

# -PA ——— Environment Digest

*An Update on  
Environmental  
Issues in  
Pennsylvania*

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Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

January 7, 2008

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## DCNR Secretary DiBerardinis Recaps Accomplishments for 2007

In a [special issue of the Resource](#) online newsletter, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Michael DiBerardinis listed DCNR's accomplishments for 2007 saying the year was "strangely productive."

"Even with some challenges like my confirmation process, closing all state parks as a result of the budget impasse, and the potential diversion of Keystone funds, DCNR employees managed to stay focused on advancing our stewardship mission," said Secretary DiBerardinis. "I appreciate the deep connection the organization has to its historical mission and its current practice."



Here are some significant accomplishments highlighted by the Secretary:

- DCNR held two successful conferences: One about advancing the Pennsylvania Wilds and the other about connecting Pennsylvanians to the outdoors in more meaningful ways;
- We continued to protect land at a higher rate than anytime in decades;
- Programs and strategic investments were aligned within the Conservation Landscape Initiatives with our public, private and non-profit partners and have created measurable conservation results in moving the Commonwealth in the direction of sustainable communities;
- We have completed recreation plans for parks and forests in the Poconos, Southeastern Pennsylvania and the Laurel Highlands and have invested in developing model recreational opportunities to respond to these plans;
- The [www.iConservePA.org](http://www.iConservePA.org) website was successfully launched, and we developed materials and a new training program to help us connect more meaningfully with our visitors.
- There are scores of new outdoor recreation and interpretive programs to serve as pathways to the practice of conservation;
- Our state forests again were certified as sustainably managed (one of just a handful in the United States);

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- Working together, the bureaus of Forestry and Topographic and Geologic Survey and the Office of Conservation Science have moved DCNR into national leadership around policy and programs to reduce carbon and combat climate change; and
- We opened Rock Run ATV Park in Cambria County on reclaimed strip mine land. Other highlights by DCNR’s conservation goals include:
  - [Improve Stewardship and Management of State Parks and Forests](#);
  - [Promote Statewide Land Conservation](#);
  - [Build and Maintain Attractive and Sustainable Communities](#);
  - [Create Outdoor Connections for Citizens and Visitors](#); and
  - [Building Capacity](#).

For more information, visit the [DCNR website](#).

### “Improve Your Habitat” 2008 Calendar, Others Available

Crisci Associates is again this year offering a free “Improve Your Habitat In 2008” Calendar. [Download it now](#). *(For best results, print the first page on photo paper.)*

The Wild Resource Conservation Program is offering a free [Rare and Endangered Plants Calendar](#) for 2008.

You can also order the “[Beauty of Pennsylvania’s State Parks](#)” Calendar and the Game Commission 2008 is available [at the Outdoor Shop](#).

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## On the Hill

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### Session Schedule

The Senate and House will return to voting session the week of January 14, then off a week for Martin Luther King's birthday, and then back on January 28.

You can watch the [Senate Floor Session](#) and [House Floor Session](#) live online.

### On the Senate/House Agenda

The Senate and House floor Calendars for January 14—

### Calendars

**House (January 14):** [House Resolution 506](#) (George-D-Clearfield) directing DEP and the PUC to evaluate measures to manage the transition from electricity price caps and to minimize the impact on residential customers.

**Senate (January 14):** [Senate Bill 497](#) (Robbins-R-Mercer) limiting the liability of landowners making property available for recreational purposes.

### Bills Introduced

The following bills of interest were introduced this week—

**Energy Efficiency:** [House Bill 2143](#) Ross (R-Chester) An Act providing for the adoption of procedures to encourage energy efficiency and demand-side resources by electric distribution companies, for program administrator, for review of recommendations by the Public Utility Commission, for responsibilities of electric distribution companies and for reporting.

## Other News

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### Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grant Applications Due February 29

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is now accepting proposals under its [Chesapeake Bay Small Watersheds Grant Program](#). Interested applicants can participate in a pre-application webcast to learn more about applying on January 23.

Applications are due on February 29.

The Program provides grants of up to \$200,000 to organizations and local governments working on a local level to protect and improve watershed health in the Chesapeake Bay basin, while building citizen-based resource stewardship.

The Program is managed in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Program with funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Forest Service and other partners.

To register for the webcast, and to download the Request for Proposals and the Application, visit the [Chesapeake Bay Small Watersheds Grant Program webpage](#) or contact Amanda Bassow by sending email to: [amanda.bassow@nfwf.org](mailto:amanda.bassow@nfwf.org) or Brian Kittler by sending email to: [brian.kittler@nfwf.org](mailto:brian.kittler@nfwf.org) or calling 202-857-0166.

### Register Now for February 22-23 Keystone Coldwater Conference

The Pennsylvania Council of Trout Unlimited is pleased to announce that registration is now available for the [2008 Keystone Coldwater Conference](#) with the theme, “Headwaters Ecosystems: Protection, Management and Research,” being held in State College on February 22-23.

This year’s theme will focus will be on protection and management of headwater ecosystems and will highlight emerging research and successful partnerships concerned with their health and preservation.

On February 22, the conference begins with an optional Friday afternoon workshop covering taxonomy and field identification of headwater amphibians, reptiles, fish, mussels, invertebrates and plants; followed by an evening reception with networking opportunities, poster displays, refreshments and music.

On February 23 keynoters Larry L. Schweiger, President of the National Wildlife Foundation, and Bern Sweeney, President of the Stroud Water Research Center, will address “The State of our Headwater Ecosystems.”

Eight breakout sessions will round off the morning and afternoon with topics related to the latest research and management tools to improve our watersheds.

The conference concludes with a wrap-up and closing remarks by the keynote speakers. Exhibitor space is available.



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The conference agenda and registration information can be found on the [2008 Keystone Coldwater Conference webpage](#) or by contacting Deborah Nardone at 814-359-5233 or send email to: [dnardone@coldwaterheritage.org](mailto:dnardone@coldwaterheritage.org).

### Keystone Farm Show Features Workshop on Farm Productivity, REAP Tax Credits



Agricultural producers are invited to an informative program on ways to improve farm profitability through conservation at the [Keystone Farm Show](#) in the Pennsylvania Room at the York Fairgrounds (Pennsylvania Room Building #7) on January 9 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#), University of Pennsylvania, Penn State University, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the State Conservation Commission will be presenting information on new tools that will help producers conserve natural resources while improving their bottom line.

