

# —PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on  
Environmental  
Issues in  
Pennsylvania*

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Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

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[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

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## Over 275 at Lehigh Valley Watershed, Shad Conference- Video Blog

The [Lehigh Valley Watershed Conference and Shad Symposium](#) last week attracted over 275 participants eager to learn more about how to protect and restore the over 300 miles of rivers and streams in the Lehigh Valley.

So far in 2008 over 750 people attended conferences to learn how to better protect and restore their watersheds. Earlier, the [Keystone Coldwater Conference](#) attracted 300 people and the [Schuylkill Watershed Congress](#) had nearly 200 participants.

The Lehigh Valley Conference brought together watershed groups, municipal officials, educators, scientists, technical experts, agencies, industry representatives and the public to discuss effective ways to cleanup watersheds, forge partnerships and maximize the natural resources in the greater Lehigh Valley.

In his welcoming remarks, Chris Kocher, President of the Wildlands Conservancy, talked about how essential the water resources of the region were and are to the history and future quality of life in the Lehigh Valley.

He noted that many of the rivers and streams in the Valley have emerged from their industrial past to support over 90 species of fish in the over 300 miles of waterways in the Lehigh Valley.

However, the work of restoring water quality is not done. Nonpoint pollution, abandoned mine drainage and urban sprawl continue to threaten water quality.

**Video Blog:** [Chris Kocher's Opening Remarks](#)

Doug Austen, Executive Director of the Fish and Boat Commission, was one of the keynote speakers. His presentation focused on the status of conservation efforts in Pennsylvania, including the cleanup of aquatic habitat, the restoration of species like the shad in many of the state's river systems and how the protection of watersheds provide multiple benefits to anglers and every Pennsylvanian.

**Video Blog:** [Doug Austen Update on Conservation in PA](#)

Cindy Dunn, Deputy Secretary for Conservation with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, talked about the opportunities and challenges captured in the conference agenda and how DCNR works with lots of partners to develop and implement initiatives like the Lehigh River Conservation Plan, trails projects and other initiatives.



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She also noted how strongly the region is identified with its rivers and how the commitment of Lehigh and Northampton counties to planning gives the area the hope of a strong future.

**Video Blog:** [Cindy Dunn On the Importance of Partnerships](#)

Don Cunningham, Lehigh County Executive, talked about important smart growth and environmental initiatives in the County and how critical water resources are to the region's future.

**Video Blog:** [Don Cunningham on Lehigh County Green Initiatives](#)

John Stoffa, Northampton County Executive, noted that a conference like this could not have been held 10 years ago because there was not the awareness of how important water resources are to the health and well-being of the Lehigh Valley.

**Video Blog:** [John Stoffa on Northampton County Green Initiatives](#)

Congressman Charles Dent talked about recent federal water and energy initiatives affecting the Lehigh Valley and the importance of partnerships and federal, state and local cooperation on conservation projects.

**Video Blog:** [Congressman Charles Dent on Recent Federal Initiatives](#)

Conference partners included the [Wildlands Conservancy](#), [Lehigh University](#), [Department of Conservation and Natural Resources](#), [Lehigh](#) and [Northampton County Conservation Districts](#), [Fish and Boat Commission](#) and the [Saucon Creek Watershed Association](#).

Additional partners included: [Green Valley Coalition](#), [Trout Unlimited](#), [Heritage Conservancy](#), [LandStudies, Inc.](#), [Puritan Products](#), [American Analytical & Environmental](#), [HDR Engineering](#), [Delaware River Shad Fisherman's Association](#), [Environmental Liability Management](#), [Hanover Engineering Associates, Inc.](#), [Rettew](#), [Moravian College](#), [Terre Hill Stormwater Systems](#) and the [Borough of Coplay](#).

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

## On the Hill

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### Session Schedule

The Senate and House will return to voting session April 7, 8 and 9 and then break until after the April 22 Primary Election.

