

# 40 years of unleashing the power of green



Ohio Environmental Council

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

# Unleashing the Power of Green

Looking over the past 40 years of Ohio's environmental-conservation movement, I am proud of the accomplishments that the Ohio Environmental Council, our members, and our partner organizations across the state have achieved.

I also see the challenges ahead in Ohio, across the nation, and throughout the world. With your steadfast support, we will continue to secure healthy air, land, and water for all who call Ohio home for the *next* 40 years and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K.A.A.', written in a cursive style.

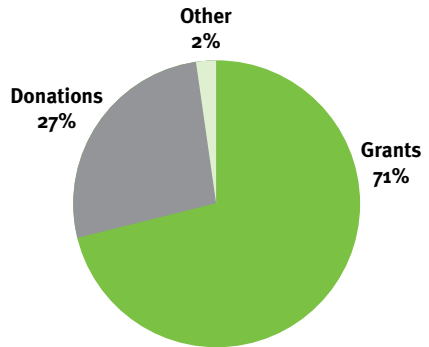
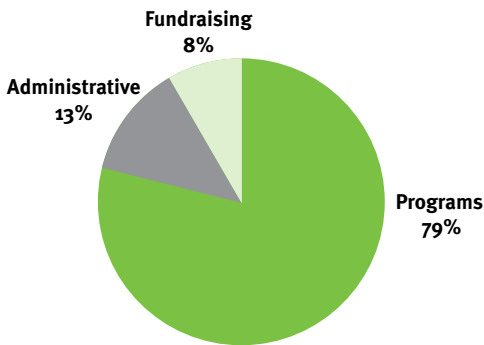
Executive Director  
Ohio Environmental Council

# Fiscal Responsibility

## Finances for Fiscal Year 2008

Expenses: **\$1,573,978**

Income: **\$1,609,188**



Charity Navigator has awarded the OEC the highest rating for fiscal responsibility, four stars, for three years in a row.



The OEC meets all twenty voluntary standards for nonprofit accountability under the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance Charity Seal program.

### OEC STAFF

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Director of Clean Air & Land Use Special Projects

**Coby Williams**  
Legislative & Public Affairs Associate



In 2008, the OEC secured some of **the biggest environmental and conservation achievements in our history**. Through issue education at the Ohio Statehouse, significant policy and legal work, and partnerships with key organizations, the OEC brought positive change to some of the most critical environmental challenges facing Ohio's air, land, and water.

In early 2008, the OEC and partners secured a legal victory that will control airborne mercury pollution as well as ensure a measure of social justice. Power companies in Ohio will no longer be able to pick and choose at which power plants, in which communities, they will install pollution controls. The OEC also secured more than \$1.6 million in funding to retrofit nearly 200 school buses with diesel-emission controls. These successes will help clear the air for thousands of Ohio residents and school children.

Thanks to hard work by the OEC and partners, Ohio lawmakers passed into law one of the country's most progressive energy standards last May. These standards will reduce energy use in Ohio, lower energy costs, and help create green jobs.

Working for more than a decade to protect Ohio's Lake Erie, the OEC led efforts that gained a huge victory for Great Lakes protection in October.

The Great Lakes Compact sets fair and consistent rules for responsible water use, including a limit on diversions and overuse of water from the Great Lakes basin. These rules will protect lake water levels and water supplies for Lake Erie residents, businesses, and wildlife.

In November, thanks to the OEC and Ohio voters, the Clean Ohio Fund (Issue 2) was replenished. The fund's \$400 million will help protect Ohio's natural areas, preserve vital farmland, create recreational trails, and clean up and revitalize contaminated lands for all Ohioans: our people, plants, and animals.

As 2008 ended, proponents of a bad coal bill (Ohio Senate Bill 386) tried to roll back clean water laws that protect our water quality and aquatic wildlife. The OEC stepped in and, with support from concerned citizens and government leaders, helped overhaul the bill to keep clean water laws intact and protect Ohio's natural resources.

# Environmental Priorities '09



## The OEC's Priorities for 2009

**While the Ohio Environmental Council works on dozens of environmental issues throughout the year, the following areas are our top legislative, policy, and legal priorities for 2009.**

**Climate Change.** The OEC addresses climate change on many fronts and is a leader in helping to reduce Ohio's greenhouse gas emissions. We are expanding our programs, such as retrofitting dirty diesel vehicles to reduce harmful emissions. We promote alternative energy solutions and advocate for stronger energy-efficiency standards - all of which protect our health, economy, and limited natural resources.

**Lake Erie & The Great Lakes.** Through grassroots advocacy, and state and federal legislation, the OEC continues to defend and restore the Great Lakes, specifically Ohio's own Lake Erie, to protect our drinking water, economy, indigenous wildlife, and way of life.

**Ohio River Basin.** Nearly two-thirds of Ohio's land and waterways drain to the Ohio River, a priceless resource for jobs, drinking water, and nature. The OEC is advocating for pollution prevention and clean-up, wise water use, and protection of threatened wetlands and streams.

**A Green Economy.** By promoting green jobs, encouraging new technologies, and developing cleaner, greener ways of doing business, the OEC is helping to turn Ohio's economy green and prosperous. Through strong leadership, the OEC will help make Ohio the center of the country's "green" belt.

**Sustainable Agriculture.** The OEC continues to work with rural families and public officials to curb harmful runoff pollution from large industrial farms, antibiotic overuse in animals, and other threats to water, wildlife, and the health of Ohio residents.

# Thank You!

We deeply appreciate our members and other supporters who believe in our mission to secure healthy air, land, and water for all who call Ohio home. Thank you to those listed here who donated between January 1, 2007, and January 15, 2009.

## Legacy Club

A special thank you to these members who have included the OEC in their estate plans.

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Kathleen L. Barber  
Richard C. Behymer\*  
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Patricia Hammel  
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Calvin & Ilene Kunin  
John Marshall &  
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George & Jan Richards  
Richard & Jan Segal  
Jeanne C. Smith  
Joe & Helen Sommer  
Chris & Jackie Thorman  
Ellen Weston

\*Deceased

## \$100,000 or more

Charles Stewart Mott Foundation  
Cleveland Foundation  
The George Gund Foundation  
The Joyce Foundation

## \$50,000—\$99,999

Clean Air Task Force  
Edwards Mother Earth Foundation  
The Energy Foundation  
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

National Wildlife Federation  
Stark Community Foundation

## \$10,000—\$49,999

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Ohio Department of Development  
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State Environmental Leadership Program

## \$5,000—\$9,999

BFK Foundation  
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The Doll Family Foundation  
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Half Price Books  
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Ohio DNR - Division of Coastal Management  
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Due to space constraints, we have listed only donors of \$1,000 or more. We thank these donors and everyone who made gifts of under \$1,000 to the OEC since 2007. If your name or organization has been listed incorrectly or omitted, please notify us at (614) 487-7506 or OEC@theOEC.org.

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