Tax credits for conservation practices through the [Resource Enhancement and Protection](#) (REAP) program, precision dairy feeding to minimize manure nutrients while enhancing production, use of various by-products such as distillers grains in rations, and Environmental Quality Incentives Program assistance for feed management will be discussed.

Information will be available from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, with scheduled presentations at: 10:00 REAP tax credits for conservation, 10:30 Precision dairy feeding and by-products, 11:00 EQIP funds for feed management, 1:00 REAP tax credits for conservation, 1:30 Precision dairy feeding and by-products, 2:00 EQIP funds for feed management

For more information, contact Kelly O'Neill, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, 717-234-5550 or send email to: [koneill@cbf.org](mailto:koneill@cbf.org).

### Meetings on REAP Farm Conservation Tax Credit Program During Farm Show



Farmers can learn more about the [Resource Enhancement and Protection](#) tax credit program at two separate meetings that will be hosted by the State Conservation Commission during the 2008 [Pennsylvania Farm Show](#).

The meetings will be held January 8 and 10, from 10 a.m. to noon in the Pennsylvania Room in the Farm Show Complex & Expo Center in Harrisburg.

"Farmers may not be sure if their operations qualify for REAP tax credits or how to apply, so they can bring all questions to this informational meeting to learn more about the program," said Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff. "With increased production and energy costs, farmers need to explore all available options to keep their businesses profitable and REAP provides another tool to help do that."

The Resource Enhancement and Protection program, administered by the State Conservation Commission, encourages farmers to use conservation best management practices to reduce erosion and sedimentation impacting Pennsylvania's streams and watersheds.

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Guidelines and application packets will be available during the week of the Farm Show at the Department of Agriculture booth on the Main Floor of the Farm Show Complex & Expo Center.

Applications will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis and must be postmarked after December 26. Applications delivered in person will not be accepted prior to January 2 at 8 a.m.

For more information about the program or for information about attending the educational meetings, contact program administrator Mary Bender at 717-787-8821 or send e-mail to: [mabender@state.pa.us](mailto:mabender@state.pa.us) , or visit the [REAP webpage](#).

### PA Farm Show Offers Learning Stations, Biofuels Exhibit January 5-12



Petting an alpaca, meeting a dairy princess and identifying unusual products that contain wood are just a few of the things visitors to the 2008 [Pennsylvania Farm Show](#) can do at 11 hands-on learning stations designed to teach visitors about agriculture, Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff said this week.

"The Farm Show is an excellent way for both children and adults to learn more about Pennsylvania agriculture and how it affects our daily lives,"

Secretary Wolff said. "The learning stations will help visitors explore different aspects of agriculture through memorable activities including live animals and games."

The 11 educational sites will be marked with the "Farm Show Farmer" learning station icon. The learning stations can also be found on the map in the souvenir booklet, which can be purchased at the show.

Visitors will also have access to educational opportunities regarding wind, solar, biogas, biofuels and biomass energy harvested here in the Commonwealth. Visit the Expo Hall to find the latest in this innovative technology.

PSECU announced this week they are a primary sponsor of the Pennsylvania Energy Independence Exhibit at the 2008 Farm Show.

"We are pleased to have the opportunity to sponsor this event," notes Greg Smith, President of PSECU. "The exhibit helps visitors understand the critical fuel-related issues we are facing and potential answers. While on the surface, an observer may think it does not relate to finances, it really does. The consumer bears the burden of the increased costs. We look to educate consumers and hope that education translates into savings. That's part of our mission as a credit union."

Another highlight of the Farm Show is the 900 pound sculpture made entirely of butter. After the Farm Show, consistent with Gov. Rendell's Energy Independence Plan, the butter will again this year be turned into biofuel.

The Pennsylvania Farm Show is the largest indoor agricultural event in the nation, featuring nearly 8,000 animals, 10,000 competitive exhibits and 270 commercial exhibitors. The eight-day show is Jan. 5-12, at the Farm Show Complex & Expo Center. Admission is free and parking is \$5.

For more information, including a complete list of the 11 learning stations, visit the [Pennsylvania Farm Show website](#).

**NewsClip:** [Farm Show Energy Boost](#)

## **New DEP Farm Show Exhibit Teaches Individuals How to Reduce Carbon Footprint**

The nearly 500,000 visitors to the [Pennsylvania Farm Show](#) will learn how individuals can take simple measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and combat the growing threat of climate change.

A new exhibit from the Department of Environmental Protection will ask visitors, “What’s your carbon footprint?” The exhibit is featured in the Farm Show Complex Main Hall and it features comically drawn farm animals in everyday human situations to highlight steps people can take to reduce their impact on the environment.

According to DEP Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty, the aggregate efforts of individuals can have a dramatic effect in mitigating an increasingly worrisome problem.

“Climate change is one of the most important environmental protection issues of our time,” said McGinty. “Almost everything about the world around us—from our infrastructure to our economy—is based on a consistent climate. The faster-than-normal rise in temperatures over the last century has led to changes in weather patterns, drought, soil erosion and it has affected countless species.

“There’s little doubt that further consequences will emerge that we have yet to comprehend fully, and many of those consequences may prove irreversible, unfortunately. That’s why it’s so important to act now and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Because these gases may persist for the next century, the actions we take—or fail to take—today will have a profound affect on the world our children and future generations live in.

“If each of us takes a few simple steps to reduce the amount of pollution for which we’re responsible, then we can preserve our plant’s health and our way of life for generations to come,” she said.

Included in the exhibit is an “energy hog,” who is asleep in his living room where the television on, the air conditioning running and a window is open; a freshly shorn sheep who chooses to wear a sweater rather than keep the thermostat on high during a cold day; and a group of barnyard animals avoiding rush hour traffic by carpooling through the HOV lane.

Visitors to the exhibit also can calculate their individual carbon emissions using a carbon footprint calculator, and then receive tips for reducing their impact.

The new Main Floor exhibit replaces the retired Riverwalk Environmental Trail diorama, which is now on display in the Environmental Education Center at DEP’s central Harrisburg office in the Rachel Carson State Office Building.

DEP also will host an exhibit at the Farm Show’s Renewable Energy section located in the Expo Hall. Staff of DEP’s Office of Energy & Technology Deployment will be on hand to answer questions about clean energy and biofuels, as well as Governor Rendell’s Energy Independence Strategy.

The Pennsylvania Farm Show runs January 5-12 at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg.

## **PA Supreme Court Decision Upholds Land Preservation Rights**

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court last week overturned a lower court decision allowing the Ephrata Area School District to build a road on farmland preserved with a conservation easement.

