

## Ohio Citizen Action's 2012 accomplishments Highlights

- FirstEnergy announced in January that they would close all four of their outdated, highly polluting coal plants on Lake Erie. This announcement, closely followed by GenOn's announcement that they would close plants in Avon Lake and Niles, were the result of decades of citizens' campaigns to enforce the Clean Air Act.
- Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson's plans to build a garbage incinerator on the west side of the city ground to a halt after hundreds of Clevelanders wrote to the mayor, attended public hearings and council meetings and exposed the serious financial and environmental flaws in the proposal.
- Cincinnati became the largest city in the nation to contract for 100% clean, renewable energy in May, a result of our campaign to use the power of community buying groups for electricity.
- The U.S. EPA's rules governing toxic mercury releases from coal plants survived an industry-led attack in the Senate in June. Ohio Citizen Action members had sent 10,000 letters to Senators Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman urging them to defend against the attacks on the Clean Air Act.
- The federal Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of Ohio Citizen Action's First Amendment rights in February 2012. This decision ended a seven-year legal case versus the City of Englewood, which had enacted unconstitutional restrictions on door-to-door canvassing.
- We supported successful campaigns by citizens in Broadview Heights and Mansfield to pass ballot initiatives in November 2012 restricting drilling and injection of fracking fluids in their communities.
- Pressed by Citizen Action, Attorney General Mike DeWine opened an investigation of Chesapeake Energy, including investments in the company by Ohio Pension Funds.
- Patriot Coal announced it would stop mountaintop removal coal mining, a landmark decision in the work by citizens in Appalachia, Ohio Citizen Action, and many others to stop the heinous practice.
- The Ohio Supreme Court blocked the expanding of the Rumpke landfill in Colerain Township, upholding the position of township trustees and the neighbors of the landfill.

- We introduced a new program for using cell phones to track pollution, and a new “ActionGram” App for people to use to send photo messages to their legislators.
- We presented the Ohio Citizen Action Howard M. Metzenbaum Award to Staughton and Alice Lynd of Niles, Ohio, who have devoted their lives to working for peace, civil rights, and economic and environmental justice.

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*In memoriam: Ohio Citizen Action fondly remembers several dear friends and supporters who died in 2012, including board member [Mike Jones](#), Keeper of the Mountains [Larry Gibson](#), long-time Ohio Citizen Action member [Mark Wisniewski](#), and Rainforest Action Network director [Rebecca Tarbotton](#).*