

HOW GREEN  
IS YOUR  
GOVERNOR?

2013-2014  
REPORT CARD  
Governor Rick Snyder



michigan league of  
conservation voters

# Table of Contents

Summary Page.....	3
Letter from the Executive Director.....	4
Issues by Grade	
Great Lakes & Michigan's Waterways.....	5
Clean Air & Energy.....	6
Toxics & Solid Waste.....	7
Land Conservation.....	8
Transportation.....	9
Budget.....	10
Appointments.....	11
How We Got Our Grades.....	12
Appendix.....	13

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# HOW GREEN IS YOUR GOVERNOR?

## 2013-2014 REPORT CARD

Governor Rick Snyder

Overall Grade

# C



michigan league of conservation voters

### UNRELIABLE LEADER FOR MICHIGAN'S LAND, AIR AND WATER

We know Governor Rick Snyder is “one tough nerd,” but when it comes to tackling an important subject like Michigan’s natural resources, he has not been a consistent leader for protecting our environment. The Governor’s final grade of “C” reflects a second two-year period full of mixed decisions—a few strong stands and some serious missteps with long-term consequences. To improve his grade in his second term, the Governor should better apply himself to protecting Michigan’s land, air and water.

### GOVERNOR SNYDER'S FIRST TERM

2013-2014

2011-2012

	2013-2014	2011-2012
GREAT LAKES & MICHIGAN WATERWAYS	<b>F</b>	<b>C+</b>
CLEAN AIR & ENERGY	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
TOXICS & SOLID WASTE	<b>D</b>	<b>F</b>
LAND CONSERVATION	<b>C-</b>	<b>C-</b>
TRANSPORTATION	<b>B+</b>	<b>B+</b>
BUDGET	<b>A-</b>	<b>C+</b>
APPOINTMENTS	<b>C+</b>	<b>C+</b>

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# HOW GREEN IS YOUR GOVERNOR?

## 2013-2014 REPORT CARD Governor Rick Snyder



Dear Conservation Voter,

In 2013, we took a look at Governor Rick Snyder's first two years in office in the first edition of our *How Green is Your Governor? Midterm Report Card*. While the Governor declared that the Great Lakes would be a pillar of his work to reinvent Michigan, we found that the rubber didn't always meet the road when it came to bold leadership on behalf of our land, air and water—earning him a letter grade of "C."

At the end of his first term, the Governor's inconsistencies on critical conservation issues persist. This year's *How Green is Your Governor? Report Card* shows that overall, the Governor is unreliable when it comes to protecting Michigan's land, air and water. We know Governor Snyder is "one tough nerd", but when it comes to an important subject like Michigan's natural resources, his performance proves that he is inconsistent. His final grade of "C" reflects a second two-year period full of mixed decisions—a few strong stands and some serious missteps with long-term consequences, all adding up to ample room for improvement on conservation issues in his second full term in office.

Certainly, Governor Snyder demonstrated moments of leadership by standing up to some of the more egregious attempts to undermine environmental protections. For instance, just a few months ago the Governor vetoed a bill that would have eliminated biodiversity as a legitimate reason to protect public land. If signed, this legislation would have put Michigan's forests, lakes, native plants and animals at serious risk. In addition, the Governor is a proponent of a plan to double Michigan's recycling rate, which still lags far behind other Great Lakes states.

More often, however, the Governor gave the green light to those who are in the business of polluting or degrading "Pure Michigan." The Governor's administration granted a permit to pave a road through Michigan's world-class, pristine sand dunes near Saugatuck and approved a permit that weakens air quality standards for some of the state's most egregious polluters. Those are just two examples of decisions that do not balance what's good for the economy with what's healthy for our environment. When it comes to protecting our environment and growing our economy, it is not an either-or proposition.

The citizens of Michigan expect the Governor to stand up for our shared conservation values, not defer to polluters and those with development proposals that will forever damage our state's formerly preserved and protected natural areas. With one in five jobs tied to clean water and with our natural resources drawing hundreds of thousands of visitors to our state every year, the cost of poor decision-making is far too great.

Governor Snyder's second term in office offers him real opportunities to transform his record on the environment into one that reflects the key role our natural resources play in our state's economy and our Michigan way of life. This year, our state is in need of a new clean, renewable energy plan and stronger protections for our Great Lakes. We call on Governor Snyder to apply himself fully to protecting the natural resources that define our state by becoming a bold and dependable leader on the land, air and water issues that impact all Michiganders. Governor Snyder is all about "comebacks," and in his second term, we certainly need one for conservation.

At Michigan LCV, we are extraordinarily proud of the hard work it took to meticulously track and measure the Governor's performance. I encourage you to take the time to review this *Report Card* and use it to hold Governor Snyder and his executive team accountable. Thank the Governor for what he's done well, and be clear that you expect more from him in the next four years as it is imperative that he fully protect this amazing state we call home.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Wozniak".

Lisa Wozniak  
Executive Director, Michigan LCV

## GREAT LAKES & MICHIGAN'S WATERWAYS

# F

*The Governor's grade on the Great Lakes and Michigan's waterways dropped from a "C+" on the Midterm Report Card to a disappointing "F" at the end of his first term. His failing grade is a result of a series of poor decisions that ultimately weaken programs that protect our state's lakes, rivers and streams to make way for development, extraction projects, and aquaculture.*

**A**s co-chair of the Council of Great Lakes Governors and Governor of the state surrounded by 20 percent of the world's fresh surface water, Snyder is well-positioned to become a champion for clean water. So far, he is falling short of his potential. In the second half of his first term, he adopted resolutions in partnership with the Council of Great Lakes Governors to address pressing Great Lakes issues such as toxic algae blooms and invasive species. However, those statements of support did not measure up to the level of coordination or investment needed to effectively address serious threats to the Great Lakes.