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

### On the Senate/House Agenda/Bills Introduced

The Senate and House published committee schedules for next week and floor Calendars for April 7—

### Calendars

**House (April 7):** [House Bill 1078](#) (Hanna-D-Clinton) establishing the Elk Damage Fund providing for deterrent fences for deer, bear and elk and payment of claims for elk damage; [House Resolution 546](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging Congress to investigate gas and

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energy prices; [House Resolution 627](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging federal government to provide more heating assistance funding; [House Resolution 642](#) (Levdansky-D-Allegheny) which would direct the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to do an audit of the Game Commission's Deer Management Program.

[Special Session House Bill 13](#) (Bennington-R-Mifflin) amends the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act to provide for increased use of energy efficiency, extends the compliance period from 15 to 21 years and provides additional milestones for the use of alternative energy; [Special Session House Bill 17](#) (McIlvaine Smith-D-Montgomery) excluding purchase price of hybrid electric vehicles from sales and use tax; [Special Session House Resolution 6](#) (Thomas-D-Philadelphia) designating the week of November 11-17 as "National Geography Awareness Week."

**Senate (April 7)** [House Bill 1214](#) (Surra-D-Elk) changing the terms of Game Commissioners from eight to four years; [Senate Bill 1020](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) updating the County Conservation District law.

### Committees

**House:** the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 949](#) (Kasunic-D-Somerset) updating the Bituminous Coal Mine Safety Act and [House Bill 2198](#) (Bennington-D-Allegheny) banning the use of plastic bags in stores; the Transportation Committee holds a hearing on [Senate Bill 295](#) (Browne-R-Lehigh) limiting the idling of diesel engines; the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee holds a hearing on [House Bill 2347](#) (Kessler-D-Berks) establishing the Organic Agriculture Development Act in Oley, Pa.

**Senate:** the Local Government and Urban Affairs and Housing Committees holds a hearing on multi-municipal planning and shared services in Greensburg.

### Bills Introduced

These environmental bills of interest were introduced this week—

**Lyme Disease:** [House Resolution 684](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) declaring May as "Lyme Disease Awareness Month."

**Allegheny National Forest:** [House Resolution 685](#) (Rapp-R-Warren) affirming the consent of the Commonwealth to the acquisition of Allegheny National Forest lands by the United States is conditioned on the preservation of state and privately owned property interests.

**Hydrogen Fuel Cells:** [Special Session House Bill 60](#) (Milne-R-Chester) establishing a hydrogen fuel cell collaboration program to promote the development and use of hydrogen fuel cells.

**Coal Methane:** [Senate Bill 1330](#) (D.White-R-Indiana) establishing a Coal Methane Review Board to resolve disputes between property owners over coal bed methane wells.

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**Sewer/Water Infrastructure:** [Senate Bill 1341](#) (Musto-D-Luzerne) authorizing a \$1 billion bond issue for the repair and upgrade of drinking water and wastewater treatment systems.

**Energy Markets:** Senate Resolution 267 (Rhoades-R-Schuylkill) urges Congress to enact legislation to require greater transparency in energy commodities markets (*not yet online*).

**Legacy Sediments:** [Senate Resolution 283](#) (Brubaker-R-Lancaster) recognizing the accomplishments of Franklin & Marshall College Professors Robert Walter and Dorothy Merritts for their research into legacy sediments.

### Senate/House Bills Moving

The following Senate and House bills of interested were moving this week—

#### Senate

**Capital Budget:** [House Bill 1589](#) (Evans-D-Philadelphia) Capital Budget for 2007-08 was amended, reported from the Senate Appropriations Committee, passed by the Senate and now returns to the House for a concurrence vote.

**Appalachian Trail:** [House Bill 1281](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) requiring municipalities to take steps to protect the Appalachian Trail was amended on Second Consideration and tabled.

**Zoning Ordinances:** [House Bill 1329](#) (Kessler-D-Berks) further providing for appeals and challenges to zoning ordinances was tabled by the Senate.

**Conservation Districts:** [Senate Bill 1020](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) updating the County Conservation District law was amended, reported from the Senate Appropriations Committee and is now on the Senate Calendar for final action.

#### House

**State Energy Office:** [Special Session House Bill 16](#) (King-D-Bucks) establishing a State Energy Office was passed by the House and now goes to the Senate for action.

