget, which increased funding to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) by \$10.3 million, from \$379.2 to \$389.5 million.

PUBLIC LANDS | ALL ACTIONS

02 / 07 / 17



DNR Approved Exploratory Copper Mining in Porcupine Mountains | The Michigan Department of Natural Resources issued a permit to Highland Copper, a Canadian copper mining company, for exploratory drilling in Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park. Porcupine Mountains, Michigan's largest state park, stretches across 60,000 acres of the western Upper Peninsula and offers miles of hiking and biking trails with views of the mountains and of Lake Superior. It was recently hailed as an outdoor recreation gem by national media outlets. The permit allowed the company to drill 12 mining exploration holes within park boundaries. If sufficient copper ore is found under the parkland, Highland will conduct another feasibility study and would access the ore from adjacent land outside the park through underground tunnels.

02 / 08 / 17



Governor Snyder Proposed Increasing FY 2017-2018 DNR Funding | Governor Snyder delivered his Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) budget recommendation for the 2017 - 2018 fiscal year, which saw an increase from the previous year's budget. The Governor's proposed budget recommended total funding of \$416.4 million, of which \$64 million was general fund. The budget recommendation highlighted the Governor's focus on conservation, protection, management, accessible use, and enjoyment of our state's natural and cultural resources.

GREAT LAKES & MICHIGAN WATERS | ALL ACTIONS

02 / 11 / 15

Governor Snyder Issued Executive Order Cutting Funding for Drinking Water Infrastructure, State Parks, and Trails | Governor Snyder issued an executive order that cut nearly \$103 million in current year spending as part of a larger plan to address the State's budget shortfall. The executive order decreased funding for the Water Pollution Control and Drinking Water Revolving Fund by \$2.75 million and cut \$1.5 million from programs dedicated to supporting Michigan's state parks and trail system.

02 / 11 / 15

Governor Snyder Proposed Cutting Funds for the DEQ In Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget | Governor Snyder proposed cutting funding for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) by \$14.7 million in his FY 2015-2016 budget recommendations. The proposed budget would reduce state match funding for the Drinking Water Revolving Fund, which provides resources for local governments to make much-needed infrastructure improvements to their drinking water systems.

03 / 27 / 15

DEQ Approved Permit for Groundwater Discharge for Mining Operation | The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) granted a permit renewal for groundwater discharge at Eagle Mine, a sulfide mining operation near Lake Superior in the Upper Peninsula. Eagle Mine's original discharge permit expired in 2013. The renewed permit included several changes, including increasing the total discharge volume to 504,000 gallons of waste water per day, despite the fact that levels of dangerous chemicals like vanadium and uranium have increased in the groundwater surrounding Eagle Mine. While the renewed permit required additional water testing and added new provisions for investigating elevated concentrations of pollution, it did not directly or sufficiently address chemicals like uranium, vanadium, copper, molybdenum, silver, lead, and arsenic that are already present in surrounding lakes, rivers, and streams.

05 / 04 / 15

DEQ Released Updated Permit Regulations for CAFOs | The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) released the 2015 version of the general permit for concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). The CAFO permit established standards and practices to avoid harmful discharges of livestock manure and other pollutants into Michigan waterways. Michigan LCV and partner organizations called on the DEQ to ban the application of manure on frozen fields, which poses a high risk for runoff because frozen ground cannot take up the manure, leading to snow melt during spring thaws that carry the waste into nearby streams and rivers. The new CAFO permit did not ban frozen field application, but the DEQ did take a small step to impose application restrictions on non-CAFO owners that buy and take manure waste from CAFOs.

06 / 13 / 15

Governor Snyder, Governor Kasich of Ohio & Premier Wynne of Ontario Pledged to Address Aquatic Invasive Species | Governor Snyder signed a pledge to increase collaboration with Ohio and Ontario in the fight against the spread of invasive species. The pledge included the launch of a pilot project to test collaborative methods to better combat aquatic invasive species.