“Pennsylvania is a national leader in farmland preservation,” said Matthew Royer, Pennsylvania staff attorney for the [Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#). “The Supreme Court’s ruling bolsters this status by giving holders of open space easements the clear right to ensure that land is permanently protected. The court affirmed that an easement holder cannot be left without a say in whether construction may occur on preserved farmland. Without this decision we could have seen an open season on preserved farms and open space throughout Pennsylvania.

“CBF has a longstanding partnership with farmers and farm organizations throughout the Commonwealth, and works with farmers to ensure healthy, profitable farms. Farmland preservation programs are critical to the vitality of the agricultural economy, as well as to the protection of water quality in local streams, rivers, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay.”

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation filed an amicus brief in the case, along with the Lancaster Farmland Trust, Lancaster County Conservancy, PA Farmland Preservation Association, Lancaster County Coalition for Smart Growth, Pennsylvania Land Trust Association, County Commissioners Association of PA, and the Centre County Agricultural Land Preservation Board.

### **Fisher Farm Permanently Protected in Centre County**

The [Heritage Conservancy](#) of Doylestown and [ClearWater Conservancy](#) announced they have signed a conservation easement with Barbara and John Fisher of Patton Township, Centre County, permanently protecting 197 acres of scenic and environmentally important property.

The Fisher property was given the third highest priority for conservation out of 94 Patton Township properties when Patton Township established the Patton Township Open Space Plan in 2004.

Factors that made the property rank highly by Patton Township, and recognized by Heritage Conservancy and ClearWater Conservancy, are its exceptional value wetlands, a portion of Buffalo Run, a High Quality Cold-water Fishery stream, its wooded areas, meadows, and scenic quality.

The cooperative effort between Heritage Conservancy and ClearWater Conservancy to conserve the Fisher property with a conservation easement is an example of how two land trusts can combine expertise to work toward a common goal, and this is the first time that ClearWater has worked with another land trust to co-hold an easement.

Heritage Conservancy took the lead role in completing the easement. ClearWater Conservancy worked with Heritage Conservancy reviewing documents and providing assistance to the Fishers. ClearWater is responsible for monitoring the property, and together the two land trusts will ensure protection of the conservation values of the property.

Heritage Conservancy and ClearWater Conservancy thank Barbara and John Fisher for providing a generous contribution to an endowment fund that will ensure the capacity of the land trusts to protect the property in perpetuity.

A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a private landowner and a qualified organization, such as a land trust, that protects natural, cultural, and/or historic resources in perpetuity.



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A conservation easement allows a landowner to retain ownership and use of his or her property while limiting certain uses that may be harmful to the resources being protected.

For more information on land conservation and conservation easements, visit the [PA Land Trust Association website](#).

### **EPA Launches New Water Protection Indicators Webpage**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [Mid-Atlantic Water Protection Program](#) uses the environmental indicators tool to measure progress in reaching its goals toward water quality improvements.

The primary use of an indicator is to characterize current status and to track or predict significant change.

EPA's recently launched Water Protection program webpages highlight these indicators, what they are and how EPA uses them to measure and report success.

To view this information, visit the [Water Protection Program webpage](#).

### **Professional Seminars, Water Symposium Announced By Professional Geologists**

The [PA Council of Professional Geologists](#) has announced professional development and training programs as well as the 2008 Water Symposium hosted by PCPG

On May 7, PCPG will host the 2008 Water Symposium: Water and the Environment - Do Your Due Diligence in Hershey.

PCPG, its partners, and its program sponsors will present the one-day program of technical presentations designed to highlight the latest methods, tools, and technologies employed in environmental and earth resource projects.

Professionals will share experiences to afford attendees an opportunity to consider how project challenges are being resolved by others, and there will be ample opportunity to discuss problems that are common within your area of practice. Over 30 vendors are also expected to participate in the event.

On February 14-15, PCPG will conduct a PG Review Course for the Practicing Professional and ASBOG Exam Prep seminar focusing on Fundamentals of Geology, and Applied Geology. This unique professional review seminar covering both the fundamentals and the practice of geology seminar has been conducted regularly since 1997, and the value of this seminar has attracted the practicing Professional Geologist as well as those preparing for the P.G. Examination. The course has been approved for 16 CEUs by both Delaware and South Carolina.

Also, PCPG will conduct a two-day Rock Slope Stability Analysis & Design short course on February 28-29 covering more advanced topics as well as new technologies for characterization of rock faces. Geologists, Engineering Geologists, Geotechnical Engineers and other professionals seeking intermediate level instruction on methods and new technologies applicable to rock slope stability investigation, analyses and design are invited to attend. As part of the short course, an in-pit mine highwall data-collection exercise is under consideration, pending logistical support. (CEU approval pending.)

For more information and to register, visit the [PA Council of Professional Geologists website](#) or by calling 717-730-9745.

## **Sewage Enforcement Officers Hold Annual Meeting February 24-25**

The PA Association of Sewage Enforcement Officers will hold its annual conference on February 24-25 at the Holiday Inn in Grantville.

The conference will feature special sessions on onsite systems and the Chesapeake Bay Strategy, cost implications of technology selections, outdoor health issues for SEOs, stormwater management and the SEO and a workshop on what's new in modules and forms.

[Download a conference brochure and registration form.](#)

## **January is Radon Action Month, Pennsylvanians Urged to Test Homes for Radon**

The Department of Environmental Protection urges all Pennsylvanians to [test their homes for radon](#), a naturally-occurring radioactive gas that is the second-leading cause of lung cancer in the U.S.

The best time to conduct the test is during the colder months when homes are closed and radon is most likely to be trapped and build to unhealthy levels.

Radon is a colorless, odorless gas that occurs naturally through the breakdown of uranium in soil and rocks. It seeps into homes through cracks in basements and foundations, and high levels of radon have been found in homes throughout Pennsylvania. The EPA recommends taking action to lower the level of radon in your home if the level is 4.0 pico Curies/liter or higher.

Radon mitigation systems typically cost between \$800 and \$1,200 and most homeowners will want to hire a radon mitigation professional to install the system.

In Pennsylvania, anyone who tests or performs mitigation work for radon on a home other than the one in which they live must be certified by DEP.

For more information and a list of certified radon contractors, visit [DEP's Radon webpage](#) or call 1-800-23 RADON.

## **Rendell Announces Pennsylvania Joins Suit Against EPA Greenhouse Gas Ruling**

Gov. Rendell said this week that Pennsylvania is joining a multi-state lawsuit against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with a goal of allowing states to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles.