**Elm Street:** [House Bill 2233](#) (Freeman-D-Lehigh) extending grants under the Elm Street Program beyond the original five year term was passed by the House and now goes to the Senate for action.

**Deer Audit:** [House Resolution 642](#) (Levdansky-D-Allegheny) which would direct the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to do an audit of the Game Commission's Deer Management Program was reported from the House Game and Fisheries Committee and is now on the House Calendar for action.

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**Geospatial Council:** the House Intergovernmental Affairs Committee amended and reported out [House Bill 1304](#) (Fairchild-R-Mifflin) to establish a Geospatial Coordinating Council. The bill was then tabled.

**PA Heritage:** [House Bill 2035](#) (Seip-D-Berks) establishing the Pennsylvania Heritage Area Development Program was amended and reported from the House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee and referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

**ATVs:** [House Bill 2043](#) (Haluska-D-Cambria) establishing the Snowmobile and All-Terrain Vehicle Act was reported from the House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee and referred to House Appropriations Committee.

**SE PA Transit Needs:** [House Resolution 567](#) (Petri-R-Bucks) directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to study intermodal transit in southeastern PA was reported from the House Intergovernmental Affairs Committee with a request it be re-referred to the House Transportation Committee. The bill was referred.

### **Informational Meeting on Deep Mine Safety Bill By House Committee**

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee held an informational meeting on legislation that would update the state's deep mine safety law. Rep. George, Chair of the Committee, announced the Committee will vote on the bill next Tuesday.

[Senate Bill 949](#) (Kasunic-D-Somerset) was passed by the Senate in February and is now in the House Committee for action. The bill makes hundreds of changes in the Bituminous Coal Mine Safety Act, some designed to prevent accidents like the one that occurred in the [Quecreek Mine in 2002](#).

The Committee heard an overview of the legislation from Scott Roberts, Deputy Secretary for Mineral Resources Management, and Joe Scaffoni, Director of the Bureau of Deep Mine Safety, both from the Department of Environmental Protection.

"Our Commonwealth has a rich mining history," DEP Bureau of Mine Safety Director Joseph Scaffoni told the panel, "but we have learned the hard way that safe mines are a reality only when miners, mine operators and government make safety a priority every minute of every day.

"Senate Bill 949 marks a critical step forward in our efforts to strengthen Pennsylvania's deep mine safety law, which is woefully outdated."

Scaffoni said the bill would eliminate obsolete language in Pennsylvania's mine safety statutes to remove references to animals and stables in mines and references to transporting miners into the mines on conveyer belts, among other outdated provisions.

"We need the ability to implement 21st century technology quickly to protect our miners and not be hampered by a 19th century law," said Scaffoni. "All of us want Pennsylvania's world-class mining industry to be profitable and successful, but there should be no compromise when it comes to giving our miners the protections they deserve."

Senate Bill 949 incorporates recommendations to improve safety conditions for Pennsylvania's 4,200 underground coal miners that were made following the 2002 Quecreek accident in Somerset County.

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Among the most significant changes, Senate Bill 949 creates a seven-member Board of Coal Mine Safety that would be chaired by the secretary of DEP, with equal representation among mine owners and mine workers. The board would have the authority to write new mine safety regulations—something the department is currently unable to do through existing statute.

In addition, the proposed law would:

- Make the mine owner or operator primarily responsible for safety compliance at the mine and allow DEP to assess fines and penalties for noncompliance. Currently, only individual certified employees or supervisors, such as foremen, can be held responsible for an accident, not the mine company or its executives;
- Increase to 500 feet from 200 feet the distance from which a bituminous underground operator must conduct advanced drilling when approaching an adjacent mine that may contain water or gas to provide an extra measure of security so miners don't accidentally breach an abandoned mine pool, as happened at Quecreek; and
- Authorize the department to use emergency contracting provisions to pay for mine rescue and other mine safety activities.

Sbaffoni also outlined the administrative improvements made to strengthen mine safety under Gov. Rendell.

The Administration has developed and implemented training for managing mine inundation, as well as continuing-education programs for mining professionals, managers and inspectors. The Commonwealth has also increased salaries for engineers, inspectors and training staff in order to be more competitive when recruiting and maintaining quality safety professionals.