In the same years, Governor Snyder gave the green light to legislation that weakened Michigan's wetlands protections program and his administration approved a proposal to open a sulfide mine a few hundred feet away from Lake Superior. By rolling back protections for wetlands, the Governor opened up fragile streams and rivers that act as natural filters for the Great Lakes to construction and development. By approving a permit for a sulfide mine near Lake Superior, Governor Snyder's administration put our freshwater at risk of contamination from toxic chemicals and pollution. Throughout his first term, Governor Snyder showed us that we cannot count on him to stand up for clean water.

## KEY DECISIONS

### Tuesday, March 19, 2013

The DEQ issues a permit for a sulfide mine within 200 feet of Lake Superior.

### Friday, May 31, 2013

Governor Snyder joins a resolution from the Great Lakes Governors that urges US and Canadian governments to address algal blooms in the Great Lakes.

### Tuesday, July 2, 2013

Governor Snyder signs a bill that weakens Michigan's wetlands protections program.



## CLEAN AIR & ENERGY

C

### KEY DECISIONS

#### Thursday, December 19, 2013

Governor Snyder outlines energy plan for Michigan that encourages greater use of renewables and energy efficiency.

#### Tuesday, May 13, 2014

The DEQ weakens air quality standards for Marathon Oil and Severstal Steel Plant.

#### Saturday, December 27, 2014

Governor Snyder signs a bill into law that creates more access to energy efficiency improvements for municipal utility customers.

*Compared to the Midterm Report Card, Governor Snyder improved on clean air and energy, jumping a full letter grade from a “D” to a “C.” While his Midterm Report Card grade reflected a number of negative decisions with heavy impacts, the end of his first term was more talk and less decisive action.*

Michigan’s renewable energy and energy efficiency goals, enacted in 2008, were the springboard for significant job growth, \$2.9 billion of investment in our state and a transition from polluting power plants to clean energy sources. The Governor recognized the importance of transitioning from coal to clean energy in his first term, and he named renewable energy and reducing

energy waste as key components of an energy plan that moves Michigan forward. The table is set for an update to our state’s clean energy goals in 2015, but the Governor has yet to put forth a specific plan that strengthens our commitment to clean, efficient energy.

Despite encouraging public statements about reducing energy waste and turning toward renewables, the Governor made poor decisions that impact air quality in Michigan. Instead of holding polluters accountable for numerous air quality violations, the Governor’s administration weakened operating permits for Marathon Oil and Severstal Steel (now AK Steel) so that both companies could pollute at the same rate and without violating the rules. Between public statements in support of more clean energy and detrimental decisions on air quality permits, inconsistencies abound and add up to an average grade on a critical environmental and public health issue.

## TOXICS & SOLID WASTE

# D

*Governor Snyder slightly improved his record on toxics and solid waste, moving from an “F” on the Midterm Report Card to a “D” in the second half of his first term. Positive action on recycling was the driving force behind the boost to a higher letter grade, but gains were dragged down when the Governor signed a number of bills that weakened standards for storage and cleanup of contaminated sites and hazardous waste.*

**O**n the plus side, Governor Snyder issued a plan to double Michigan’s recycling rate for household solid waste, which would eliminate the amount of waste sitting in landfills and develop new, lucrative markets for recycled goods. The Governor’s recycling proposal was one instance of leadership on an program that makes clear how protecting the environment and growing the economy align.

Additional decisions from the Governor and his administration came up short. He signed multiple bills that expanded our state’s use of dangerous industrial byproducts and weakened standards for cleanup of contaminated sites. Governor Snyder gave a seal of approval for using fly-ash—toxic particles found inside the smokestacks of coal-fired power plants—to pave roads and parking lots in Michigan. Under his watch, the Governor weakened already inadequate standards for toxic chemicals and put our public health, our natural resources and our drinking water risk.

## KEY DECISIONS

### Monday, April 14, 2014

The Governor submits a plan to double Michigan’s recycling rate.

### Tuesday, June 17, 2014

The Governor signs a bill into law that expands the types of toxic industrial byproducts that can be used as fill material on roads.

### Thursday, July 17, 2014

The DEQ denies a permit for a new petroleum coke storage site along the Detroit River.

### Thursday, January 15, 2015

The Governor signs a bill into law that weakens standards for cleanup of contaminated sites.

## KEY DECISIONS

### Friday, March 28, 2014

The DEQ issues a permit that will allow a two-mile long road to be paved through Michigan's critical sand dunes.

### Tuesday, March 19, 2013

The DEQ issues a permit for a sulfide mine within 200 feet of Lake Superior.

### Tuesday, September 17, 2013

Governor Snyder signs a bill into law that updates Michigan's hunting and fishing license structure and raises enough revenue to hire 40 additional conservation officers.

### Tuesday, January 15, 2015

Governor Snyder vetoes a bill that would eliminate biodiversity as a legitimate reason to protect public land.

*Governor Snyder maintained a below-average record on land conservation. Although he stood up to egregious legislation, his performance was marred by a series of poor, low-profile decisions by his administration that ultimately put the future of our sand dunes, shoreline and state parks on the line.*

**M**ichigan is home to one of the largest state park and state 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. In the second half of his first term, the Governor was not a reliable partner in upholding critical protections for our outdoors.

At the start of 2013, two decisions from the Governor's administration set a wayward course for his record on conserving our public land and natural areas. First, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) approved a permit to pave a road through critical sand dunes just outside Saugatuck Dunes State Park, which is intended to service a handful of multi-million dollar homes proposed to be built on Lake Michigan shoreline. Next, the administration approved a major sulfide mine operation in the Upper Peninsula—a project that would be constructed within 200 feet of Lake Superior and cut into previously undisturbed natural areas with access roads and extensive on-site development.

The Governor's performance on land conservation was not all bad. In September 2013, Snyder signed a much needed update to Michigan's hunting and fishing license structure, which generated enough revenue to hire more than 40 conservation officers to manage and protect our public land. In January 2015, Governor Snyder put his veto pen to good use and stopped the anti-biodiversity bill from becoming law. The anti-biodiversity bill intended to eliminate biodiversity as a legitimate reason to protect Michigan's public land.

