

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

April 4, 2005

Calendar Feature Added to Digest

We are pleased to announce the addition of a [new Calendar feature](#) to the *PA Environment Digest* website.

We've highlighted conferences, meetings and events in the *Digest* before, but readers told us they wanted to be able to go to one place to find that information.

So, we created our Calendar that provides a month by month overview of events.

To make it even more useful, we added grant application deadlines as a handy reminder and for those who may have missed the initial announcements.

We hope you enjoy these new features and check the Calendar often, because new events are posted almost every day!

Email your special events to: DHess@HolstonCrisci.com.

Session Schedule

The House will be in voting session April 11.
The next voting day for the Senate is April 4.

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Send us a photo of your favorite sign of Spring! Some native species perhaps?
Meanwhile print out a copy of this one attached to this webpage.

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Calendar of Events – **Check out all the new items!**

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

On the Hill

April Deadline Coming! No, the Growing Greener II Ballot Question

Gov. Rendell set an April 17 deadline for the General Assembly to have a bill with the Growing Greener II bond issue ballot question on his desk, but some counties this week said that may be too late for the question to be included in absentee ballots they must mail out weeks ahead of the May 17 election.

The House already passed an \$800 million bond question in [House Bill 2](#) on February 15. The Senate since then has moved the bill into position for a quick, final vote, but any Senate action is likely to change the bill requiring it to go back to the House for a concurrence vote. ([PaED 3/21/05](#))

Gov. Rendell is in full support of House Bill 2 as written.

Senate Republicans have offered the Administration ballot question language that included a \$400 million bond issue, with 75 percent of the funds set aside for counties to distribute for Growing Greener-type purposes, and language saying the bond issue would be paid for by new or existing taxes.

What this all means is the fastest a bill could get to the Governor's desk is the week of April 11 when the House returns to voting session. The Senate will be in session for the next two weeks.

[House Bill 3](#), that holds the language on how the funds would be spent, will remain in the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee until voters approve the ballot question.

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Meanwhile, the House takes up the full state budget on April 11. So far more than 167 amendments have been filed to the main budget legislation [House Bill 815](#).

House Has “Open Space Preservation” Week

The House took final action this week on several bills related to preserving open space, as well as legislation to finance security improvements to water systems, tax incentives for hybrid and zero emission vehicles. Here’s a quick summary—

Exempting Land From Future Taxation: [House Bill 87](#) (Steil-R-Bucks) further allowing local governments to preserve, acquire or hold land for open space by exempting certain land from future taxation.

Expanding Farmland Preservation Program: [House Bill 619](#) (Hershey-R-Chester) expands the state Farmland Preservation Program to land used for boarding, training or riding horses.

Creating Local Land Trusts: [House Bill 183](#) (Ross-R-Chester) would allow local governments to create a dedicated tax to be used for acquiring land.

Reducing Size of Protected Farms: [House Bill 629](#) (Bunt-R-Montgomery) amends the Agricultural Area Security Law to reduce the size of eligible properties in certain circumstances.

Securing Infrastructure: [House Bill 612](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) authorizing financing of security improvement projects in water systems by PennVEST.

Clean Vehicle Tax Incentives: [House Bill 220](#) (Reed-R-Indiana) establishing a career development tax credit was amended to exclude sales and use tax on purchases of electric, hybrid vehicles and zero emission vehicles.

Safe Water Week: [House Resolution 183](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) designating the week of May 1 to 7 as “Safe Drinking Water Week.”

Bills from Committee

Watershed Assn. Funding: [House Bill 136](#) (Fleagle-R-Franklin) and its companion bills House Bills [266](#) and [267](#) that allow local governments to fund watershed associations were reported out of House Appropriations Committee and put in position for a final House vote.

Flood Insurance: The House Insurance Committee reported out [House Bill 243](#) (Semmel-R-Berks) establishing a Floodplain Insurance Assistance Program was reported out with a request that it be re-referred to the House Emergency Preparedness and Veterans Affairs Committee.