On December 19, EPA denied California's request for a waiver to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles, a decision which prevented it and other states from implementing stricter greenhouse gas emissions standards for cars that would have been put into effect as early as 2009.

"The EPA wrongfully and illegally blocked our efforts to do something about climate change – all they should have done was step aside and let the states take the lead," said Gov. Rendell. "Pennsylvania and other states should be able to ensure cleaner air and water to protect the health of our residents."

Patrick Henderson, Executive Director of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, said the new lawsuit was "troubling" saying DEP told the Committee the sole legal reason for adopting the California vehicle standards was so Pennsylvania could meet federal ozone pollution standards. That portion of the state rule remains unaffected by the EPA decision both he and DEP have said and remains in force.

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Quoted by Capitolwire, Henderson said, "...now we are apparently going to spend tens or thousands of dollars in taxpayer money on litigation (to overturn the greenhouse gas decision)."

The lawsuit, which seeks to reverse the EPA greenhouse gas decision, was filed in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals by California. In addition to Pennsylvania and California, other states intervening in the suit are: Arizona, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington.

Under the federal Clean Air Act passed in 1963, California is expressly allowed to impose environmental regulations that are stricter than federal rules in recognition of the state's "compelling and extraordinary conditions," which include unique topography, climate and high number and concentration of vehicles.

In the 40-year history of the act, EPA has granted approximately 50 waivers to California for innovations like catalytic converters, exhaust emission standards, and leaded gasoline regulations. Until last month, a waiver request had never been denied.

Cars generate 20 percent of all man-made carbon dioxide emissions in the United States. At least 25 percent of greenhouse gases in Pennsylvania can be attributed to transportation.

California adopted its greenhouse gas regulations on August 4, 2005, requiring reductions in fleet-average, greenhouse-gas emissions for most new passenger motor vehicles sold in California, beginning with the 2009 model year.

Pennsylvania has adopted the stricter California emission rules, but will not realize greenhouse gas reductions from the rules unless the Golden State is permitted to enforce that portion of its clean vehicle program. New cars and light trucks starting with model year 2008 that are sold, titled and registered in Pennsylvania must be certified by the California Air Resources Board.

"This issue presents an opportunity for the federal government to combat climate change that threatens all life on Earth," said Gov. Rendell. "Our planet's basic life support systems are imperiled and we need to take action. We are proud to stand with California and fight this unlawful decision by the EPA that will hamper the commonwealth's ability to battle global warming."

In April, the U.S. Supreme Court made a landmark ruling, deciding that EPA has the authority under the Clean Air Act to regulate greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide as air pollutants. This decision paved the way for states to adopt regulations controlling greenhouse gas pollutants from automobiles sold within its borders.

**NewsClip:** [PA Joins California in Lawsuit Over Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#)

### **Chester County Food Waste Composting Workshop Set for February 28**

The [Chester County Solid Waste Authority](#) is sponsoring a Food Waste Composting Workshop on February 28 in Room 149 at the Chester County Government Services Center, 601 Westtown Road, West Chester, Pa.

The workshop begins at 10:00 a.m. and ends at noon and is co-sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Environmental Protection.

Participants will learn how to make composting manure, yard waste, food waste and other organics work for you.

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Join expert composter, Mark Highland, for a look at how you can increase your on-farm organic matter by spending a little time composting. Collection, processing, equipment and permitting will be discussed.

Highland, “The Organic Mechanic,” focused his M.S. degree studies on compost and potting soil and helped Longwood Gardens develop composts to use in creating their own potting soil before starting his own potting soil company, The Organic Mechanic Soil Company, LLC.

For more information, contact Nancy Fromnick, Chester County Recycling Coordinator at 610-273-3771 ext. 226 with questions. To register, call 610-273-3771 ext. 228.

### Springside School Receives Coca Cola, RecycleBank Grants

Through its [Green Schools Program](#), Coca Cola and RecycleBank of Philadelphia awarded grants to [Springside School in Philadelphia](#) to support two exciting projects which will generate creative thinking about current environmental challenges.

In the first, Middle School students will create public service videos aimed at positively influencing the way people use energy and recycle and reuse materials. This educational programming

is planned for use in homes and schools.

The students will research, develop, design, write, produce and edit a series of short videos using the resources of the new ViDCAST studio. This process will give students a chance to utilize their artistic talents and technology skills and reach a broader audience with their message.

In an independent project which also involves a close partnership with the [Pennsylvania Horticultural Society](#) and the [Philadelphia Water Department](#), seven Upper School students are currently working with environmental artist and activist, Stacy Levy, to merge art and science by designing a permanent sculpture that will reduce storm water runoff throughout the campus.

Designs are in the works to direct water from Springside’s rooftops to eventually go through water sculptures, ramps, wheels, pulleys, and other simple machines during rainstorms in order to dissipate runoff more effectively.

The physics and art students will work through each step of the process of creating a public artwork: from researching the reality and spirit of the site, to understanding infrastructure, diagramming flows, brainstorming ideas, testing out materials, creating a budget and proposal, and fabricating and installing an artwork.

Finally, there will be an installation of the project, fittingly, between the art and science wings of the Upper School.

For more information, contact Gretchen Harrison, Springside School, 215-247-7200, ext. 7131, or send email to: [gharrison@springside.org](mailto:gharrison@springside.org)



The Team (from left): Madison LaSorda, Alexis Giovinazzo, Shelby Jackson, Stefanie Sherr, Kamille Dailey, Jessie Levin, Elizabeth Bixler, Alexis Berry, Jessica Saunders, Maddie Nicol.

## **Applications Due for Community Action for Renewed Environment Grants**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is accepting grant applications for its [Community Action for a Renewed Environment \(CARE\) Program](#).

Proposals are due by March 17. EPA will conduct three conference calls on January 18, February 11, and 27, for prospective applicants to ask questions about the application process.

CARE is a competitive grant program that offers an innovative way for communities to organize and take action to reduce toxic pollution in their air, land and water. By joining forces, for-profit and non-profit organizations can work together to improve the environmental health of a community and its residents.

EPA anticipates awarding CARE cooperative agreements in two levels. Level I cooperative agreements range from \$75,000 to \$100,000 and can be used to create community-based partnerships to develop local environmental priorities.

Level II awards, ranging from \$150,000 to \$300,000 each, will support communities which have already established broad-based partnerships, have identified the priority toxic risks in the community, and are prepared to measure results, implement risk reduction activities, and become self-sustaining.