06 / 17 / 15

Governor Snyder Signed FY 2015-2016 Budget that Cut DEQ Funding | Governor Snyder signed the budget for fiscal year (FY) 2015-2016, which decreased funding for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) by approximately \$13.1 million; from \$514.7 to \$501.6 million.

GREAT LAKES & MICHIGAN WATERS | ALL ACTIONS

09 / 03 / 15

Governor Snyder Issued Executive Order Establishing Pipeline Safety Advisory Board | Governor Snyder issued an executive order establishing a fifteen member Pipeline Safety Advisory Board and announced an agreement with Enbridge Energy Co., which prohibited the transport of heavy crude through Line 5 running under the Straits of Mackinac. The advisory board consists of members of the public and representatives from state agencies, industry, and environmental and conservation groups, and is charged with advising state agencies on pipeline routing, construction, operation, and maintenance as well as increasing transparency and public oversight of existing pipeline infrastructure. Establishing the Board and reaching a binding agreement on heavy crude transport are both good first steps to enacting two of the recommendations outlined in a report on Line 5 issued in July 2015 by a special Michigan Petroleum Pipeline Task Force. However, given the risk that Line 5 poses to the Straits, more action should be taken as soon as possible to fully protect Michigan's environment and economy from oil spills

01 / 14 / 16

DEQ Released Toxic Algae & Lake Erie Implementation Plan | The Lake Erie Implementation Plan was created to outline the actions that Michigan will take to combat the toxic algae plaguing Lake Erie. The purpose was to develop an action plan that would reduce phosphorus—the main driver fueling the growth of toxic algal blooms—into Lake Erie by 40 percent by 2025. However, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) failed to outline in their plan how Michigan will reduce runoff pollution from the agricultural sector, and failed to account for needed reductions in dissolved reactive phosphorus. Michigan needs new strategies to solve a chronic problem that continues to threaten the health of thousands of Michiganders who depend on Lake Erie as their drinking water supply.

01 / 19 / 16

State of the State - Aging Infrastructure and Infrastructure Commission | In his 2016 State of the State address, Governor Snyder started a discussion that highlighted Michigan's aging infrastructure and the challenges it poses for our state. In addition to the Flint water crisis, Governor Snyder also pointed to critical issues like the Line 5 pipeline in the Straits of Mackinac, energy infrastructure, and sewer water overflows. Additionally, the Governor created an infrastructure commission to study what upgrades are needed and to make recommendations for how to fund needed infrastructure projects.

02 / 10 / 16

Governor Snyder Proposed FY 2016 - 2017 DEQ Budget Focused on Water Quality | Governor Snyder delivered his Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) budget recommendation for the 2016-2017 fiscal year (FY), which recommended total funding of \$513.5 million, of which \$47.7 million was general fund. His proposed budget focused on water quality and included funding for Flint and environmental stewardship.

03 / 10 / 16

Michigan Agencies Came Out Against Great Lakes Fish Farming | The Michigan Departments of Natural Resources, Environmental Quality, and Agriculture and Rural Development released a report with a recommendation against pursuing commercial fish farming in the Great Lakes. The agencies concluded that such facilities pose significant environmental risks, are not legally authorized, and would generate little revenue for the state, creating only 17 new jobs.

03 / 31 / 16

Governor Snyder Created 21st Century Infrastructure Commission | Governor Snyder created the 21st Century Infrastructure Commission, which was charged with identifying long-term strategies to help ensure Michigan's infrastructure remains safe and efficient, now and into the future. Serving as an advisory body within the Executive Office, the Commission was responsible for presenting an infrastructure assessment and recommendations by November 30, 2016.

