

RIVERKEEPER

HUDSON RIVER PROGRAM

DEFENDING OUR RIVER

Riverkeeper's Hudson River team patrols and protects the Hudson River estuary— the tidal section of the river that runs 153 miles from the mouth of NY Harbor to the federal dam at Troy. We serve as the river's lawyer, lobbyist, scientist, and public relations agent.

POLLUTION CONTROL AND ENFORCEMENT

As the nation's first Waterkeeper, Riverkeeper's core program element is investigating and enforcing illegal discharges of pollution to the Hudson River and its tributaries. Our investigators work in conjunction with our patrol boat captain and a corps of volunteer "watchdogs" to identify pollution sources. After investigating incidents, we send a notice-of-intent-to-sue letter to the polluter and to the relevant enforcement agencies. If the government does not step in to stop the pollution, we sue the violators under the citizen suit provisions of the federal Clean Water Act and other laws. Concerned citizens can report pollution problems to us via our website, our Report-a-Polluter hotline number (1-800-21-RIVER) or by emailing watchdog@riverkeeper.org.

INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION CLEAN UP

The Hudson River has suffered some major pollution incidents in the last century. Some of which have left large contamination sites that we are still working to clean up today, most notably General Electric's PCBs, ExxonMobil's oil spill in Brooklyn and the toxic brew of sewage, coal tar, PCBs, and heavy metals in the Gowanus Canal. Riverkeeper has been instrumental in securing the clean up of these sites, an effort that continues today.

SWIMMABLE RIVER CAMPAIGN / WATER QUALITY TESTING

Riverkeeper's Water Quality Testing Program is the first program to regularly test Hudson River water quality from New York Harbor to Albany and to make the data publicly available within days. Water quality data from local, state and federal authorities can take months or years to be made public.

Our Swimmable River Campaign aims to improve existing water quality policies, update aging wastewater treatment infrastructure and require regular state and local monitoring with timely public notification of river conditions.



Riverkeeper conducts water quality testing from its patrol boat, the R. Ian Fletcher

FISHABLE RIVER CAMPAIGN

Riverkeeper's Fishable River Campaign is aimed at halting the decline of Hudson River's signature fish species and restoring their numbers to sustainable levels. The campaign addresses the many negative impacts on the health of the fish including: habitat loss and degradation, sewage overflows, power plant fish kills, invasive species, ocean bycatch and overfishing.



Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant is situated on the Hudson just 24 miles north of New York City

POWER PLANT FISH KILLS

Four power plants on the Hudson River, including Indian Point, continue to rely on antiquated once-thru cooling systems that draw a trillion gallons of water from the Hudson River each year and discharge it back into the river at elevated temperatures, needlessly killing billions of fish in the process. Our power plant work has the dual goals of 1) compelling upgrades to closed-cycle cooling, or equivalent technologies, for all Hudson River power plants; and 2) obtaining federal regulations that set national closed-cycle cooling performance standards for new and existing power plants with minimal opportunities for variance.

RETIRE INDIAN POINT

Since 2001, Riverkeeper has been leading the fight to shut down the Indian Point nuclear power plant situated on the banks of the Hudson River. The plant is plagued with safety problems, lax security, on-site storage of radioactive waste and an unworkable evacuation plan. Riverkeeper also advocates for safe and sustainable energy alternatives for New York.

*For more information, or to become a member, please contact us at:
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info@riverkeeper.org, www.riverkeeper.org*