Joint Conservation Committee Environmental Synopsis Features Annual Report

The [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) published its [March edition of the Environmental Synopsis newsletter](#) that includes an overview of the Committee's [2004 Annual Report](#) as well as articles on clean air cars, federal brownfields efforts, Great Lakes conditions, Northeast efforts to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions and a summary of the Committee's recent Environmental Forum on nutrient trading.

Other News

BP Solar Panels Provide Backup Power In Governor's Residence



The Department of Environmental Protection and [BP Solar](#) unveiled a new 2.8-kilowatt solar power system on the south roof of the Governor's Residence that will provide at least 22 hours of backup power to critical infrastructure in the event of a blackout.

Installation of renewable energy systems provides another dimension to ensure that police and fire stations, hospitals and emergency centers, and government buildings can offer consistent and reliable services during blackouts.

These innovative systems also provide another source of environmentally beneficial electricity. The solar system at the Governor's Residence will generate electricity continuously during normal daytime operations, offsetting electric utility supply to the residence.

[MESA Environmental Sciences Inc.](#) was in charge of installing the solar system. The project was funded by a \$20,000 grant from [The Reinvestment Fund \(TRF\)](#), which manages the Sustainable Development Fund (SDF) created by the state Public Utility Commission to promote renewable resources, clean technologies and energy conservation.

The grant came from the fund's Solar Photovoltaic Grant Program. BP Products North America Inc. contributed another \$19,250 for the project.

"Governor Rendell and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are demonstrating innovative and smart leadership, utilizing environmental project funding to generate clean and reliable solar electricity for both critical backup homeland security infrastructure and day-to-day power needs," BP Solar Vice President Mary Shields said. "Not only does this make sense for the Governor's residence, for the environment and for security purposes, but just last year the Governor led the charge on passing an Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard to ensure that all Pennsylvanians benefit from a cleaner and more diverse electricity supply."

The solar panel installation was completed as part of the March 14, 2001, [multi-site remediation agreement \(MSA\)](#) between DEP and BP Amoco, now BP Products North America Inc. The MSA established consistent standards for cleanups at various BP sites statewide and accelerated the closeout of BP storage tanks throughout the Commonwealth.

In addition, as part of the MSA, BP can ensure continued environmental improvements by donating funds for joint DEP- and BP-approved projects.

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In 2004, funding was set aside for two solar projects on state-owned buildings -- the first at the Governor's Residence and the second at DEP's Southeast Regional Office, which is not yet under way.

Aside from these solar projects, the innovative MSA program has produced many benefits for the Commonwealth. In 2003, DEP used donated BP funds to clean up abandoned tire dumps in Armstrong and Lycoming counties.

Pennsylvania has one of the nation's most progressive two-tiered energy portfolio standards, ensuring that in 15 years, 18 percent of all of the energy generated in the Commonwealth comes from clean, efficient sources.

At least 0.5 percent of Tier I electricity must come from solar photovoltaic cells -- a requirement that is at least three times more ambitious than anything any neighboring states have put in place.

NewsClip: [Solar Panels Provide Backup Power to Governor's Residence](#)

Alternative Energy Financing Applications Due May 13

The Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority is now accepting applications for financial assistance for electric generating projects which use: solar energy; wind; low-impact hydropower; geothermal; biologically derived methane gas, including landfill gas; biomass; fuel cells; coal-mine methane; waste coal; integrated gasification combined cycle, and; demand management measures, including recycled energy and energy recovery, energy efficiency and load management.

Applications are due May 13. A nonrefundable \$150 application must be submitted with all requests.

For more information go to the [PA Energy Development Authority webpage](#).

NewsClip: [PEDA Releases Guidelines for Financial Assistance](#)

Two New Resources Now Available for Air Emission Information

The Department of Environmental Protection now has available two new sources of air emission information—facility by facility emission inventory statements and 43 ambient air monitoring stations.

Emission Inventory: Each year about 1,250 facilities are required to submit annual emission inventory statements that contain information used to calculate air emissions from industrial sources.

A new webpage is now available on DEP's website to provide access to current and historical facility summary emission inventory data. The data shown on the website is from the annual emission statements submitted by facilities on a yearly basis. Emission inventory data is available for the years 1999 to 2003.