## LAND CONSERVATION

# C-





## TRANSPORTATION

**B+**

*Governor Snyder's score fell from a solid "A" during his first two years in office to a "B+" by the end of his first term. Although this is one of the Governor's highest category grades, the score belies a lack of leadership and direct action to promote public and non-motorized transit in Michigan in the second half of his first term. The two actions scored in this category were critical to fix Michigan's crumbling roads, but they only tangentially benefited funding for public transit.*

### KEY DECISIONS

No Key Decisions made on public and non-motorized transit in the second half of the Governor's first term.

**D**iverse transportation options, including public transit and non-motorized transportation are desperately needed to ensure continued economic growth in Michigan. Governor Snyder recognized the need for further investment in public transit, and he proposed increasing the state's gas tax from 14 cents to 33 cents in order to generate crucial funds needed to mend Michigan's roads and bridges and fund public transportation. A gas tax would also incentivize non-motorized and public transit options, which would contribute to lower carbon emissions and better air quality. The Governor received high marks for this proposal.

Unfortunately, the Governor's proposed transportation funding solution was brushed aside by the legislature and supplanted by a plan to raise Michigan's sales tax to generate more than \$1 billion each year for roads and more than \$100 million for public transit. The Governor signed off on the legislature's solution to revenue for roads and public transit, but the deal will not be done unless Michigan voters approve it in 2015. While the sales tax plan is better than no plan, the Governor's original gas tax proposal would have more effectively addressed the environmental impacts of carbon emissions from cars. Governor Snyder's ability to enact the gas tax plan would have shown true and fast-acting leadership on an issue that is in dire need of attention in Michigan.



**BUDGET**

**A-**

## KEY DECISIONS

**Thursday, February 7, 2013**

Governor Snyder proposes a budget increase for the DNR.

**Thursday, February 7, 2013**

Governor Snyder proposes a budget increase for the DEQ.

**Wednesday, February 5, 2014**

Governor Snyder proposes a budget increase for the DEQ.

**Wednesday, February 5, 2014**

Governor Snyder proposes a budget increase for the DNR.

*Governor Snyder showed marked improvement in the budget category, raising a grade of “C+” on the Midterm Report Card to an “A-.” The Governor began his first term imposing significant cuts on the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). In the past two years he made a course correction by proposing strong environmental budgets with increases for the DNR and DEQ.*

**T**he Governor’s proposed budget for 2014 was particularly strong, with a robust investment in the DNR through increased input from the General Fund by 57%. In another positive move, his 2014 budget proposal included a recommended \$97 million to address some of the biggest hidden threats to Michigan’s water quality: leaking underground storage tanks, storm water and sewage system upgrades.

Governor again made a strong showing for the DNR and DEQ. Increases for the DNR paid for putting more boots on the ground to protect our natural resources, helped develop our burgeoning trail system and strengthened defenses for the Great Lakes against invasive species.

Unlike the budgets drafted during the Governor’s first years in office, the proposals put forth over the past two years better reflect the value of our state’s world-class natural resources. An improved performance on the state’s budget is a move in the right direction for Michigan’s great outdoors.

## APPOINTMENTS

C+

*Governor Snyder's record on appointments held steady at a "C+." Over the past two years, he made a series of mixed decisions about who to put at the helm of key posts on conservation, natural resources and clean energy.*

The Governor made a particularly good choice when he appointed Sally Talberg to the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC)—the agency which regulates Michigan's utilities and the energy sector. Talberg has an extensive background in electricity generation and environmental policy and regulation, including her work managing Michigan Saves, a multi-million dollar program providing funding for energy efficiency improvements. She also previously served at the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Michigan Environmental Council.

Governor Snyder's additions to the Natural Resource Commission (NRC) included the appointment of Christine Crumbaugh and the reappointment of Jon Matonich. The NRC is an advisory council to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that works to conserve, protect, and manage Michigan's natural resources. Matonich's track record of pro-conservation decisions while serving on the NRC made him a choice candidate for the job. On the other hand, Crumbaugh brought with her a background in large-scale agriculture and little experience with conservation or natural resources issues.

## KEY DECISIONS

### Wednesday, June 26, 2013

Governor Snyder appoints Sally Talberg to the Michigan Public Service Commission.

### Friday, December 27, 2013

Governor Snyder appoints Jon Matonich to the Natural Resource Commission.

### Thursday, November 20, 2014

Governor Snyder appoints Christine Crumbaugh to the Natural Resource Commission.

# How Did We Get Our Scores?

Since day one of Governor Snyder's first term, Michigan LCV 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 signings, vetoes, appointments, executive orders, speeches, permit approvals and denials—and assigns each one a score of either positive, neutral, or negative. Summaries of each action with the accompanying score are displayed on our *How Green is Your Governor?* page: [michiganlcv.org/HGIYG](http://michiganlcv.org/HGIYG)

In 2013, we released the *How Green is Your Governor? Midterm Report Card*. Drawing on actions over the first half of the Governor's first term, the *Midterm Report Card* provided an assessment of how the Governor performed in individual categories, such as land conservation and water, and it assigned an overall grade of C. Two years later, our new edition of the *How Green is Your Governor? Report Card* grades the Governor on environmental decisions made throughout the second half of this first term, and provides an overarching look at his first full term in office.

To create the 2013 - 2014 edition of our *How Green Is Your Governor? Report Card* we reviewed every *How Green is Your Governor?* action from January 2013 through

early January 2015 and assigned each a 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, or -1 for a positive, neutral, or negative action, respectively. We categorized the actions by issue area. Some actions were counted in more than one category if they were relevant to several issues. A grade for each category was derived by calculating the weighted average of every action listed in that category and converting the weighted average into a percentage ranging from 0 percent to 100 percent. We then assigned the corresponding letter grade (A+ through F) to the percentage category grade. To calculate the overall grade we averaged together the percentage grades from each category and converted the resulting averaged percent to the corresponding letter grade of C.