GREAT LAKES & MICHIGAN WATERS | ALL ACTIONS

06 / 07 / 16

Governor Snyder Vetoed Bill Changing Fees for Constructing Private Harbors | Governor Rick Snyder vetoed Senate Bill 363, which would have decreased the cost of leasing unpatented lake bottomlands to \$10 if the shorefront property owner wanted to install a breakwater to create a private, non-commercial harbor. Although the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has the authority to determine whether or not to grant a lease to an applicant, Governor Snyder was concerned that “the fees reduced by the bill will adversely impact the DEQ’s ability to process permits in the timely manner we have come to expect.”

06 / 21 / 16

Governor Snyder Approved Waukesha Water Diversion from Lake Michigan | Governor Rick Snyder joined seven Great Lakes Governors and Premiers in approving Waukesha’s application to draw water from Lake Michigan. Waukesha is now the first community that lies outside of the Great Lakes Basin to be approved for a water diversion under the Great Lakes Compact. Conditions were added to Waukesha’s application before the approval was finalized, including that water withdrawn by Waukesha must be treated and returned to the basin.

06 / 29 / 16

Governor Snyder Signed FY 2016 - 2017 Budget that Cut DEQ Funding | Governor Snyder signed the fiscal year (FY) 2016 - 2017 budget, which cut \$14.7 million from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

07 / 12 / 16

Michigan Required Alternatives and Risk Assessments for Line 5 | The Snyder Administration selected two contractors to assess the spill risk of Enbridge’s Line 5 pipeline under the Straits of Mackinac and examine alternatives for moving the flow of oil out of the Great Lakes. The owner of the pipelines, Enbridge Energy Company Inc., agreed to pay the full cost of the studies regardless of the findings. The assessments are expected to be completed in the summer of 2017 and are intended to help state officials make decisions about the future of the pipelines.

10 / 03 / 16

DEQ Issued Permits to Enbridge to Install Additional Anchoring supports on Line 5 | The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued a permit to Enbridge to install four additional helical anchoring support structures on Line 5. These supports were proposed to increase the soundness of the pipeline and to bring Enbridge into compliance with their easement, which required that exposed portions of the pipeline be anchored and/or supported with a minimum distance of 75 feet between supports. Enbridge applied for the permit after inspections showed that some of the supports for the line had shifted and it did not meet requirements.

10 / 18 / 16

DEQ Released Final Part of Michigan’s Water Strategy | The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ): Office of the Great Lakes released the final part of Michigan’s Water Strategy. The Water Strategy charted a 30 year vision for the management, protection, and use of Michigan’s water resources. It is an important first step to outlining solid recommendations that prioritize the protection and smart use of Michigan’s clean water.

GREAT LAKES & MICHIGAN WATERS | ALL ACTIONS

11 / 10 / 16



DEQ Added Lake Erie to List of Impaired Waters | The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) listed Michigan's portion of the Western Basin of Lake Erie as impaired under the federal Clean Water Act. This designation opened the door to stronger protections, enforcement measures, and opportunities for state, regional, and federal efforts to address the chronic, toxic algae blooms in Lake Erie. In light of the Toledo Water shutoffs in 2014 and the Flint water crisis, protecting the Great Lakes and our drinking water should be of top priority for every one of Michigan's leaders.

12 / 20 / 16



DEQ Issued Emergency Rules to Establish Safer Dioxane Standards | The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issued emergency rules to establish stricter 1.4 dioxane standards in the State of Michigan. These rules were issued primarily in response to outcry from local officials and citizens in Ann Arbor who have been requesting action for years as a toxic plume of dioxane spread through the area's groundwater. The new rules set the allowable level of dioxane in residential drinking water at 7.2 parts per billion (ppb); down from 85 ppb, a level that United States Environmental Protection Agency data from 2010 showed was not protective of public health.

12 / 30 / 16



Governor Snyder Signed Legislation to Establish a 9 Month Delay in the Rulemaking Process | Governor Snyder signed Senate Bill 962 into law, which changed the process by which administrative rules are created and established a 9 month delay in the rulemaking process. Rule-making in Michigan takes on average 500 days. This provision added an unnecessary, additional delay on an already lengthy process, and undermined the ability of state agencies to fulfill their regulatory duties including timely promulgation of rules critical to protecting our environment.