Access to the data is available through the [eFacts webpage](#). Users can access summary data at the facility level by using the "Facility Search" option. Reports that summarize emissions by pollutant and area are available under the "Reports" option.

Ambient Air Monitors: Every hour of every day, the COPAMS Air Monitoring System samples ambient air continuously in 43 locations, statewide. The air monitoring sites

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measure the level of gaseous and particulate pollutants as well as several meteorological parameters.

The information available before through the [principal pollutants webpage](#) presented hourly updates, with no way to access historical information.

DEP is now updating the webpage to provide both current and historical ambient air monitoring data. The data shown on the website has undergone preliminary quality assurance checks, but may not be considered validated and official. Caution should be used for any data that is less than 90 days old. Ambient air monitoring data averages are available starting with the year 1999.

Monitoring data from Philadelphia and Allegheny counties, which conduct their own monitoring programs, is not available through this webpage.

EPA Offering Community Grants to Reduce Toxic Exposure

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is now accepting applications for the [CARE \(Community Action for a Renewed Environment\) grant program](#), a new community-based, community-driven, multimedia demonstration program.

Applications are due May 20.

The program offers financial and technical assistance to help communities understand and reduce risks caused by toxics from multiple sources and to help communities understand and reduce the risk of exposure to toxic chemicals.

For more information, visit the [CARE webpage](#).

Applications Accepted for Recycling Grants Thru June 17

The Department of Environmental Protection is accepting applications for Section 902 community recycling grants through June 17.

DEP said applications which include the following elements will be given higher priority—

1. Recycling projects involving multiple municipalities for the purpose of minimizing costs.
2. "Hybrid" powered vehicles utilized for the curbside collection of recyclables from residences.
3. Projects in which a previously uncollected recyclable material is added to the collection program thereby stimulating and expanding local markets.
4. Programs operating in municipalities covered by land use plans and ordinances (as outlined under Acts 67 and 68 of 2000) or projects that are in compliance with their municipality's land use plan.
5. Programs where residents within the affected community are charged for waste collection based on the amount of waste they generate or are limited in the amount of waste (in terms of the number of bags or containers) they may place at the curb in a given period.
6. Development and implementation of a food waste collection and composting program.
7. Development and implementation of a program to ensure compliance with the community's recycling ordinance or regulations, or both.

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8. Development and implementation of a recycling program where recycling opportunities were not previously available.

9. Development and implementation of a recycling program for commercial, institutional and municipal establishments.

10. Development and implementation of a recycling program for community events.

For more information, see the [formal grant notice](#) or visit the [Recycling Grants webpage](#).

PennVEST Sets Deadlines for Infrastructure Grant, Loan Applications

The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority announced the deadlines for applying for drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, brownfield and other financial assistance through 2006.

The deadlines are: May 4, August 3, September 28, December 7, February 1 (2006), April 5 (2006) and June 7 (2006).

The new deadlines accommodate an increase in the number of PennVEST board meetings to review funding requests from quarterly to six times a year.

For more information go to the [PennVEST website](#).

Shenango River Watershed Conservation Plan Review Set for April 5, 7, and 13

The public is invited to provide comments on the [Watershed Conservation Plan for the Shenango River](#) watershed during public meetings on April 5 at Mercer County Cooperative Extension Office, April 7 at Neshannock High School Cafeteria, and April 13 at the St. Phillip Church Social Hall in Linesville.

The meetings will be held each evening from 7-9 p.m., and refreshments will be provided. Public comments on the plan will be accepted until May 20.

The conservation plan is a study of the environmental, recreational, cultural, and historical resources particular to the Shenango River watershed. The plan is being developed with the help of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's Watershed Assistance Center and the Shenango River watershed community. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources provided funding for the plan through its [Community Conservation Partnership Program](#).

For more information about the [Shenango River Watershed Conservation Plan](#) or the public meetings please contact Carla Ruddock at [Western Pennsylvania Conservancy](#) 724- 459-0953 ext. 107.

Call for Entries: National Smart Growth Achievement Award



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is now accepting applications for the fourth annual [National Award for Smart Growth Achievement](#).