We included Appendices at the end of the 2013 - 2014 *How Green Is Your Governor? Report Card* with every categorized action, and a table explaining how the actions were weighted. The summaries in the appendices describe each action, and full summaries are available on the *How Green is Your Governor?* page on our website at: [michiganlcv.org/HGIYG](http://michiganlcv.org/HGIYG).

## MICHIGAN LCV RATINGS



POSITIVE  
(A+ to B-)



NEUTRAL  
(C+ to C-)



NEGATIVE  
(D+ to F)



## KEY OF WEIGHTED ACTIONS

### 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.

## GREAT LAKES AND MICHIGAN'S WATERWAYS - ALL ACTIONS

DATE	ACTION	MLCV RATING	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
1/16/2013	Governor Snyder delivers his State of the State address, calling for progress toward Michigan's Renewable Energy Standard (RES) of 10% by 2015 and expanding our state's renewable energy industry. Governor Snyder also made note of an ongoing project to improve the health of the Grand River by restoring its natural rapids.		2
2/7/2013	In his Executive Budget presentation for 2014, Governor Snyder recommends \$97 million in funding for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for the cleanup of leaking underground storage tanks and for grants and loans to municipalities for improvements to stormwater and sewage systems.		3
3/19/2013	The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issues a final mining permit to Orvana Corporation for its Copperwood Mine in Gogebic County. Although some measures were taken to ensure wetland and watershed mitigation, no provisions for more environmentally-sound backfilling of the mine were included in the permit. This sulfide mining operation is set to be constructed within 200 feet of Lake Superior.		4
3/27/2013	Governor Snyder signs Senate Bill 233, a bill that provides \$21 million for harbor dredging projects from both the General Fund and the Michigan State Waterways Fund. This tactic is much preferred over other legislative fixes for dredging that took aim at the Natural Resources Trust Fund (NRTF).		2
3/1/2013	The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) revises its discharge permit for Detroit's sewage plant and includes updates to better protect local rivers and Lake Erie from overflows of untreated sewage during rain events. The permit requires a new green infrastructure plan to reduce the quantity of stormwater entering the system. The Administration ensured progress on Detroit's sewage plan by continuing to issue violations as well as providing loans for infrastructure improvement.		2

GREAT LAKES AND MICHIGAN'S WATERWAYS - ALL ACTIONS (CONTINUED)

DATE	ACTION	MLCV RATING	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
5/10/2013	More than a dozen federal agencies pledge support for the restoration of the Grand River by including it in the Urban Waters Federal Partnership program, which aims to reconnect urban communities with their waterways. The designation allows federal agencies to coordinate resources to streamline research and permitting related to the river restoration project, and the Snyder Administration was instrumental in securing this designation for the Grand River.	●	2
5/31/2013	In a statement at the Council of Great Lakes Governors 2013 Leadership Summit, Governor Snyder indicates that he supports ongoing conversation about physically separating the Great Lakes from the Chicago River as a long-term solution to protect the Great Lakes against Asian Carp.	●	2
5/31/2013	At the Council of Great Lakes Governors 2013 Leadership Summit, Governor Snyder, other Great Lakes Governors, and Canadian Premiers adopt a resolution urging the U.S. and Canadian federal governments to identify and implement specific steps to decrease detrimental algal blooms in the Great Lakes Basin.	●	3
5/31/2013	At the Council of Great Lakes Governors 2013 Leadership Summit, Governor Snyder, other Great Lakes Governors, and Canadian Premiers identify a list of "least wanted" aquatic invasive species as well as specific steps to reduce the spread of "least wanted" species into and within the Great Lakes.	●	2
5/31/2013	At the Council of Great Lakes Governors 2013 Leadership Summit, Governor Snyder, other Great Lakes Governors, and Canadian Premiers adopt a resolution to ensure that water quality and quantity in the Great Lakes Basin is closely monitored and managed.	●	3
6/28/2013	Governor Snyder signs Senate Bill 264, allowing for open lake disposal of non-toxic dredged material and reduces the dredging permit fee. While alternatives to open lake disposal do exist, the bill is not projected to have extreme adverse environmental impact.	●	1
7/2/2013	Governor Snyder signs Senate Bill 163, a bill that overhauls Michigan's wetlands program, but in doing so, jeopardizes Michigan's control over the program. This bill was intended to address concerns from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), but it falls short by rolling back protections for wetlands and creating more exemptions for construction and development within protected areas.	●	4
10/22/2013	The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) proposes changes to regulations for fracking operations. The proposed changes would improve baseline testing and require oil and gas companies to publicly disclose chemical additives within 30 days of when drilling begins. Both changes improve current fracking regulations, but they do not go far enough to protect Michigan's clean water.	●	3
12/12/2013	The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) prohibits surface development on nine parcels of property within the Au Sable River's Holy Waters corridor—known for its pristine beauty and exceptional fly fishing. To do this, the DNR will change the leases to "non-development" agreements, which would protect the specified parcels from oil and gas drilling infrastructure. While the DNR could have denied the leases entirely, prohibiting drilling infrastructure on the specified areas of land is a step in the right direction.	●	2
1/16/2014	Governor Snyder delivers his State of the State address in which he expresses concern over invasive species, such as Asian carp, and states that there has not been enough action to manage and control them. Governor Snyder says that he will be requesting that more federal and state funding be put toward invasive species management in the 2014 budget.	●	2
2/5/2014	Governor Snyder presents his proposed 2015-2016 budget for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). He recommends a General Fund increase over the previous year, resulting in more funding for essential programs that regulate and manage Michigan's water and air quality.	●	3
2/5/2014	Governor Snyder's proposed 2015-2016 budget includes an 11.7% increase for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) from fiscal year 2014. The budget includes \$3 million to hire 25 new conservation officers, \$2.5 million to develop Michigan trails and \$6 million for combating invasive species in the Great Lakes.	●	3
6/24/2014	Governor Snyder signs Senate Bill 444, which reduces the amount of oversight that the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has over contractors who chemically manage invasive species. The law allows permit holders to acquire permits for a three year term (instead of the previous one year requirement) and reduces the amount of time the DEQ has to make permitting decisions.	●	2

