Last year was bad, and this year hasn't been a romp in the park either. Yet, from the environmental perspective, there have been some bright spots. With Thanksgiving a day away, this is a good time to appreciate the high points. Here are my top ten:

1. The midterm elections. Democrats wildly outperformed expectations in both Congressional and state elections. The outcome will hinder Trump's ant-environmental crusade and bring more states into the campaign for clean energy.

2. The lower federal courts. Lower court judges have pushed back against many of Trump's worst actions such as mass cancellation of grants. Though the Supreme Court has undermined this effort to an extent, lower courts were still able to limit a lot of damage.

3. Lawyers. Rethink all those dumb jokes. Without lawyers, the lawsuits to halt the environmental carnage wouldn't have happened.

4. The budget. Trump demanded budget cuts that would have crippled environmental agencies and axed clean energy programs. This was too much for the Republican Congress, which successfully pushed back.

5. Federalism. Despite the battering it has taken at the federal level, environmental protection, renewable energy, and climate policy are still alive and well at the state level.

6. Energy economics. Trump has done his level best to kill the renewable energy industry. He's had some success, most notably with offshore wind, but solar and batteries have such strong economics that they've held on and even expanded.

7. The long-suffering civil service. Trump and Musk saw them as public enemy number one, and the Administration has done its best to make their lives miserable. Some were axed. And no one can be blamed for jumping ship. But many have stayed, quietly doing their best to protect the public interest.

8. The *Loper Bright* ruling. That's the case that overruled the *Chevron* doctrine, which would have required courts to defer to the Trump Administration's interpretations of statutes. That's the last thing we'd want right now.

9. The march of time. Trump's term is nearly half over. We can dimly see the light at the far end of the tunnel.

10. The 22nd Amendment. Roll over, Shelley and Keats. Just listen to this poem: “No person shall be elected/ to the office of the President/ more than twice.” Have more beautiful words ever been written?