Applications are due on May 18.

This competition is open to local or state governments and other public sector entities that have used

the principles of smart growth to create better places and improve the environment. This year, applications will be accepted in five categories: Built Projects, Policies and Regulations, Small Communities, Military Base Redevelopment, or Overall Excellence in Smart Growth.

Frances H. Flanigan Environmental Leadership Award Nominations Due

The [Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay](#) is seeking nominations for its annual Frances H. Flanigan Environmental Leadership Award.

The deadline for nominations is June 1.

The award seeks to honor an individual who has demonstrated a long-standing commitment to the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay lands and waters and whose work has had a meaningful and lasting impact on those efforts, and whose efforts have been consistent with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay's mission of fostering partnerships and building consensus to advance the cause of environmental stewardship in the watershed.

Nominees may be employees or volunteers who represent organizations, agencies, or businesses, but the individual will be recognized as the award recipient and not his/her organization.

The winner will be presented with a standing crystal triangle engraved with the recipient's name at the Alliance's annual gala, the Taste of the Chesapeake, being held on September 24 in Annapolis, MD.

[Nomination forms are available online](#) and should be sent to: Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Flanigan Award Committee, 6600 York Road, Suite 100, Baltimore, MD 21212.



Earth Day 2005 Activities From All Over Pennsylvania



Here's a sampling of just a few of the Earth Day 2005 events going on around Pennsylvania in April, plus links to find events in your area.

Munnell Run Farm: Families, scouts, youth groups and other organizations are invited to join the staff of the Mercer County Conservation District and community volunteers at Munnell Run Farm on April 23 for a special Earth Day celebration. More information is available on the [Munnell Run Farm webpage](#).

Northwest Philadelphia Earth Day Fair: On April 17 there will be an Earth Day Fair at 4700 Wissahickon Ave. in Philadelphia with displays on clean energy, community gardening, recycling and more with 20 local environmental groups. For more, visit the [Earth Day Fair webpage](#).

Pocono Earth Day Family Festival: The Pocono Environmental Education Center will hold its 10th annual Earth Day Family Festival on April 24. The event will feature live animal presentations, hikes, crafts, a pond study and much more. For more, visit the [PEEC Earth Day Festival webpage](#).

Berks County Earth Day: The Organic Trade Association is sponsoring a Berks County Earth Day program with family oriented events on energy, organic foods and using fewer toxic chemicals. For more, visit the [Berks County Earth Day webpage](#).

What You Can Do Week: Presque Isle State Park in Erie will host “What You Can Do Week” from April 18 to 22 featuring special programs on what people can do to protect and restore the environment. For more, visit the [Presque Island State Park Earth Day webpage](#).

Find a Great PA Cleanup! near you by going to the [Great PA Cleanup! webpage](#).

PA CleanWays Highlights Cleanups, Anti-Dumping Education Efforts

Before you head out to become part of the Great PA Cleanup! on April 23, take a look at the [Spring newsletter of PA CleanWays](#) to get an idea of what other groups have done around the state to not only cleanup their streams and roadways, but keep them clean.

County dumpsite surveys, the Litter Hawk Youth Award Program, cleanups in State Parks and Forests, Education Project profiles, sources of funding and a progress report on PA CleanWay around the state are included.

Go to the [PA CleanWays website](#) for more information.

Pennsylvania League of Angling Youth Turns 25 Years Old

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission’s premiere fishing club for youth is no longer a kid itself. March marked the 25th anniversary for [PLAY – the Pennsylvania League of Angling Youth](#).

In 1980, the then-Pennsylvania Fish Commission was exploring ideas to get children excited about fishing and educating youth on aquatic resources. The agency often received letters from educators, parents and even children themselves looking for materials and ideas aimed at youth.

While lots of magazines and books existed on subjects like fishing, boating, and aquatics, most were aimed at adults. Even materials designed for kids were somewhat generic. So PLAY was born to fill the void.

Those who paid a small fee received a membership card and a subscription to a quarterly newsletter designed for 8- to 12-year-olds focusing on aquatic life and recreational opportunities in Pennsylvania.

