GEARING UP FOR 2013:

Clean Water Action kicks off its campaign to educate newly elected officials starting in early January 2013 by meeting with local, state, and federal decision-makers on critical water quality, clean energy, and public health issues important to Florida’s economic future. In Washington, DC, Congress will convene in mid-January. Florida’s Legislative Session will begin on March 5. However, both state and federal legislative committees are already meeting to discuss priority bills for 2013. Locally, Clean Water Action will be identifying new environmental leaders to champion initiatives that promote water quality protection, sound local planning decisions and Everglades restoration.

Also in 2013 Clean Water Action will work toward getting Florida to make meaningful steps on protecting water supplies, safeguarding children from toxic chemical exposure, and ensuring waste from fuel production does not threaten public and environmental health. Clean Water Action will continue to fight dangerous legislative changes that could severely weaken existing environmental and health protections in the state and nationally.

Specific priorities include:

**Water Quality and Quantity:** Clean Water Action calls upon lawmakers to protect water and health direct pollution discharges and also indirect pollution like the water that runs off of farms and paved areas. Mercury, phosphorous, and other pollutants must be dramatically reduced from ground and surface waters. In addition to improving water quality, steps are needed to strengthen protections for water supplies. Consumptive use permits must better protect the state’s water, and permit holders must be required to adopt “best management practices” and to report regularly on their progress protecting these resources for public — not private — benefit.

**Toxic Chemical Exposure:** Unregulated toxic chemicals in everyday items leave Florida’s children, communities, and water supply at risk. Floridians deserve to know which products are safe to bring into their homes. Florida should develop a list of high-risk chemicals so that families can protect children and pregnant women by making informed decisions about the health and safety of the products used in homes and schools.

**Everglades Restoration:** Continued state and federal funding to restore the Everglades will bolster Florida’s economy by stimulating new construction and recreational jobs, benefitting fishing and hunting businesses, and providing safe drinking water for one third of Florida’s population. Creating natural storage areas that reconnect

*continued on page 3*
From the Florida Director
Kathy Aterno

2012 Progress, More to Come in 2013

January 2012 started with an extended Florida state Legislative Session. Clean Water Action and our allies were on the defensive, fighting — and winning — against well-funded adversaries. With your help, we defeated attempts to pre-empt local governments’ right to establish more protective urban fertilizer ordinances, to extend water usage permits to more than 30 years without adequate review, and to permit oil and gas drilling in ecologically sensitive areas. Clean Water Action helped spotlight the incredible value the Everglades brings to our economy and water supply by working to establish **Everglades Day on April 7th** every year.

But our efforts to protect Florida’s water supply and restore America’s Everglades in 2012 didn’t stop with Everglades Day. With the accelerated **Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP)**, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has worked with local agencies, nonprofit organizations, and other stakeholders to fast-track essential water quality improvement and natural water storage projects. The goal is to produce on-the-ground results in the next five to ten years.

The November elections sent the message loud and clear that Americans want the best candidates to protect our water, our health, economic future and public health, starting at the top with **President Obama’s re-election**. He will be joined in Washington, DC by new members of the Florida Congressional delegation, Lois Frankel, Joe Garcia, Patrick Murphy, and by the returning Alan Grayson. At the state and local levels, we saw fresh faces for the environment with the election of Kevin Rader, Dwight Dudley, Katie Edwards, and Joe Saunders. Clean Water Action’s local environmental champions who will be missed in 2013 include Karen Marcus, Ray Judah, John Thaxton, and Patrick Hayes.

We still have a long way to go in 2013 and beyond to ensure that Florida’s water quality, communities, and economy are truly protected.

Yours for Clean Water,

Kathy Aterno
Florida Director, Clean Water Action

DONATE TODAY:
Help Protect Florida’s Water in 2013 and Beyond!

As we look ahead to what 2013 has in store, consider making a donation to Clean Water Action or Clean Water Fund so we can continue our work to fight pollution, protect water resources, restore America’s Everglades, and keep our families safe from dangerous toxics.

Make your donation online today at [cleanwater.org/donate](http://cleanwater.org/donate) or [cleanwater.org/give](http://cleanwater.org/give). Use the “Comments” space on the donation form to indicate your support for Florida. Contact us at flcwa@cleanwater.org.

DONATE TODAY
the historic flow of the Everglades will retain water during the wet season for use during dry seasons. Policymakers should increase federal and state funding for restoration projects, and state and federal entities must work together to fund and construct additional bridging of Tamiami Trail.