In 2007, \$3.4 million in cooperative agreements were made available to more than 20 communities through the CARE program, a community-based, community-driven program that builds partnerships to help the public understand and reduce toxic risks from numerous sources

Examples of previously-funded projects include addressing pollution from the Philadelphia ports, reducing the impacts of pesticides on public health and the environment in low-income neighborhoods in Philadelphia, addressing abandoned, contaminated industrial and residential properties in Gary, Ind., dealing with agriculture-related toxics in Yakima County, Wash., and reducing air emissions from diesel trucks and buses in Woonsocket, R.I.

The following entities are eligible to apply: local, public nonprofit institutions and organizations, federally recognized Indian tribal governments, Native American organizations, private nonprofit institutions and organizations, colleges and universities and quasi-public nonprofit institutions and organizations (both interstate and intrastate).

For applications and more information, visit the [Community Action for a Renewed Environment Program webpage](#).

## **Environmentalist to Discuss Building the Green Economy February 21**

Noted environmental leader, civil rights attorney and public speaker Van Jones will talk about a national "green-collar jobs" initiative at a presentation February 21 at the [Academy of Natural Sciences](#) in Philadelphia.

Jones is the president of the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights in Oakland, Calif. The center promotes integrated solutions to urban America's toughest problems: social inequality and environmental destruction. Working with the Apollo Alliance, Van is promoting the initiative that he hopes will create "green pathways out of poverty," while greatly expanding the coalition fighting global warming.

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Jones' most recent success is the passage of the Green Jobs Act of 2007, authorizing \$125 million for green job training programs across the country. Van is a 1993 Yale Law graduate, husband and father.

The presentation begins at 6:30 p.m. in the academy's main auditorium. The event will be preceded by a reception at 6 p.m.

The presentation is supported by the Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Delaware Valley Green Building Council, Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, Drexel University, Temple University – Ambler, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, City of Philadelphia, and The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

The lecture is made possible, in part, by funding of the Claneil Foundation and the Environmental Associates of The Academy of Natural Sciences and is sponsored by the School of Architecture and the Engineering & Design Institute at Philadelphia University.

For more information, visit the Academy of Natural Sciences' [Town Square Program webpage](#). RSVP is required by sending email to: [rwall@ansp.org](mailto:rwall@ansp.org).

### **Citizens Bank Offer New Energy Efficiency Loans To Help Homeowners**

Citizens Bank announced this week it is offering a new Energy Efficiency Loan to help low-to-moderate income homeowners make their homes more energy efficient.

The Citizens Bank Energy Efficiency Loan offers select homeowners the ability to qualify for an unsecured loan of \$1,000 to \$3,000 at a rate of 1 percent APR for as long as 36 months. A 3 percent APR is available for loans of \$3,001 up to \$10,000, for up to 84 months.

"With continuing concern about rising energy costs, Citizens Bank looked at how we might be helpful to homeowners seeking long-term energy conservation solutions," said Daniel K. Fitzpatrick, Citizens Bank President and CEO for Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey. "By making these below market rate loans available, we hope to make it feasible for homeowners who want to add insulation, upgrade furnaces or home-heating and cooling systems, install storm windows and doors and more."

The Citizens Bank Energy Efficiency Loan is designed to assist homeowners who might not otherwise qualify for loans. Often projects to improve a home's energy efficiency are either postponed until the necessary funds can be saved or financed with a higher rate credit card. This product will save consumers money, can conserve energy, and may even increase a home's value.

The Citizens Bank Energy Efficiency Loan is designed for family incomes of less than 80 percent of the HUD median family income guidelines and the income amount may vary depending upon the actual place of residence.

For example: \$51,400 in Harrisburg-Carlisle, \$51,200 in Lancaster, \$50,900 in York-Hanover, \$39,000 in the Altoona area

The figure is based on 80 percent of the HUD median family income guidelines and the income amount may vary depending upon the actual place of residence. The \$1,000, 1 percent APR fixed rate loan with a three-year term has a low monthly payment of \$28.20 a month for 36 months when payments are automatically deducted from a Citizens Bank checking or savings account. There are no fees or closing costs.

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Loan applicants must own and occupy a 1-4 family home or condo where improvements are being made, will need to provide work estimates, and must sign a Statement and Certification form indicating that the loan proceeds will be used exclusively for energy-efficient home improvements.

There is a minimum monthly payment of \$25 for the Citizens Bank Energy Efficiency Loan and only one, 1 percent APR loan per household.

Under the same HUD guidelines and for larger home improvement projects, Citizens Bank is also offering a 3 percent APR on loans of \$3,001 up to \$10,000 with terms up to seven years. For example, a \$10,000 loan at a 3 percent APR with a seven-year term would result in 84 monthly payments of \$132.13.

To apply for the Citizens Bank Energy Efficiency Loan and for complete details, homeowners should visit a Citizens Bank branch or call 1-888-304-5400. All loans are subject to credit approval. Citizens Bank is an Equal Housing Lender.

**NewsClip:** [Citizens Bank Offers Loans for Energy Projects](#)

### DEP, EPA Offer Training on Hospital Energy Management January 30

A free [hands-on training session](#) designed especially for acute care and children's hospitals, as well as medical office building managers who would like to improve energy usage will be held on January 30 in Philadelphia.

The session, co-sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Environmental Protection, will be held at 12:30 p.m. at EPA's Region 3 office building, 1650 Arch St. in Philadelphia.

The training will focus on the use of EPA's Portfolio Manager software, which helps evaluate the energy performance of facilities and compares them to similar operations across the nation.

The software provides information to assist managers in making decisions regarding investments in energy efficiency, development of energy management plans, and in measuring improvements over time.

Participants will learn more about the energy software, then spend the remaining time working on benchmarks for their individual facility with assistance from trained DEP and EPA staff. Participants should bring their specific facility data to the training to accomplish this task.

To register, visit the [training session webpage](#). Parties will then receive additional material in preparation for the training. Questions should be directed to DEP Southeast Regional Energy Manager Heather Cowley at 484-250-5816.

### EPA Outlines Sustainable Skylines Clean Program Project in Philadelphia

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency staff explored the potential for a Sustainable Skylines project in Philadelphia at a meeting hosted by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission.

The Sustainable Skylines initiative is a voluntary partnership program developed and funded by EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards. The program integrates transportation, energy, land use and air quality planning programs into projects that yield measurable air quality benefits in a relatively short period of time.