The club concept was immediately well received and soon PLAY boasted over 10,000 members. A mentoring aspect also grew in conjunction with PLAY. Waterways Conservation Officers and trained volunteers conducted PLAY fishing skills classes and fishing derbies. Sportsmen’s clubs and cooperative nurseries stock fish in small ponds

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and invite youngsters out for a day. Attendees would earn PLAY memberships and received other publications.

One of the most important developments for PLAY came in 1985 with legislation that allowed federal funding to be used by state agencies for aquatic education. One of the best benefits of the new funding was the Commission was able to expand upon PLAY to send the newsletter to Pennsylvania schools for use by teachers. With educators requesting PLAY for their classrooms, membership grew to reach 40,000 to 60,000 youth annually.

PLAY also received boosts for other areas as well. Star catcher Ed Ott of the Pittsburgh Pirates – a Muncy native – served as honorary spokesperson/chairman for the program. Outdoor writers in particular were instrumental in promoting the program. For many years, the [Pennsylvania Outdoor Writers Association](#) sponsored free memberships for children who responded to articles on the program.

In 2001, another evolution in PLAY opened the program for even more interested participants. In honor of the late Commissioner Enoch “Inky” Moore and his tireless work on youth programs, the Commission dropped the membership fee for PLAY.

Today, PLAY membership is free for all youngsters. The quarterly newsletters are also included as an “extra” for subscribers to the Fish and Boat Commission’s [Pennsylvania Angler & Boater Magazine](#).

Parents interested in signing a child age 8-12 up for an annual PLAY membership may print out a subscription request from the [PLAY webpage](#).

Falcon Lays Full Clutch of Eggs in Harrisburg, Pittsburgh Falcon Pair Ahead

Now that the female Peregrine Falcon on the Rachel Carson Building in Harrisburg has laid her clutch of four eggs, both the male and female will take turns tending the eggs. The eggs are expected to hatch around May 8 – Mother’s Day—as in past years.

Watch the [nest online](#) with live video and still photos as the falcon pair take turns on the eggs and hunting food.

You can watch a second pair of Peregrine Falcons on their nest [online at the Gulf Tower nest in Pittsburgh](#), courtesy of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

The Pittsburgh pair is always a few days ahead of the Harrisburg pair in laying eggs and this year was no exception. They laid their first egg March 10, while the Harrisburg pair laid their first on March 25.

The first egg in Pittsburgh should hatch on or about April 23.

Game Commission Announces \$2.85 Million Reduction in Services

In the face of a \$3 million deficit in the 2004-05 fiscal year budget caused by unanticipated expenses and shortfalls in timber revenues, Pennsylvania Game Commission this week announced cuts and reductions in current operations of \$2.85 million.

The agency will continue to review the current budget to realize a total of \$3.1 million in savings in the 2004-05 fiscal year budget, as well as launch an effort to identify cuts and reductions of up to \$7 million in the 2005-06 fiscal year budget.

The Game Commission's estimated timber revenues for the 2003-04 fiscal year were \$12 million, however, revenues came in at \$7.3 million.

NewsClip: [Hunting Agency Must Cut, Close Budget Gap](#)

Robert M. Ross Retires as President of Pennsylvania American Water

Robert M. Ross, president of Pennsylvania American Water and regional managing director of the Southeast Region of American Water, retired on Thursday, March 31, after 45 years of service.

Ross, a native of Wilkesburg, PA, and a graduate of Robert Morris College, began his long career with American Water in Pittsburgh in 1959, when he was hired as an accounting distribution auditor. After holding a variety of positions, he was elected president and chief executive officer of Pennsylvania American Water in 1991; in 2003, he was additionally appointed regional managing director of American Water's Southeast Region.

In those roles, Ross oversaw operations of the largest regulated water and wastewater utility in Pennsylvania, as well as water and wastewater operations in twelve other states and Puerto Rico. Pennsylvania American Water provides service to approximately two million people in 368 communities in 35 of the state's 67 counties.

