



The 2009 session of North Carolina's state legislature has adjourned and we want to **thank you for all your hard work this year!**

This legislative session began in January and prompted a marathon of action alerts surrounding a wide variety of environmental & public health issues. While our legislators debated and voted on these bills, ***you responded by sending over 28,000 emails and making over 400 phone calls to affect the outcome of these issues! Thank you!***

Because of your actions, we've helped some great legislation become law and have halted attempts to pass some really bad bills. Many of these issues will pop back up again next year - and the Federal climate debate is still under way. Read below for brief updates on what happened with the issues you acted on this year (if you need a reminder click on the title and you'll be taken to the original action alert).

State legislators will return to Raleigh next May, so in the interim you'll be hearing about events, volunteer opportunities, and especially the need for your help to pass federal climate and clean energy policy ([click here to help right now](#)).

Please know that your actions have made a real difference in protecting and promoting a more sustainable and healthy environment in North Carolina. Together, we are making a real difference.

Thank You!
The Staff of the NC Conservation Network

2009 Legislative Recap

Public transit get's the green light! H148 (Congestion Relief/Intermodal Transport Fund) was passed by both the House and Senate and is on its way to the Governor's mansion to be signed into law. This bill creates a state fund to invest in rail and public transit, and authorizes local governments to raise funds to match the state monies. **This was a great last minute success thanks in part to your emails to your legislators!**

Jordan Lake Rules are protected & Falls Lake is scheduled for clean up!
This year there were two main bodies of water needing serious clean ups: Jordan Lake and Falls Lake. **Thanks to your outcry, our state legislators successfully passed legislation that will aid the cleanup of these waters.** These important drinking and family fun water sources will now receive the attention they need.



Jordan Lake Sunset
Photo Credit: Jordan Lake Striper Club

No sewage in your drinking water...yet. H643, introduced as Authorize Aquifer Storage of Reclaimed Water, would have forced the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) to draft rules allowing the injection and retrieval of treated wastewater in groundwater aquifers. This is a horrible idea since there is no way to prevent this wastewater from mixing into our well drinking water. **Because of your emails and phone calls, the bill was delayed and then converted to a detailed study, which was an acceptable compromise.**

Beaches still protected! S832 (Coastal Resources Commission May Permit Terminal Groin), known as the

“bad beach bill”, creates the permitting process for hardened structures to be built on our beaches. The structures in question are being pushed by wealthy homeowners who want to stop erosion near their properties on the coast. Unfortunately, these structures actually cause more erosion to nearby beaches, threatening our clean and natural public beaches. **With thanks to your emails, this bill was held up in the House and delayed at least until next session.** This is a victory for now, but the bad beach bill will be back...again...and will need your help!

Budget could be worse. While cuts were certainly made, the environment avoided the most severe cuts in the final version of the budget. The Clean Water Management Trust Fund and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund both received some funding, although the amount is much less than what they needed (but some money is better than none at all). **Thank you for your action on this issue!**

Wind energy is still a blustery topic. S1068 (Permitting Wind Energy Facilities) would establish a permitting system for wind energy facilities in NC. This bill passed the Senate, but with a ban on meaningful wind energy production in our mountains. **Thanks to your last minute phone calls and emails, the bill with the ban was not passed in the House.** Next session we want to remove the wind ban and pass the original version of 1068 so that North Carolina can become a leader in clean wind energy.



Wind Power Photo Credit: National Renewable Energy Laboratory

There’s a battle brewing over hog waste and toxic air pollution. As originally introduced, H1335 (No Duplicative Regulation of Air Toxics) was one of the session’s worst ideas. It sought to effectively eliminate our state’s air toxics program. **Your emails and phone calls helped to neutralize the worst parts of this bill in the House.** However, when 1335 moved to the Senate it was changed entirely and was titled Moratorium on EMC Rule Making. This version of the bill is another bad idea that would place a two year moratorium on rulemaking by the state Environmental Management Commission. This is widely believed to be an attempt to stop the EMC from making new rules that oversee large hog operations in North Carolina. We’ll need your help to keep both these ideas from moving forward next year.

A bill that would leave us at risk to more toxic pollution exposure still looms! H1575 (Accelerate Remediation of Manufacturing Sites) would weaken state requirements for cleanup of contaminated groundwater, letting polluters walk away without fully cleaning up their pollution in exchange for a fee paid to the state (max. of \$75,000). **This bill was successfully stuck in debate this session thanks to your actions – but it could come back up and will be just as dangerous next year.**

Titan Cement plant is still at large. There were several attempts to ensure that the planned Titan Cement plant receives a proper environmental review before moving forward. S699 (Cement Plant Moratorium), H1410 (Clarify SEPA Applicability), and several other attempts all failed at putting a stop on Titan’s plant that will destroy wetlands and increase mercury emissions in the state. It is possible that another effort to stop Titan will emerge next session. **Thank you all for making phone calls and sending emails on this issue – these bills wouldn’t have moved at all without your help!**



NC Save\$ Energy. H1050 (Independent Energy Efficiency Administrator) would have set up an independent energy efficiency group to create green jobs for folks to go into low to moderate income family homes and weatherize them – helping the folks who need it most save money and have jobs. This bill was turned into a study during debates, but is currently stuck in the House. We’ll need your help next year to pressure legislators to move forward and pass H1050.

Threats to our renewable energy investments were stopped...for now. S567 (Promote Electricity Demand Reduction), poses a serious threat to the State’s Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (REPS – a law passed in 2007 that requires NC utilities to cut energy demand through energy efficiency programs and invest in renewable energy). This legislation would allow smart grid efficiency technology to be classified as “renewable energy” rather than “energy efficiency.” This means that Duke Energy or Progress Energy could fulfill their renewable energy requirement without investing in, constructing or even purchasing any form of renewable energy. **This bill passed the Senate, but was slowed down to a halt in the House because of your intervention.** Stay tuned to see if it tries to move next session – we may need your help again!