A [description of the Region 6 pilot project](#) that provides insight into this program is available online.

### Game Commission Drafting Rules To Control Wild Boars Destroying Habitat



In response to a recent state Supreme Court ruling, Game Commission Executive Director Carl G. Roe this week directed staff to begin developing regulations to allow the incidental taking of wild boars during certain hunting seasons.

The draft regulations are expected to be ready for the Board of Game Commissioners to consider as part of its January 29 meeting agenda.

Wild boars may weigh more than 400 pounds and are very prolific; they can produce litters of 8 to 12 young and can have two litters per year. They are extremely destructive to crops, wildlife habitat and the environment, and they are a danger to wildlife and domestic animals and a threat to the pork industry, especially since they are carriers of diseases and parasites that can infect livestock, wildlife and humans.

Roe noted that wild boars root and wallow, which destroys wildlife habitats. Destruction includes erosion along waterways and wetlands and the loss of native plants. Additionally, wild boars compete for food with deer, bears, turkeys, squirrels and many other birds and mammals. They are predators of small mammals and deer fawns as well as ground-nesting birds such as turkeys, ovenbirds and grouse, including their nests and young.

A Pennsylvania task force has been established to locate feral hog populations and help address the concerns caused by their presence. The task force consists of the Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the PennAg Industry Association, the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Penn State University, the Audubon PA and the Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council.

"On December 27, a Supreme Court ruling, in effect, classified wild boars as 'protected mammals,'" Roe said. "Prior to the court's ruling, the Game Commission had no regulatory oversight or authority for wild boars. Now, we are seeking to clarify and appropriately regulate the protection of wild boars that was put in place by the court." Roe stressed that wild boars are not native to the Commonwealth and are classified as an invasive species by the Pennsylvania Invasive Species Council.

"Wild boars found in the state are either domestic pigs, Eurasian wild boars, descendants of European and Asian hogs, or hybrids of these species that have escaped or been released," Roe said. "They should not be confused with the javelina, or collared peccary, which is native to the southwestern and southern U.S. and northern Mexico.

Breeding populations are believed to currently exist in only Bedford and Cambria counties, where pregnant females and young have recently been seen and killed. Damage caused by feral hogs to wildlife, habitat and property has been reported in the southwest, southcentral and northeast regions of the state. Two additional counties, Montgomery and Warren, have unconfirmed sightings of young and/or pregnant sows.

While no feral hogs in Pennsylvania have tested positive for any infectious diseases as yet, feral hogs are known to carry 18 viral diseases, 10 of which can infect people; and



10 bacterial diseases, all of which cause disease in humans. Feral hogs are reservoirs for numerous parasites that can affect people, pets, livestock or wildlife.

As wild boars were not considered "wildlife" prior to the court's ruling, Roe said that hunters had been permitted to take them without regard to state hunting laws or regulations. However, with the ruling in place, wild boars are protected and may not be killed until the Game Commission takes action to implement a regulation to allow such action.

Roe also noted that the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Pennsylvania Pork Producers Council are sponsoring research in Pennsylvania. The Wildlife Services Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the Department of Agriculture and the Game Commission are collaborating to trap wild boars and collect blood and tissue samples. Wild boars captured as part of these surveillance programs are not returned to the wild; they are humanely dispatched.

## Spotlight

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### **Cleaning Up Chesapeake Bay Will Improve Pennsylvania Waterways First**

**By Matthew Ehrhart**

**Pennsylvania Executive Director, Chesapeake Bay Foundation**



Matt Ehrhart, Emily Miller and her cow Blessing promote REAP Farm Conservation Tax Credit.

Nearly 15,000 miles of Pennsylvania's rivers and streams, along with the entire Chesapeake Bay are currently on the nation's "dirty waters list." While recent regional articles seem to focus on the local cost to clean up the bay, many are forgetting that the efforts will first and foremost help restore Pennsylvania's waterways.

When it comes to restoring water quality, it's easy to point fingers. But the truth is that the responsibility falls on every one of us -- all 16 million people living within the 64,000-square-mile Chesapeake Bay watershed -- to take the necessary steps to reduce pollution that travels downstream.

While Pennsylvanians may not have direct contact with the bay, we all have an impact on the creeks, streams and rivers that flow into it. The

Susquehanna River, the bay's largest tributary, contributes over 50 percent of the fresh water entering the bay -- what we do to our water here has a significant impact on our downstream neighbors

The nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollution that degrades our local watersheds and the bay comes from a variety of sources: sewage treatment plants, agricultural runoff, manicured lawns, parking lots, driveways, even automobile exhaust. To say that one source is less significant than another is not the way to tackle the problem. If we are to save the Chesapeake and our local streams, everyone will need to do their share.

Publicly, the loudest outcry has been about the expense to upgrade our sewage treatment plants with updated technologies that reduce pollution entering our streams. Local communities are feeling incredible pressure to pay for these expensive upgrades, and rightly so. The changes are required by the Environmental Protection Agency as part of federal Clean Water Act, but Pennsylvania does not have a designated funding source to pay for the advancements -- so the burden falls on ratepayers.

Unfortunately, many plants have not undergone meaningful upgrades in 20 or in some cases 30 years. Reducing pollution in sewage discharges is relatively inexpensive when a plant uses current technology. But when the facility uses 1970s technology, costly improvements are necessary for significant pollution reduction to occur.

But one might also ask, "why the delay?" For almost a decade, sewage treatment plants have known that there would be new permit limits to address impairments in the Chesapeake Bay by 2010. We cannot afford to wait any longer. If we do, fixing the problem will only become more difficult and more costly.

Another source of pollution comes from local farms. Farmers have been publicly attacked for a perceived lack of effort to do their share. This simply is untrue.

Since the bay restoration effort began in the early 1980s, Pennsylvania has adopted new environmental regulations on agriculture, and farmers have contributed approximately \$350 million of their own money to reduce agricultural run off and to improve water quality.

Despite this significant investment, everyone agrees that more resources and compliance by all farmers is needed to make further pollution reductions.

There's no one easy solution to the problem; significant progress must be made by both sewage treatment plants and farmers to meet water quality standards. If not, the federal government will take control of the process and limit Pennsylvania's ability to be flexible and find pragmatic solutions to the issue.

Pennsylvania must find a way to help reduce the financial burden on communities while moving forward with changes. New funding opportunities such as the REAP Program, nutrient trading, Growing Greener grants and others, are a start. But far more is needed.