01 / 10 / 17



Governor Snyder Signed Legislation Requiring Alternative Water Supply for Residents Following Water Contamination | Governor Snyder signed Senate Bill 950 into law. The legislation—which was prompted by residential well water contamination from the former federal Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda—required that the Armed Services conduct long-term monitoring on the substances of concern and publish the results of the testing. If monitoring shows that residential wells are affected by a contaminant, then the Armed Forces must provide an alternative water supply for those affected.

02 / 03 / 17



Governor Snyder Authorized Opening of Disaster Fund For Macomb Sinkhole | Governor Rick Snyder authorized the opening of the State's Disaster and Emergency Contingency Fund to aid communities affected by the sewer collapse and resulting sinkhole in Macomb County. In doing this, Governor Snyder made state resources of up to \$100,000 available to impacted local governments to help aid recovery efforts.

02 / 08 / 17



Governor Snyder Proposed Increasing FY 2017 - 2018 DEQ Funding | Governor Snyder delivered his Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) budget recommendation for the 2017 - 2018 fiscal year, which saw an increase from the previous year's budget. The Governor's proposed budget recommended total funding of \$510.8 million, of which \$51.3 million was general fund. The Executive Budget Recommendation highlighted the Governor's focus on protecting Michigan's water quality, promoting redevelopment of contaminated sites, safeguarding human health and the environment, and supporting compliance assistance to minimize environmental risks.

WASTE MANAGEMENT & RECYCLING | ALL ACTIONS

02 / 11 / 15



Governor Snyder Proposed \$1 Million for Recycling Initiative in FY 2015-2016 | Governor Snyder recommended \$1 million of general fund dollars to support the statewide recycling initiative in Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget recommendation.

06 / 17 / 15



Governor Snyder Signed FY 2015-2016 Budget that Includes Funding for Recycling | Governor Snyder signed a budget that included general fund dollars to support the statewide recycling initiative.

02 / 10 / 16



Governor Snyder Proposed Continued Funding for Recycling | Governor Snyder's budget recommendation for the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality included continuation of funding to support the statewide recycling initiative.

03 / 29 / 16



Governor Snyder Signed Legislation that Creates a Data Collection System for Recycling Programs | In 2015, Governor Snyder announced new recycling initiatives that would update Michigan's tracking systems, offer more local recycling programs, and increase public education about recycling. In an effort to have Michigan double its current recycling rate of 15 percent, he signed a bill into law that created a statewide data collection system so that Michigan can accurately track recycling programs and recycled material.

06 / 29 / 16



Governor Snyder Signed Budget that Includes Funding for Recycling | Governor Snyder signed a budget that included the continuation of general fund dollars to support the statewide recycling initiative.

12 / 30 / 16



Lt. Governor Calley Signed Legislation that Blocked Local Ability to Regulate Single-use Plastic Bags | Lt. Governor Calley signed Senate Bill 853 into law, which eliminated the authority of local governments to adopt or enforce ordinances that restrict, ban, or impose a usage fee on plastic bags and other disposable food and merchandise containers. Local ordinances that ban or regulate single use plastic bags are an important tool that has been shown to reduce costs associated with disposal and litter clean up that local governments bear, while encouraging the transition to reusable bags and containers. The signing of this legislation was especially glaring given a new study that exposed over 21 million pounds of plastic that flow into the Great Lakes each year.

APPOINTMENTS | ALL ACTIONS

08 / 02 / 15

Governor Snyder Appointed Norman Saari to the Public Service Commission | Governor Snyder appointed Norman J. Saari to the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC). The MPSC is responsible for ensuring safe, reliable, and accessible energy and telecommunications services at reasonable rates for Michigan's residents. Commissioner Saari served for 20 years as the Executive Director of Governmental Affairs for Consumers Energy Company. During the confirmation process, Saari's deep ties to a utility the he would have the job of regulating as a Commissioner raised concerns of bias and a lack of impartiality. He will serve a 6 year term that expires on July 2, 2021.