## GREAT LAKES AND MICHIGAN'S WATERWAYS - ALL ACTIONS (CONTINUED)

DATE	ACTION	MLCV RATING	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
7/1/2014	The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issues a permit to expand a commercial trout fish hatchery located just a few miles upstream from the Holy Waters of the Au Sable River. The permit endangers the areas pristine water quality by allowing Harrietta Hills to increase trout production from 20,000 pounds to 300,000 pounds per year.		3
7/3/2014	The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) approves a permit for an exploratory oil well in Scio Township, less than two miles from the Huron River. Local governments and concerned citizens who want to keep Scio Township free from oil drilling requested the permit be denied. Despite these efforts, the DEQ sided with an outside oil and gas company instead of local citizens and Michigan's natural resources.		2
7/17/2014	The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) denies Detroit Bulk Storage's permit to store petroleum coke at a new site in River Rouge, along the Detroit River. The Michigan DEQ denied the permit on the basis that Detroit Bulk Storage's dust control measures are inadequate. Petroleum coke is a byproduct from oil refineries, often called the dirtiest of the dirty remnants of oil processing.		3
1/15/2015	Governor Snyder signs Senate Bill 891, which weakens standards for the cleanup of contaminated sites in Michigan. SB 891 will, in effect, allow more hazardous substances to be left in places like parks, groundwater aquifers, and open spaces where they can continue to pose a risk to our families, our water, and our natural resources.		3

## CLEAN AIR & ENERGY - ALL ACTIONS

DATE	ACTION	MLCV RATING	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
1/16/2013	Governor Snyder delivers his State of the State address, calling for progress toward Michigan's Renewable Energy Standard (RES) of 10% by 2015 and expanding our state's renewable energy industry. The Governor states his intention to encourage discussion around how Michigan will achieve the RES and promote its clean energy economy.		2
2/7/2013	In his Executive Budget presentation for 2014, Governor Snyder proposes a 14-cent increase on the gasoline tax to 33-cents per gallon. The revenue generated from the tax increase would be used to mend the state's roads, additionally resulting in decreased emissions and an increased desire to use alternative forms of transportation.		3
5/31/2013	At the Council of Great Lakes Governors 2013 Leadership Summit, Governor Snyder publicly states that he supports increasing renewable energy in Michigan. Although he does not state a specific percentage, he indicates he'd like to have options available for consideration by the end of 2013.		2
7/1/2013	Governor Snyder signs Senate Bill 284, which establishes the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund to aid certain energy customers in paying their heating bills. The Public Service Commission is authorized to raise up to \$50 million for the fund plus an additional \$10 million in federal money. While this fund will protect citizens during the cold winter months, there is no provision to protect the energy optimization and efficiency program.		1
9/20/2013	The Administration releases a draft report on renewable energy entitled "Readying Michigan to Make Good Energy Decisions: Renewable Energy." The report confirms the benefits of renewable energy for Michigan. Specifically, it affirms that we are well-positioned to achieve a standard of 30% or more by 2035 and verifies that energy surcharges will be significantly reduced or eliminated beginning in 2014 due to lower costs of renewable energy.		4
12/19/2013	Governor Snyder outlines an energy plan for Michigan that encourages renewable energy and energy efficiency, and reducing our reliance on coal-powered energy. He emphasizes eliminating energy waste, and ramping up energy optimization. He cites the health benefits of moving away from coal, including reductions in mercury and particulate matter emissions.		4
1/16/2014	Governor Snyder delivers his State of the State address, in which he recognizes that a comprehensive energy plan for Michigan is important. Governor Snyder started a constructive conversation about growing our clean energy economy in a speech he made in December, but we would have preferred to see more details in his State of the State address.		2

## CLEAN AIR & ENERGY - ALL ACTIONS (CONTINUED)

DATE	ACTION	MLCV RATING	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
2/5/2014	Governor Snyder presents his proposed 2015-2016 budget for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). He recommends a general fund increase over the previous year, meaning more funding for essential programs that regulate and manage Michigan's water and air quality. This extra funding will help to ensure that the DEQ has the capacity to adequately protect our state's unique resources.		3
4/1/2014	Lt. Governor Calley signs into law a package of bills that would bring taxes and pipeline requirements for enhanced oil recovery in line with other types of natural resource extraction. Enhanced oil recovery is a type of oil recovery that uses CO2 to extract an additional 15-20% of oil from an existing well. While a tax break for any type of oil recovery isn't ideal, enhanced oil recovery has the potential to curb CO2 emissions by recycling CO2 from industrial plants.		1
5/13/2014	The DEQ weakens air quality standards for the Marathon oil refinery and Severstal steel plant, two heavily polluting industrial plants near Detroit. Both have long records of noncompliance with Severstal alone receiving 38 notices of violation from the DEQ since 2010. Smoke stack tests at both plants have indicated that they release beyond the DEQ permitted amounts of lead, manganese, carbon monoxide, and fine dust particles.		4
7/3/2014	The DEQ approves a permit for an exploratory oil well in Scio Township, less than two miles from the Huron River. Local governments and concerned citizens who want to keep Scio Township free from oil drilling requested the permit be denied. Despite these efforts, the DEQ sided with an outside oil and gas company instead of local citizens and Michigan's natural resources.		2
7/17/2014	The DEQ denies Detroit Bulk Storage's permit to store petroleum coke at a new site in River Rouge, along the Detroit River. The DEQ denied the permit on the basis that Detroit Bulk Storage's dust control measures are inadequate. Petroleum coke is a byproduct from oil refineries, often called the dirtiest of the dirty remnants of oil processing.		3
10/21/2014	The DEQ, the Michigan Attorney General, and the owners of an incinerator in Detroit reach a deal to address the strong odors emanating from the incinerator. Following more than 170 air quality complaints in 2014, the deal requires the owners to re-engineer the facility by the end of 2016 with a new air ducting system, pay a \$5,000 fine per day for any future violations, and pay a \$350,000 fine to resolve past odor violations.		2
12/27/2014	Governor Snyder signs House Bill 5397, which opens up on-bill financing programs for energy efficiency upgrades to municipal utility customers. On-bill financing programs allow customers to obtain loans to finance energy efficiency upgrades on their homes and then pay those loans back on their utility bill, creating broader access to energy efficiency improvements.		3
12/29/2014	Governor Snyder signs Senate Bill 910, which prohibits the DEQ from drafting a rule that limits emissions from wood stoves or from enforcing a similar federal regulation. Senate Bill 910 is in response to updated wood stove emission standards released by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which are the first updates since 1988. The EPA estimates that for each dollar spent to comply with the new standards, the public will receive between \$118 and \$287 in health benefits due to reduced levels of particulate matter.		1
1/10/2015	Governor Snyder signs House Bill 5806, which increases the payback period for energy efficiency upgrades at community colleges from 10 years to 25 years and eliminates the requirement that savings generated from the upgrades fully cover the cost of the project.		2