**Protection from Coal Ash:** Coal-burning power plants dump millions of pounds of toxic coal ash into Florida’s surface and ground waters and air. This leaves residents and natural resources unprotected from exposure to arsenic, mercury, chromium and many other harmful substances. Coal ash disposal needs to be regulated and enforced to protect public health.

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**UPDATE:**

**FPL POWER LINES IN EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK**

Clean Water Action strongly opposed a plan by Florida Power and Light (FPL) to construct a series of 150-foot-tall concrete and steel tower power lines in Everglades National Park in Miami-Dade County. The new facilities would accommodate increased energy production from FPL’s proposed expansion of its Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant in Biscayne Bay.

State environmental regulators are now considering alternatives that would keep the power lines outside of the park. The alternative plan would place the 500 kilovolt towers east of Krome Avenue, in a sparsely populated area away from park boundaries.

Clean Water Action also continues to oppose the Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant expansion. Expansion would require too much water for plant operations, waste water discharges that would impact salinity in Biscayne Bay, and threaten health and safety for nearby communities and the environment. Clean Water Action favors the consideration of power line corridors that do not directly impact Everglades National Park and encourages Florida decision-makers to continue looking for sustainable energy alternatives that do not threaten water and health.
RESTORING THE CENTRAL EVERGLADES: NEXT STEPS

America’s Everglades is an incredible resource for Florida. It provides clean and healthy water that bolsters local economies, supports native wildlife and ecosystems, and sustains the Florida lifestyle enjoyed by residents and tourists alike.

Having clean and abundant water flow to the Everglades is critically important for the health of Florida’s environment and economy. To expedite restoration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers initiated the Central Everglades Planning Project (CEPP), which will fast-track the planning and implementation of critically important projects. Those projects will improve water quality, increase natural water storage, and restore southern flow to the Everglades.

Clean Water Action actively participated in the CEPP process throughout 2012, including dozens of public meetings and workshops. These events brought agency staff, environmental groups, recreational stakeholders and the public together to develop four final plan alternatives for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ consideration. Details are available online at www.evergladesplan.org/pm/projects/proj_50_cepp.aspx

Clean Water Action strongly supports Alternative #4 as the best plan for restoring natural water flows in the Everglades. This alternative will provide significant natural water stor-

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age capacity, improve water quality, and remove barriers to better replicate the flow of the natural system.

The next step is for the four alternatives to be reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to identify the best choice for moving forward. The NEPA process will include a time for the public to have additional input. Several factors will be considered before the final choice is made, including cost, environmental benefits, wildlife impacts, and recommendations of stakeholder groups.

Everglades National Park

Clean Water Action is proud to be a member of the Everglades Coalition, an alliance of fifty-seven local, state and national conservation and environmental organizations dedicated to full restoration of America’s Everglades. The coalition’s annual conference raises critical and timely Everglades restoration issues for discussion in an assessable forum. A variety of participants attend the conference, including elected officials, academics, governmental administrators, activists, and students.

This year’s conference, January 10-13 at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables (Miami-Dade County) included a workshop moderated by Clean Water Action’s Florida Director Kathy Aterno, “History and Introduction: The Journey to Restore America’s Everglades.” The session focused on Everglades advocacy, science, and policy, featuring panelists Mary Barley of the Everglades Trust and Everglades Foundation, Dr. Joan Browder, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and State Rep. Patrick Rooney (District 85).

Clean Water Action will continue its strong advocacy with the Everglades Coalition for the first annual “Everglades Day of Action” on April 9, 2013. Advocates from around the state will meet in Tallahassee to discuss critical water quality and ecosystem restoration issues with State Senators and Representatives. To learn more or to register for the event, contact flcwa@cleanwater.org.
Florida has fifteen coal-fired power plants scattered around the state. These facilities produce coal ash, the toxic byproduct that remains after coal is burned to produce electricity. Coal ash can contain such dangerous toxins as arsenic, mercury, and chromium and other contaminants. This dangerous substance pollutes the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the communities where our families live and work.

Clean Water Action has compiled a map of all coal-fired power plants in Florida. Is one of them in your community? Check out the map today, and be sure to zoom in to see the coal ash piles and ponds at each facility.


Alerting Florida’s Families to Toxic Chemical Dangers

Clean Water Action is working with key state legislators to introduce a new toxics bill in Florida’s 2013 Legislative Session. The measure would direct the state to develop a list of chemicals in consumer products that pose special health risks for pregnant women, children and other vulnerable populations.

The published state list would include the 50-100 chemicals deemed most threatening to public health, based on credible scientific evidence. By making this information readily available to the public, the bill would help families make informed decisions on chemicals and products in homes, schools and workplaces.
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