12 / 11 / 15

Governor Snyder Reappointed Rex Schlaybaugh to the Natural Resource Commission | Governor Snyder reappointed Rex Schlaybaugh to the Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC), which is responsible for programs and policies that protect our public lands and allow Michigan citizens to access and enjoy our state's natural resources. At the time of his appointment, Schlaybaugh was Chairman Emeritus at Dykema Law Firm where he was a member for 38 years, and previously served as CEO. Schlaybaugh is an avid angler with connections to multiple conservation organizations and has served on many civic boards throughout his life. He will serve a four year term that will expire on December 31, 2019.

12 / 11 / 15

Governor Snyder Reappointed Vicki Pontz to the Natural Resource Commission | Governor Snyder reappointed Vicki Pontz to the Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC), which is responsible for programs and policies that protect our public lands and allow Michigan citizens to access and enjoy our state's natural resources. At the time of her appointment, Pontz was Director of the Great Lakes Leadership Academy, and previously served as Director of the Environmental Stewardship Division at the Michigan Department of Agriculture. She received her graduate degree from Michigan State University's Natural Resource and Environmental Leadership Institute. She will serve a four year term that will expire on December 31, 2019.

12 / 30 / 15

Governor Snyder Appointed Keith Creagh Interim DEQ Director | Governor Snyder named the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) director Keith Creagh as the interim head of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Creagh assumed the interim DEQ Director position after Dan Wyant offered his resignation in the aftermath of the Flint water crisis. Creagh had served as Director of the DNR since July 2012, and prior to that served as the Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Creagh brought knowledge of land conservation and agency administration to his new position at the DEQ, but did not add any specific public health or water quality expertise, which was sorely needed given the DEQ's negligence in addressing poisoned tap water in the City of Flint.

01 / 04 / 16

Governor Snyder Appoints Sally Talberg as Chairwoman of the Public Service Commission | Governor Snyder appointed Sally Talberg as the Chairwoman of the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC), a body that is responsible for ensuring safe, reliable, and accessible energy and telecommunications services at reasonable rates for Michigan's residents. Prior to her appointment, Chairwoman Talberg worked in the public and private sectors with a focus on energy policy and utility regulation. Most recently, she served as a senior consultant at Public Sector Consultants focusing on energy policy issues and was president of the Organization of MISO States.

APPOINTMENTS | ALL ACTIONS

07 / 06 / 16



Governor Snyder Appointed Rachel Eubanks to the Public Service Commission | Governor Snyder appointed Rachel Eubanks to the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC), a body that is responsible for ensuring safe, reliable, and accessible energy and telecommunications services at reasonable rates for Michigan's residents. Eubanks' appointment filled a partial term vacated by former Commission chairman, John Quackenbush, and she will serve as an Independent. Prior to joining the commission, Eubanks was Director of Public Finance for Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated. Her term will expire on July 2, 2021.

07 / 14 / 16



Governor Snyder Appointed Heidi Grether as DEQ Director | Governor Snyder appointed Heidi Grether as the new Director of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). In the wake of the Flint water crisis, Michigan LCV consistently advocated that Snyder appoint a new DEQ Director with a background and expertise in public health and protection of the environment. Unfortunately, Grether did not come to the job with that professional experience. She worked in external affairs for BP America from 1993 to 2012, where she was a lobbyist and manager heavily involved in the oil company's response to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon accident in the Gulf of Mexico. We are committed to working with Ms. Grether in this new role, but question the Governor's priorities in appointing someone with ties to the oil industry to the task of rebuilding Michiganders' trust in our state's environmental protection agency.



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MLCV is the only nonpartisan political organization in Michigan with land, air, and water at the center of our work. We'd love to hear what matters to you. Please contact us at info@michiganlcv.org and share your conservation priorities.