## TOXICS & SOLID WASTE - ALL ACTIONS

DATE	ACTION	MLCV RATING	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
2/7/2013	In his Executive Budget presentation for 2014, Governor Snyder recommends \$97 million in funding for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for the cleanup of leaking underground storage tanks and for grants and loans to municipalities for improvements to storm water and sewage systems.		3
4/14/2014	Governor Snyder submits a plan to double the recycling of Michigan household solid waste. The proposal seeks to make Michigan a front runner again in its recycling program by investing in public education and technical assistance, increasing convenient access to recycling programs, and developing markets for recycled goods through grants and other economic incentives.		4

## TOXICS & SOLID WASTE - ALL ACTIONS (CONTINUED)

DATE	ACTION	MLCV RATING	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
6/17/2014	Governor Snyder signs House Bill 5400, which expands the kinds of industrial byproducts that can be used as fill for roads and parking lots, including fly ash from coal-fired power plants. These materials are spread on Michigan roads — posing a threat to public health, land and waterways as the materials break down over time.		4
7/17/2014	The DEQ denies Detroit Bulk Storage's permit to store petroleum coke at a new site in River Rouge along the Detroit River. The DEQ denied the permit on the basis that Detroit Bulk Storage's dust control measures are inadequate. Petroleum coke is a byproduct from oil refineries, often called the dirtiest of the dirty remnants of oil processing.		3
10/21/2014	The DEQ, the Michigan Attorney General, and the owners of an incinerator in Detroit reach a deal to address the strong odors emanating from the incinerator. Following more than 170 air quality complaints in 2014, the deal requires the owners to re-engineer the facility by the end of 2016 with a new air ducting system, pay a \$5,000 fine per day for any future violations, and pay a \$350,000 fine to resolve past odor violations.		2
1/15/2015	Governor Snyder signs Senate Bill 891, which weakens standards for the cleanup of contaminated sites in Michigan. SB 891 will, in effect, allow more hazardous substances to be left in places like parks, groundwater aquifers, and open spaces where they can continue to pose a risk to our families, our water, and our natural resources.		3

## TRANSPORTATION - ALL ACTIONS

DATE	ACTION	MLCV RATING	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
2/7/2013	In his Executive Budget presentation for 2014, Governor Snyder proposes a 14-cent increase on the gasoline tax to 33-cents per gallon. The revenue generated from the tax increase would be used to mend the state's roads, additionally resulting in decreased emissions and an increased desire to use alternative forms of transportation.		3
1/12/2015	Governor Snyder signs bills that would generate more transportation funding through an increase in the state sales tax. The bills would generate more than \$1 billion each year for roads, but also more than \$100 million annually for public transit. If approved by voters, this would be the first structural increase in funding for public transportation since the late 1980s.		1

## LAND CONSERVATION - ALL ACTIONS

DATE	ACTION	MLCV RATING	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
1/7/2013	The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) intends to issue a permit to Singapore Dunes, LLC for development within 300 acres of critical dunes just south of Saugatuck State Park. The permit allows construction of a two-mile long access road through a pristine critical dunes areas.		3
2/7/2013	In his Executive Budget presentation for 2014, Governor Snyder proposes a 57% increase in funding for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) from the General Fund. Funding would increase from \$17.6 million this year to \$27.2 million.		3
2/7/2013	Governor Snyder's proposed budget includes approximately \$30 million from the General Fund for waterway dredging projects. His proposal is preferable to others suggested by the legislature, which would have diverted dollars from the Natural Resources Trust Fund to pay for dredging.		3
2/7/2013	In his Executive Budget presentation for 2014, Governor Snyder proposes an increase to hunting and fishing license fees. The revenue raised from the increased fees would go directly toward hiring 41 new conservation officers and supporting habitat improvement for inland lakes and streams.		3
2/12/2013	The Michigan Office of Regulatory Reinvention (ORR) recommends changes for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). One recommendation states that Michigan should develop a management plan "that will optimize the value to the state of its mineral resources." This recommendation shows a clear preference for development over conservation.		2

LAND CONSERVATION - ALL ACTIONS (CONTINUED)