After being named a director to the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Association of Water Companies (NAWC) in 1978, Ross was instrumental in securing passage of the 1984 Pennsylvania Safe Drinking Water Act and the Storage Tank and Spill Prevention Act in 1989.

Ross assumed the lead role for the Pennsylvania Chapter NAWC in formulating and securing regulatory approval of the Collection System Improvement Charge (CSIC) in 2003 and the Distribution System Improvement Charge (DSIC) in 1996, and securing passage of the public utility provisions under Acts 67 & 68 (Growing Smarter) in 2000, the determination of public fire hydrant rates through passage of Act 23 of 1995 and Act 7 of 1995 which provides greater incentives for the acquisition of water and sewer utilities deemed nonviable in the absence of the acquisition.

In his more than 45 years of experience in the management and operation of water and wastewater systems, Ross advanced the protection of public health through treating and monitoring drinking water, encouraged the protection of sources of drinking water and provided consumers with more information regarding their drinking water quality and rates for service.

Ross has been actively involved in politics, community service and religious and family activities. He has been a mentor to many of his colleagues within the water supply industry, as well as the business community in general.

American Water has announced that Daniel Warnock will succeed Ross as president of Pennsylvania American Water and regional managing director.

Taking Positive Action

William Jeanes Environmental Excellence Award Presented to PPL Project Earth

The [Susquehanna River Basin Commission](#) this week presented the Commission's third [William W. Jeanes, Sr. Award for Environmental Excellence](#) to [PPL Project Earth](#) for its support of the Susquehanna Basin Streamside Cleanup Program.



PPL Project Earth is PPL Corporation's company-wide commitment to the environment - showcasing environmental education, emission reduction efforts and the employee-based volunteer program. James Seif, Vice President of Corporate Relations, PPL Corporation, was on hand to accept the award.

PPL Project Earth was the first to partner with SRBC in 2000 to kick-off the Streamside Cleanup Program. The cleanup program is a public-private partnership designed to help communities and local grassroots organizations clean up their streams to reduce the amount of litter impacting the environment and downstream communities, including those along the Chesapeake Bay shoreline.

In partnership with the Department of Environmental Protection, PPL Project Earth and [PA Cleanways](#), SRBC has funded more than 65 cleanup projects and provided training to groups and individuals who want to make their streamside cleanup projects long-lasting and effective.

To date, PPL Project Earth has contributed \$40,000 to the Streamside Cleanup Program with a commitment for an additional \$10,000 in 2005.

William W. Jeanes, Sr. (1909-1987) was born in Wayne, Pennsylvania, and graduated from Harvard University in 1931 with degrees in Engineering and Geology. He lived most of his life in the upper Chesapeake Bay region in Maryland where he became actively involved in the preservation of the Chesapeake Bay.

Among his many notable contributions, Williams Jeanes was the co-founder of the Upper Chesapeake Watershed Association in 1952 and served as the group's president for eight years. During his involvement with the watershed association, Jeanes led the group as an intervener during the relicensing proceedings of the four hydroelectric dams on the lower Susquehanna River.

As interveners, the watershed association worked to ensure that fish passage facilities would be provided at the dams and that adequate minimum flows would be maintained to the bay from the Conowingo Dam - the last dam before the Chesapeake Bay.

Sawmill Will Cut Costs, Pollution With Financial Help From DEP/DCED

S&D Lumber of Hallstead, Susquehanna County, will use funding received from the [Small Business Pollution Prevention Assistance Account](#) to install a new electronically controlled fuel injected diesel generator to provide power to its sawmill.

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The new generator will replace three inefficient diesel engines which currently provide the power. The company projects annual savings of 3,000 gallons of diesel fuel as well as 294 gallons of motor oil.

Labor, downtime and maintenance costs will also be reduced as well as air emissions. Combined, these projects are expected to save the company approximately \$9,512 annually. The business has projected payback period is 4.1 years.

The Small Business Pollution Prevention Assistance Account loan program was created in 1999 and received 101 loan applications totaling more than \$4.5 million.

The loan program is available to any small business owner whose pollution prevention/energy efficiency project. The business must have 100 or fewer full-time employees.