Everyone wants clean water, a healthy and plentiful food supply, and safe, affordable infrastructure systems to provide for our daily needs. Investments to restore our waterways, while not inexpensive, will be reasonable, wise, and benefit future generations.

*Matthew Ehrhart* is Pennsylvania Executive Director of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and be contacted by sending email to: [mehrhart@cbf.org](mailto:mehrhart@cbf.org) or by calling 717-234-5550.

## Opinion

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### **2008---A Time to Look at the Future of Pennsylvania's Infrastructure**

**By Arthur Holst, Ph.D.**

**Governmental Affairs Manager**

**Philadelphia Water Department**

In 2008, Pennsylvania finds itself in a precarious position due to long overlooked framework by which this state operates—its infrastructure.

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It's true that we've seen no great infrastructure disasters thus far. And one could argue that we might not see one just yet, that Pennsylvania infrastructure can tough it out a few more years. But then again, why risk it?

Our infrastructure is already falling behind that of other states, and no one's sure how long the infrastructure we have will last. To remain competitive with other states in 2008, Pennsylvania must start offering superior infrastructure.

As we enter 2008, Pennsylvanians are left with systems that are in decline. The state cannot expect to attract businesses and citizens if it continues to present aging water and road networks. And as these resources age, maintenance costs only go up as more funds are required to keep them running.

Water, wastewater, solid waste, and hazardous waste management systems are beginning to crumble and require renewal, if not complete replacement, to ensure the health and safety of Pennsylvania's citizens. Drinking water and wastewater infrastructure need \$24 billion over the next twenty years.

Our state has 757 high-hazard dams that require about \$650 million just to rehabilitate the most critical structures. Around 46 percent of Pennsylvania's major roads are in mediocre or poor condition, which directly cost Pennsylvania drivers \$2.8 billion in additional repairs. Some 42 percent of bridges in Pennsylvania are "structurally deficient or functionally obsolete". This causes traffic backups during repairs and endangers motorists.

Our infrastructure is in desperate need of attention.

If nothing is done soon, accidents, such as the Interstate 35W Bridge collapse in Minnesota, may wait just around the corner.

The onset of 2008 is a bright opportunity to turn the situation around, and begin taking the right steps toward effective, sustainable infrastructure. Not only would renewal retain the quality of Pennsylvania's infrastructure and its status within the U.S., but there are undeniable benefits to future upkeep costs, public wellbeing, the economy, and the environment.

When infrastructure is renewed, it is engineered to be more efficient by raising productivity, lowering maintenance costs, and increasing lifespan. These effects will reduce long-term expenses substantially, and eventually save more than the one-time cost of renewal.

The benefits extend to public wellbeing by creating safer roadways, cleaner drinking water, visual splendor, etc. These effects protect constituents against diseases, accidents, and other misfortunes, thus lowering healthcare, emergency rescue, and other costs.

The economy gains by attracting investment that adds to income and property taxes to all levels of government. Lastly, the environment is in need of consideration that was not offered when current infrastructure was designed.

Today, the public, private, and governmental sectors are concerned with how we are affecting our environment, and infrastructure renewal would allow more ecologically mindful designs to be implemented.

The present-day road to this kind of reform is not easy. Pennsylvania's budget is already strained, and prior policy has led to a lack of the fundamental internal budgetary mechanisms to fund infrastructure renewal. Certainly grant applications and increased lobbying efforts for more federal funding are possible.

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Budget appropriations could be made to increase financial support for infrastructure renewal. Funding will likely come from tactical changes that will cause controversy.

Tax increases, particularly the gas tax has been discussed, given the already high gas prices and the fact that Pennsylvania already has some of the highest gas taxes in the country.

Another idea is to make Interstate 80, which travels eastwardly across Pennsylvania's middle, a toll road. Nearby citizens and businesses are already expressing concerns about extensive costs they will incur if the much-frequented highway begins to weigh into their pockets.

Unfortunately, there is no one solution that will please everyone this year. A serious effort at funding major infrastructure renewal is no longer an option—it is a necessity.

We must make a change in 2008 for Pennsylvania's future benefit.

*Arthur Holst, Ph.D.*, Governmental Affairs Manager, Philadelphia Water Department, can be contacted by writing 504 Overhill Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19116, calling 215-685-6143 or by sending email to: [Arthur.holst@phila.gov](mailto:Arthur.holst@phila.gov).

### Help Wanted -- Delaware River Basin Commission

The Delaware River Basin Commission is accepting applications for a full-time [Water Resources/Civil Engineer](#) in the Project Review Section of its Water Resources Management Branch.

Duties include providing engineering services in the field of water resources planning and development related specifically to the evaluation of projects (principally water quality) submitted to the Commission for review and the review of State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System discharge criteria and permits for compatibility with DRBC Water Quality Regulations.

Qualifications include a bachelor's degree in civil or environmental engineering from an accredited college. A working knowledge of computer applications and general application of computers to water resources management is desirable. An Engineer-in-Training Certificate or a Professional Engineer's License is preferred.

Salary range is \$45,400 - \$68,250, plus a comprehensive benefits package. EOE.

This position will remain open until it is filled. Send résumé and salary history to Richard C. Gore, Chief Administrative Officer, DRBC, P.O. Box 7360, West Trenton, NJ 08628.

### Grants & Awards

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This section gives you a heads up on upcoming deadlines for grants and financial assistance as well as nominations for awards and other recognition programs. **NEW** means from last week—

- **January 15**— [International Children's Painting Competition](#)
- **January 15**— [National Wetlands Awards Program Nominations](#)
- **February 1** – PA Land Trust Assn. [Government Leadership Award Nominations](#).