DATE	ACTION	MLCV RATING	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
3/19/2013	The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issues a final mining permit to Orvana Corporation for its Copperwood Mine in Gogebic County — a site that is within 200 feet of Lake Superior. Although some measures were taken to ensure wetland and watershed mitigation, no provisions for more environmentally-sound backfilling of the mine were included in the permit.		4
3/27/2013	Governor Snyder signs Senate Bill 233, a bill that provides \$21 million for harbor dredging projects from both the General Fund and the Michigan State Waterways Fund. This tactic is much preferred over other legislative fixes for dredging that took aim at the Natural Resources Trust Fund (NRTF).		2
4/23/2013	Governor Snyder announces public support of Attorney General Bill Schuette's legal opinion that the Natural Resources Trust Fund (NRTF) should not be used to pay for dredging Michigan's harbors and waterways. Schuette's opinion and Governor Snyder's public support emphasizes even further how important the NRTF is for the future of Michigan's natural resources and outdoors.		3
5/8/2013	Governor Snyder signs Senate Bills 288 and 289, bills that allow the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and the legislature to designate species as game animals. The legislature will, however, retain sole responsibility for removing an animal from the game species list.		1
5/28/2013	Governor Snyder signs Senate Bill 16, which allows Michigan to fully participate in the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact. This compact is an agreement between 36 states to recognize hunting, fishing and trapping license suspensions in member states.		2
6/6/2013	Governor Snyder signs a package of bills that modifies the Qualified Forest Property Program and encourages further participation in the program. The program provides incentives for private owners of forestland to actively manage that land through harvesting and habitat modification.		2
6/13/2013	Governor Snyder signs the FY 2013-2014 budget. The budget provides funding for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to hire additional conservation officers to better protect Michigan's public land and natural habitats.		3
6/28/2013	Governor Snyder signs House Bill 4297, a bill that waives the \$11 Recreation Passport fee for disabled military veterans. The bill, now Public Act 81 of 2013, passed both chambers with overwhelming support before being signed by the Governor.		1
7/1/2013	After a collaborative planning process between stakeholders and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the DNR released a six-year Land Management Plan. The Land Management Plan outlines the specific lands that the DNR is managing, and provides an explanation as to why those lands are being managed.		1
8/14/2013	Governor Snyder dedicates a trailhead for the planned 924-mile hiking and biking trail that will run from Belle Isle in Detroit, up through the Lower Peninsula, and across the Upper Peninsula into Wisconsin. Several trail fragments exist already, but the planned project will add 200 miles of trail to connect them. The project will culminate into a 924-mile contiguous, statewide trail, and it is projected to be complete within three to five years.		1
9/17/2013	Governor Snyder signs House Bill 4668, which streamlines Michigan's hunting and fishing license system and is projected to raise almost \$20 million for conservation of Michigan's natural resources. Specifically, the bill creates a base license and increases the fees on add-on licenses. The increased fees will generate enough revenue to hire 40 additional conservation officers, as well as manage and maintain wildlife habitat and stock fish.		4
9/26/2013	Governor Snyder signs House Bill 4132 (PA 114) into law. The bill allows temporary appointments to fill vacancies on local conservation district boards so that the boards can still reach a quorum if a sitting member resigns.		1
9/26/2013	Governor Snyder signs House Bill 4094 into law. This bill prohibits hunters from being penalized or prosecuted for taking game or hunting lawfully in another state and importing it into Michigan if it is illegal to hunt that particular species in Michigan. The bill is now Public Act 111 of 2013.		1

LAND CONSERVATION - ALL ACTIONS (CONTINUED)

DATE	ACTION	MLCV RATING	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
12/2/2013	Governor Snyder signs Senate Bills 171 and 172 into law, which discourage poaching in Michigan. Specifically, Senate Bill 171 introduces a graduated penalty system for illegally hunting antlered deer: the bigger the deer, the higher the fine. It will also revoke hunting licenses for up to seven years if a person illegally hunts an antlered deer. Senate Bill 172 will increase fines for recreational trespassing, in an attempt to deter illegal hunting.		1
12/12/2013	The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) prohibits surface development on nine parcels of property within the Au Sable River's Holy Waters corridor—known for its pristine beauty and exceptional fly fishing. To do this, the DNR will change the leases to “non-development” agreements, which would protect the specified parcels from oil and gas drilling infrastructure.		2
12/31/2013	Governor Snyder signs House Bill 4993 into law. This bill creates a public education program for wildlife management as well as the Michigan Wildlife Council, which will develop and implement the program. The program will be funded by a one dollar increase to certain hunting license fees.		1
1/16/2014	Governor Snyder delivers his State of the State address in which he expresses concern over both land-based and aquatic invasive species, such as Asian carp, and states that there has not been enough action to manage and control them. Governor Snyder says that he will be requesting that more federal and state funding be put toward invasive species management in the 2014 budget.		2
2/5/2014	Governor Snyder presents his proposed 2015-2016 budget for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), recommending an 11.7% increase from fiscal year 2014. The budget increase includes \$3.5 million for 25 additional conservation officers to protect public lands and \$2.5 million to develop Michigan trails. The Governor also places an emphasis on invasive species prevention, asking for \$6 million to protect our Great Lakes from dangerous species like Asian carp and zebra mussels.		3
2/11/2014	Governor Snyder signs a 30-year lease agreement with the City of Detroit for management of Belle Isle Park. Under the agreement, the city will maintain ownership while the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) assumes responsibility for managing the park. As a result of the lease agreement, Belle Isle will become the State of Michigan's 102nd State Park.		1
3/28/2014	The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) issues a permit to Singapore Dunes LLC for a two-mile road through the Saugatuck Dunes, despite vehement opposition from local residents. The road allows access to 18 multi-million dollar lakefront homes being built on lots directly next to an interdunal wetland area. Scientific evidence shows that construction of the road will cause irreversible damage to the fragile local ecosystem.		3
4/10/2014	The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) temporarily bars energy companies Encana Corp. and Chesapeake Energy Corp. from participating in oil and gas lease auctions until criminal charges against the companies are resolved. The restriction comes after Michigan's Attorney General Bill Schuette charged Encana and Chesapeake with conspiracy and antitrust violations that, if true, could have resulted in 97 percent less revenue for the Natural Resources Trust Fund.		3
10/29/2014	The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) removes all parcels within the much-loved Hartwick Pines State Park from its October oil and gas lease auction. Close to 10,000 acres beneath the State Park were nominated for inclusion in the DNR's October 2014 auction. After considerable public opposition, including letters from two members of the Hartwick family, the DNR pulled the parcels of land in Hartwick Pines from the October auction.		2
1/15/2015	Governor Snyder vetoes Senate Bill 78, which would have eliminated biodiversity as a legitimate reason to protect public land. Restricting the promotion of biodiversity in land management decisions would prevent the Michigan DNR from fulfilling its mission, and would have jeopardized \$22 million in federal dollars and sustainable forestry certificates that cover 3.9 million acres of state forests.		4
1/15/2015	Governor Snyder signs Senate Bill 891, which weakens standards for the cleanup of contaminated sites in Michigan. SB 891 will, in effect, allow more hazardous substances to be left in places like parks, groundwater aquifers, and open spaces where they can continue to pose a risk to our families, our water, and our natural resources.		3