The loan can be used to purchase or upgrade equipment, or to implement a process change, that reduces or reuses raw materials on-site, reduces the production of waste at the source or significantly reduces energy consumption.

Equipment and processes that focus on recycling or pollution control (scrubbers, filters, dust collectors, etc.) are ineligible for the loan.

The project must have a payback period less than or equal to the term of the loan and the expected benefits must extend beyond the term of the loan. The maximum loan amount is \$100,000 with a 2 percent interest rate and a maximum term of 10 years.

For more information, visit the [Small Business Pollution Prevention Assistance Account webpage](#) or contact Gene DelVecchio at 717 772-8951 or by e-mail at gdelvecchi@state.pa.us.

Feature

The Lenape Nation: A Tradition of Caretaking— People and the Environment

When people think of Native Americans, few think about the [Lenape Nation](#) here in Pennsylvania. Fewer still know the Lenape as environmental educators.

[William Penn](#) encountered the Lenape (*pronounced Len-op-a*) when he first arrived in Penn's Woods and it was the Lenape from whom he bought eastern Pennsylvania. The treaty between the [Lenape and Penn](#) was said by Voltaire to be, "the only treaty made by the settlers with the Indians that was never sworn to, and the only one that was never broken."

The Lenape today are organized into three clans wherever they live in the world — the Turtle, Wolf and Turkey—and each is lead by a Clan Mother.

"We've always had a cultural view of being caretakers of the earth and caretakers of each other," said Pat Selinger, Turtle Clan Mother, from Saltsburg, Indiana County.



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“20 years ago few people identified themselves as having a native heritage, but now more do, although they may not know specifically what they are.”

To educate the public about the culture and philosophy of the Lenape Nation, over 40 volunteers put on [educational programs](#) for schools, communities, organizations, colleges and even malls.

“We tailor our programs to the audience, and many want an environmental theme,” said Selinger. “Our tradition is to respect both people and the environment and teaching responsibility for the environment is a part of our heritage.”

The Lenape in Pennsylvania have formed a non-profit educational organization called [Thunder Mountain Lenape Nation](#) to help organize programs about their culture and the environment. They put on about 25 programs a year, at least 10 of which are focused on the environment.

“Our approach is [very hands-on](#) with arrowheads, pottery and furs,” explained Selinger. “We explain how something is made, how any waste is used. Sometimes this is the first time kids have ever seen things like a real fur.”

“We also teach about farming and the lesson of the Three Sisters that’s also part of our tradition” Selinger said.

The term “Three Sisters” refers to corn, beans, and squash that give a lesson in environmental cooperation. The corn provides a climbing stalk for the beans; the beans provide nitrogen to the soil to nourish the corn; and the squash leaves spread out, preventing competition from unwanted vegetation and shade for corn’s shallow roots.

The “Three Sisters” lesson and the environmental education resources of the Lenape were [featured as part of the Earth Day 2003](#) activities by the [Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education](#).

Through Thunder Mountain, the Lenape have developed significant educational partnerships with the [Westmoreland County Conservation District](#), [St. Vincent College](#), the [Conemaugh Valley Conservancy](#), Saltsburg School District, the [Kiski Basin initiative](#) and other partners.

Prior to the September 11 terrorist attacks, the Lenape had a cultural center located at the Conemaugh Reservoir in Westmoreland County, however, after the attacks the Federal Government closed access to the reservoir. They are now trying to acquire a more permanent facility near the site of their annual festival in Saltsburg.

Each year the Lenape Native American Festival is a showcase of their cultural heritage that typically attracts over 6,000 people. This year the Festival is August 20 and 21.

“In Native society, we cannot separate culture from spirituality. Everything is sacred, and everything in nature is alive with its own spirit,” said Selinger. “We need to celebrate all of our parts, and take responsibility for treating everything with respect.”

The programs offered by the Lenape are a unique, engaging way to educate groups of any age about respecting the environment and are just one of thousands of environmental education resources available in Pennsylvania.

It is very appropriate to think about the contributions the people of the Lenape Nation have made and continue to make in Pennsylvania’s development, since we celebrate Charter Day, the founding of Penn’s Woods by William Penn on March 4.

