This summer, the Jersey Shore stunk. Literally.

Wind and tide caught a pungent layer of dying sea lettuce in a cove in Brick Township, emitting a smell like swamp gas. Pollution played a role: Sea lettuce crowds out more beneficial sea grasses when pollution levels spike and wash into Barnegat Bay.

That’s just one more reason why Environment New Jersey staff and supporters hand-delivered 8,000 postcards urging the governor to set firm limits on pollution entering the Jersey Shore and Barnegat Bay.

The event, covered by media across the state, capped a summer-long push to press Gov. Chris Christie to better address the pollution that closes beaches, attracts stinging jellyfish and spurs thick algae blooms.

Unfortunately, as of press time, the governor had not yet declared pollution limits, opting instead to further study the problem and delay hard action.

“We can’t build sewers and expand development into environmentally sensitive lands, and not expect to produce more polluted run-off,” said Dena Mottola Jaborska, executive director for Environment New Jersey. “The governor hasn’t hesitated to take on his adversaries on other issues. It’s time he stands up to the big developers who are standing in the way of protecting the Shore.”

“A strong and comprehensive restoration effort must begin now”

Our summer outreach staff walked door to door in more than 75 New Jersey towns, knocking on more than 100,000 doors, and urging a solution to address the root cause of water pollution at the Shore: overdevelopment.

Last December, the Legislature and governor took important initial steps, adopting new laws to curb pollution from fertilizer and overflowing stormwater. But to date, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has no standard to protect or limit the amount of pollution flowing into Shore area waters, including Barnegat Bay, where some plant and animal populations have seen a 90 percent dip.

Environment New Jersey will continue its campaign to win tough limits on pollution from all sources, especially nearby developments.

Gov. Chris Christie.
Visit our website, and tell Gov. Christie to get serious about saving the Shore.
www.EnvironmentNewJersey.org/action
You can be remembered as someone who cared enough to keep up the fight for a cleaner, greener, healthier future by making a bequest to Environment New Jersey.

For information, call: 1-800-841-7299, or email PlannedGiving@EnvironmentNewJersey.org.
Gov. Christie’s power plant pollution rollback

A big step backward
For decades, New Jersey had been a national leader on environmental issues. But last summer, Gov. Chris Christie made headlines when he announced intentions to withdraw from a regional pact that reduces pollution from coal-fired power plants and helps fund critical clean energy programs.

Environment New Jersey, together with other allies, responded with 10,000 petition signatures from New Jerseyans across the state, showing our leaders that the people of New Jersey stand in strong support of our pollution laws.

Then, in late June, Environment New Jersey, along with 27 other groups, brought more than 200 citizens to the State House for Environmental Action Day, a day of lobbying lawmakers. In particular, staff and supporters made a strong case that abandoning the pollution reduction pact—the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative—was unacceptable.

Legislature tells governor “no”
Exactly one week after Environmental Action Day, the Legislature passed a bill requiring the state to remain in the pollution reduction pact.

But approximately one month later, as feared, Gov. Christie vetoed the bill that would keep New Jersey in the 10-state program and compel power plants to reduce the pollution that clouds our skies and hastens global warming.

Advocacy groups funded by out-of-state oil and gas money have been cheering the governor every step of the way. But the people of New Jersey—those who breathe the air—aren’t cheering.

A campaign to block the governor’s veto
In the coming months, Environment New Jersey will redouble its efforts to defend RGGI, which has cut pollution across the northeast by 15 to 30 percent and funded clean energy projects throughout the state. Thankfully, using a legislative maneuver in the State House, our representatives and senators are able to block the governor’s action and keep New Jersey in this critical anti-pollution program.

At press time, Environment New Jersey had crafted plans to send organizers into the key legislative districts that will decide this issue—so we can reach thousands more New Jerseyans who live in these districts, confront the lawmakers face-to-face, and build more support among the local media, businesses and other leaders who shape opinions in each district.

“Blocking Gov. Christie’s veto of RGGI would send a powerful message that we won’t let the governor bully us into rolling back our environmental protections,” said Matt Elliott, Environment New Jersey’s global warming and clean energy advocate. “We won’t let New Jersey slide to the back of the pack when it comes to clean air, clean energy and solving global warming.”

Offshore Wind: New Jersey takes the next steps

The wind that blows off the Jersey Shore could eventually power the entire state—and today, after three years of campaigning, we’re closer than ever to building our nation’s first offshore wind farm, 16 miles off the coast of Atlantic City.

This summer alone, we saw important advancements at both the state and federal levels.

First, this April, New Jersey awarded construction permits to Fishermen’s Energy, a New Jersey-based company seeking to build a small offshore wind farm. These permits move the company one step closer to building their proposed six-turbine farm, which could, on its own, power thousands of New Jersey households.

Then, this past summer, the federal government announced intentions to reduce barriers to building larger wind farms in federal waters. Already, 11 major offshore wind developers have expressed interest in building farms far off our coast. So far, the Obama administration intends to approve seven in New Jersey waters, making New Jersey the nation’s leader in generating offshore wind energy.

“An offshore wind farm would clear the air, protect the environment and create jobs around innovative technology,” said Matt Elliott, global warming and clean energy advocate for Environment New Jersey. “With leadership from the state and federal government, we could finally see turbines off our shores.”

Environmental Action Day, 2011
Environment New Jersey’s Dena Mottola Jaborska addresses more than 200 New Jerseyans at the State House, urging them to oppose Gov. Christie’s environmental rollbacks.
The northern Highlands region of our state is home to more than 400,000 acres of green forests, clean streams and mountains—it also contains reservoirs that provide drinking water to some 5 million New Jerseyans.

Nevertheless, the region loses 3,000 acres of forests to development every year. And now, developers want Gov. Chris Christie to dismantle the law providing protections for the remaining forests, mountains and streams in the Highlands.

Environment New Jersey is uniting people from across the state to stand up to the developers and call on the governor to enforce these protections, not roll them back.

“We’re calling on the governor to drop his back-door attack on the Highlands and to keep the law’s promise to protect our mountains, forests and streams,” said Doug O’Malley, field organizer for Environment New Jersey.

Over 400,000 acres of NJ forests may be at risk

Stand up for the highlands

The 2005 Highlands Act was a promise that the northern region of the state would remain green and beautiful, and its water supplies clean. Join us in calling on Gov. Christie to implement the law, and stop trying to dismantle it.