## BUDGET - ALL ACTIONS

DATE	ACTION	MLCV RATING	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
2/7/2013	In his Executive Budget presentation for 2014, Governor Snyder proposes a 57% increase in funding for the Department of Natural Resources from the General Fund. Funding would increase from \$17.6 million to \$27.2 million.	●	3
2/7/2013	In his Executive Budget presentation for 2014, Governor Snyder recommends \$97 million in funding for the Department of Environmental Quality for the cleanup of leaking underground storage tanks and for grants and loans to municipalities for improvements to storm water and sewage systems.	●	3
2/7/2013	In his Executive Budget presentation for 2014, Governor Snyder proposes a 14-cent increase on the gasoline tax to 33-cents per gallon. The revenue generated from the tax increase would be used to mend the state's roads, additionally resulting in decreased emissions and an increased desire to use alternative forms of transportation.	●	3
2/7/2013	Governor Snyder's proposed budget includes approximately \$30 million from the General Fund for waterway dredging projects. His proposal is preferable to others suggested by the legislature, which took aim at the committed conservation dollars within the Natural Resources Trust Fund (NRTF).	●	2
2/7/2013	In his Executive Budget presentation for 2014, Governor Snyder proposes an increase to hunting and fishing license fees. The revenue raised from the increased fees would go directly toward hiring 41 new conservation officers, whose numbers have declined significantly over the years.	●	3
6/13/2013	Governor Snyder signs the FY 2013-2014 budget. Early on, the House version of the budget proposed \$700,000 in cuts to the DEQ, but all of that was reinstated in the version that the Governor signed.	●	3
6/13/2013	Governor Snyder signs the FY 2013-2014 budget. The budget provides funding for the DNR to hire additional conservation officers to better protect Michigan's public land and natural habitats.	●	3
2/5/2014	Governor Snyder presents his proposed 2015-2016 budget for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). He recommends a general fund increase over the previous year, resulting in more funding for essential programs that allow the DEQ to monitor and protect Michigan's fresh air and clean water.	●	3
2/5/2014	Governor Snyder's proposed 2015-2016 budget includes an 11.7% increase for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) from fiscal year 2014. The budget includes \$3 million to hire 25 new conservation officers, \$2.5 million to develop Michigan trails and \$6 million for combating invasive species in the Great Lakes.	●	3
6/30/2014	On June 30, 2014, Governor Snyder signed into law the fiscal year 2014-2015 budget, which cuts funding for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) by \$15 million. The 2014-2015 fiscal year budget reduces the overall departmental funding from \$517 million to \$502.6 million.	●	3
6/30/2014	On June 30, 2014, Governor Snyder signed into law the fiscal year 2014-2015 budget, which increases funding for the Department of Natural Resources by close to \$42 million. The 2014-2015 fiscal year budget boosts the overall departmental funding from \$343.1 million to \$384.7 million.	●	3

## APPOINTMENTS - ALL ACTIONS

DATE	ACTION	MLCV RATING	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
2/27/2013	Governor Snyder appoints David Viviano to the Michigan Supreme court following the resignation of Justice Diane Hathaway. Viviano has served as chief judge of the Macomb County Circuit Court and prior to that election has worked for several law firms. Little is known of the impact his appointment will have on environmental cases in the years to come.	●	1
6/26/2013	Governor Snyder appoints Sally Talberg to the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC). Talberg has an extensive background in electricity generation, environmental policy and regulation, and energy efficiency. The MPSC is a regulatory agency for Michigan's utilities and energy sector.	●	2

APPOINTMENTS - ALL ACTIONS (CONTINUED)

DATE	ACTION	MLCV RATING	ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
8/15/2013	Governor Snyder appoints Erin McDonough to the Natural Resources Trust Fund Board, which uses royalties from the oil and gas industry to invest in our state parks and outdoor recreation opportunities. McDonough comes from a strong conservation background and will be a valuable asset to the Board.	●	2
9/26/2013	Governor Snyder signs House Bill 4132 (PA 114) into law. The bill allows temporary appointments to fill vacancies on local conservation district boards so that the boards can still reach a quorum if a sitting member resigns.	●	1
12/27/2013	Governor Snyder reappoints John Matonich to the Natural Resources Commission (NRC), a body within the Department of the Natural Resources (DNR) that is responsible for programs and policies that connect Michigan citizens to state natural resources. Matonich was appointed to the NRC in 2010 by Governor Granholm and has a robust background in engineering, surveying and mapping.	●	2
12/27/2013	Governor Snyder appoints Vicki Pontz to the Natural Resources Commission (NRC). Pontz has a strong background in natural resource issues, and we are hopeful that she will apply her skills to effectively and responsibly manage Michigan's forests, parks, trails and public land.	●	2
11/20/2014	Governor Snyder appoints Christine Crumbaugh to the Natural Resources Commission (NRC). Crumbaugh comes to the NRC from the agriculture industry and has no background in natural resources or conservation.	●	2