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For more information about the programs offered by the [Thunder Mountain Lenape Nation](#), contact Pat Selinger, Turtle Clan Mother, at 724-639-3488 or email to: jpswood@kiski.net .

Quick Clips

[Second Wind Energy Company Eyes Lycoming County Wind Farm Plans Bring Condemnation Option Churches Conserve Energy Allegheny County Launches Work on First Comprehensive Plan Frick Environmental Center Design Unveiled Ligonier Cited As Excellent Example of Smart Growth Academy of Natural Sciences' Hart Named Leopold Fellow Student Recycling program Benefits Fire Company Foundation Benefits from Trash Fees Stronger Regional Planning Key to Continued Growth Pittsburgh Working on Green Building Incentives Few Mark TMI Accident Anniversary Editorial: Hybrids for State Workers Peregrine Egg Bring Hope to New Harrisburg Pair](#)

Watershed NewsClips

[\\$1 Million Awarded in Ohio River Basin Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program SRBC Calls on Congress to Fund Flood Warning System Shenango River Watershed Conservation Plan Review Set for April 5, 7, 13 Stream Management Project to Start in Northern Bradford Schools Schuylkill River Heritage Book Available Water Monitoring Group Needs Sites in Bucks, Centre, Chester, Cumberland, Montgomery, Perry, York Counties Pine Creek Assessments Shows Mixed Results Wells Creek Watershed Assn. Receives Governor's Award Connoquenessing Creek Holds Stream Cleanup Mine Water Now Cleaner in Cambria Nature Conservancy to Evaluate Stream Pollution Redstone Creek Watershed Gets Spring Cleaning Bay Cleanup Plan Moves Ahead Collaborative effort has wild pheasant reintroduction underway](#)

Regulations

The Public Utility Commission [published a notice soliciting comments](#) on a petition by the Pennsylvania Electric Company and Met-Ed on the ownership of alternative energy credits relating to the York Waste Disposal Facility under the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards under Act 213. Comments and other petitions related to this action should be submitted by April 20. [Petition for Declaratory Judgment.](#)

- [PA Files Challenge to EPA Mercury Rule](#)

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – April 2, 2005](#)

Comment Deadlines: [Regulations](#) [Technical Guidance](#)

[Copies of Proposed Regulations](#) [Status of Regulations, 6-Month Calendar](#)

Technical Guidance & Permits

No new guidance published this week.

[For copies of Draft Technical Guidance](#) [For copies of Final Technical Guidance](#)

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

Highlights of Upcoming Events--

- **April 5** – [Fifth Goddard Forum: Putting the Market to Work for Conservation](#). Harrisburg.
- **April 8-9**: [PA Land Conservation Conference](#). Strasburg.
- **April 10-16** – [National Environmental Education Week](#).
- **April 12** – Joint Legislative Air & Water Pollution and Conservation Committee Forum on Keeping PA Beautiful.
- **April 14** – House Game and Fisheries Committee informational meeting on deer management.
- **April 19-20**: PA Chamber [Environmental Laws and Regulations Conference](#).
- **May 5-6** – [PA Greenway and Trail Summit](#). Mechanicsburg.
- **May 6-7** - West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium -_Location: Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, State College, PA _Contact: Amy Wolfe at 570-726-3118 or awolfe@tu.org
- **May 12-13** – [PA Association of Environmental Professionals Annual Conference](#). Scranton.

Other Specialized Calendar links --

[Watershed Events](#)

(courtesy [PA Organizations for Watersheds & Rivers](#))

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

[Senate Committee Schedule](#) [House Committee Schedule](#)

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

Helpful Web Links

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

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

Contributions Invited

Send your stories about environmental issues, programs and positive actions to **PA Environment Digest** - DHess@HolstonCrisci.com or go to www.PaEnvironmentDigest.com .

PA Environment Digest is edited by David E. Hess, former Secretary Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and is published as a service to the clients of Holston & Crisci and the public. Holston & Crisci is a Harrisburg-based government and public affairs firm whose clients include Fortune 500 companies and non-profit organizations. For more information on Holston & Crisci call 717-234-1716.

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