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- **February 8** – [PA American Water Watershed Art Contest](#)
- **February 19** – PennVEST [Infrastructure Loans/Grants for April 15 Meeting](#).
- **February 20**— [USDA Conservation Innovation Grants](#)
- **February 22**— [Allegheny County Global Warming Poster Contest](#)
- **February 29**—**NEW**. [Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants](#)
- **March 17**—**NEW**. [Community Action for a Renewed Environment Grants](#)
- **March 31** – PAEP [Karl Mason Environmental Award](#).
- **March 31**—[DEP Host Municipality Inspector Grants](#)
- **April 2** – [WREN Water Resources Education Project Grants](#)

[Go To: PA Environment Digest Calendar Page](#)

### Quick Clips

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Here's a selection of NewsClips on environmental topics from around the state

[Some Find Novel Uses for Discarded Christmas Trees](#)  
[DEP Employees Make Holidays Bright for Local Students, Organizations](#)

[This Year, Resolve to Reduce Our Environmental Footprint](#)  
[Climate Changes Forces Travelers to Consider Sites Sooner Than Later](#)  
[Editorial: Global Warming Bias](#)  
[Fuel Costs Rise, So Does Interest in Harnessing Wind](#)  
[Ethanol Still Contended in Statewide Energy Policy](#)  
[Editorial: Ethanol One Reason Beer Price is Hopping](#)  
[Op-Ed: State Needs 21st Century Energy Plan - Hanger](#)  
[Op-Ed: PA Can't Afford Not to Act on Energy Bills - Vitali](#)  
[Editorial: Rising Fuel Prices Likely to Force a Change in Lifestyles](#)  
[Editorial: Realistic Energy Policy, Not Tax Subsidies](#)  
[Editorial: Municipal Governments Can Be Green](#)  
[Energy Prices Still on Upswing](#)  
[Officials Green Light LEDs](#)  
[Allegheny Energy Says Power Line Key to Future Service, Economy](#)  
[Green Building Leaders in the Harrisburg Region](#)  
[Warm Weather Keeps Natural Gas Rates Down](#)  
[Op-Ed: Good News About Pittsburgh](#)  
[Report to Tackle Wide Range of Deer Topics](#)  
[Editorial: White House Initiatives Help to Protect Habitat](#)  
[Birders Answer the Holiday Call](#)  
[Wildlife: Conservation By The Numbers](#)  
[A Brush With Nature Captures Wildlife in Art](#)  
[Editorial: Rather Than Expand ATV Trails, State Should Preserve Forests](#)  
[Conservation Fund Buying 9 Parcels in PA](#)  
[Preservation Group Buys Site of Native American Settlement](#)  
[Op-Ed: Green Island, An Allegheny River Wilderness Will Stay that Way](#)  
[Pittsburgh Nonprofit Buys Undeveloped Isle](#)

[Trying to Preserve Cumberland County Farms](#)  
[Op-Ed: Leadership, Cooperation Led to Sensible Land Policy](#)  
[Big Threats From Small Bugs Overlooked](#)  
[Boosting Green Thinking](#)  
[Old Gadgets Putting the E in Waste](#)  
[Electronics Exhibit Eco-Friendly Side](#)  
[Recycling Poses Challenge](#)  
[PA Population Grows a Bit](#)  
[Farm Show Opens on Note of Optimism](#)  
[Lawmakers Take Another Try at Mine Safety](#)

## **Watershed NewsClips**

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Read a sampling of NewsClips on watershed topics from around Pennsylvania.

[Washington County Farmer Honored for Watershed Work](#)  
[Environment Captured Educator’s Interest Early](#)  
[Funding Received to Improve Stonycreek River Water Quality](#)  
[Watershed Group Eyed as Flood Aid](#)  
[Somerset Calls New Water Pipeline Its Lifeline](#)  
[Op-Ed: In Addition to Bay, State Waters Would Improve – Matt Ehrhart, CBF](#)  
[Township Joins West Shore COG Against Required Chesapeake Bay Initiative](#)  
[Low Rainfall Makes 2007 One of Driest on Record](#)  
[Behind the List: Chesapeake Opinions](#)

## **Regulations**

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The Department of Environmental Protection [published notice](#) of final-form rulemaking proposed mine reclamation fees and bond forfeiture. The Independent Regulatory Review Commission [published comments](#) on proposed changes to Safe Drinking Water regulations.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – January 5, 2008](#)

Comment Deadlines: [Technical Guidance \(DEP website\)](#)

[Copies of Proposed Regulations \(DEP website\)](#)

[Status of Regulations, 6-Month Calendar \(DEP website\)](#)

## **Technical Guidance & Permits**

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No new policy guidance was published this week.

[For copies of Draft Technical Guidance \(DEP website\)](#)

[For copies of Final Technical Guidance \(DEP website\)](#)

## **Calendar of Upcoming Events**

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Upcoming conferences, meetings, workshops, plus links to other online calendars. Meetings are in Harrisburg unless otherwise noted. **NEW** indicates new from last week. [Go To: PA Environment Digest Calendar Page](#)

- The Department of Environmental Protection published a schedule of meetings by its boards and advisory committees for 2008. [The schedule is available online.](#)
- **January 14**—Environmental Issues Forum featuring Kathleen Cowles Paul, Director of the [PA Center for Environmental Education](#). Room 205 Ryan Building. Noon.
- **January 15**—**NEW**. [Environmental Quality Board meeting](#). Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **January 15**—**NEW**. DEP [Citizens Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 11:00.
- **January 16**—[Delaware River Basin Commission](#) hearing on [Flexible Flow Management Program for New York Reservoirs](#). Trenton Volunteer Fire Company, Trenton, NJ.
- **January 24**—**NEW**. DCNR [Snowmobile and ATV Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **February 22-23** – 2008 [Keystone Coldwater Conference](#). State College.
- **February 26**—[PA Chamber Energy Summit](#). Harrisburg Hilton.
- **February 28**—[Pennsylvania Wild Resources Symposium](#). [Powdermill Nature Reserve](#). Pittsburgh.
- **February 28-March 2**—[PA Assn. of Environmental Educators Conference](#). Antiochian Village Camp and Conference Center near Ligonier, Pa.
- **March 28**— Lehigh Valley Watershed Conference and Shad Symposium. Holiday Inn, Fogelsville.
- **May 13-15**—[PA Water/Wastewater Association](#) annual conference. Valley Forge.

### **DEP Calendar of Events**

#### **Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar**

(courtesy [PA Center for Environmental Education](#))

#### **Senate Committee Schedule House Committee Schedule**

You can watch the [Senate Floor Session](#) and [House Floor Session](#) live online.

## **Helpful Web Links**

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### **PA Environment Digest Video Blog**

[Daily NewsClips](#) [Daily DEP Update](#) [GreenTreks Network](#)

[DEP Press Releases](#) [DEP Advisory Committee Meetings & Agendas](#)

[DCNR Resource Magazine](#) [DCNR Press Releases](#)

[Fish & Boat Commission Press Releases](#) [Game Commission Press Releases](#)

## Stories Invited

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Send your stories about environmental issues, programs and positive actions to *PA Environment Digest* - [DHess@CrisciAssociates.com](mailto:DHess@CrisciAssociates.com) or go to [www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com](http://www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com).

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## Supporting Member PA Outdoor Writers Association

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