DEP invested \$415,000 to purchase 48 new, self-contained breathing units for underground mine rescue teams. The purchase replaced equipment that was more than 30 years old. The units are housed at three mine rescue stations in Cambria, Fayette and Schuylkill counties.

Once the legislation is enacted, the Department of Environmental Protection will have followed through on every recommendation made by the Governor's Commission on Mine Safety, DEP's Bureau of Mine Safety, the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office, the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration in the wake of the Quecreek accident.

[Mr. Sbaffoni's remarks are available online.](#)

Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) serves as Majority Chair of the Committee and Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) serves as Minority Chair.

### **DCNR Will Lease 75,000 Acres for Natural Gas Drilling in State Forests**

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources this week announced it intends to accept competitive bids for natural gas leases covering 75,000 acres on state forestlands at an informational meeting of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

DCNR took the action to respond to the increased interest in the Marcellus Shale formation and the natural gas reserves many believe it contains.

"This approach on shallow gas drilling is a way for DCNR to cautiously and responsibly balance its legislative requirement to provide for the economic use of mineral resources while sustaining those forests and their ecological, recreational and cultural benefits for present and future Pennsylvanians," [Secretary Michael DiBerardinis](#) told the

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Committee. "Oil and gas extraction has been part of our state forest plan for more than six decades and it will continue to help provide clean energy and economic returns that we will invest in conservation initiatives."

[The department's position](#) would allow limited shallow drilling if gas is found during the development of deeper gas fields, or on a case-by-case basis.

Since 2003, the department has met with legislators, industry representatives, environmental groups, academia and forest users to craft changes to a gas development policy that balances needs and interests, is responsive to energy concerns, and adheres to guidelines necessary to maintain its certification as "well-managed" by the independent, third-party Forest Stewardship Council to protect the forests for future generations.

"New provisions in the gas lease provide more specific protection for state parks, natural areas and wild areas; limit the use of waivers and provide additional oversight; enhance protection of dark sky areas; and expand buffers around environmentally sensitive areas," Secretary DiBerardinis said. "We are continuing this historic use of the state forest, and doing it better."

A comprehensive environmental review is conducted as part of a lease sale planning process. Additional environmental reviews are done at the time of well permitting.

[Dr. James R. Grace](#), Deputy Secretary for Parks and Forestry, gave the Committee a briefing on DCNR's oil and gas leasing program.

The Marcellus Shale formation is a deep resource thought to contain large quantities of natural gas, stretching from New York through Pennsylvania and into West Virginia.

In Pennsylvania, the formation reaches the northern tier as far east as the Scranton area and as far south and west as Somerset County and the Pittsburgh area. New technology has made it possible to recover the hard-to-reach fuel.

Lease sales are developed by first receiving nominations for the acreage from gas companies. Then, gas companies are required to competitively bid on the offered state forestlands. Highest responsible bidders may then be issued oil and gas lease contracts. DCNR retains ownership of the land.

There has been gas drilling activity on state forestlands since 1947. Currently, about 207,000 acres of the 2.1-million-acre state forest are being leased for gas production, with about 650 wells in place.

Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango), Majority Chair of the Committee, introduced [Senate Bill 1127](#) that would require the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources to hold a competitive public auction for oil and gas resources and take other steps to develop domestic energy resources.

Rep. Hutchinson (R-Venango), Minority Chair of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, introduced similar legislation in the House— [Special Session House Bill 32](#).

Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) serves as Minority Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

**NewsClips:** [PA to Let Gas Drilling to Resume in State Forests](#)  
[State to Open More Forest Land for Well Drilling](#)  
[Gas Drilling to Resume on State Forests](#)  
[PA Atop Natural Gas Mother Lode](#)

**Link:** [Joint Committee Releases Report on Oil and Gas Leasing Operations](#)

### **Update of Elm Street Program Passes the House**

[House Bill 2233](#), introduced by Rep. Bob Freeman (D-Northampton), that would allow the Elm Street Program to continue beyond the sunset date of 2011 passed the House this week.

The Elm Street Program is an urban residential enhancement initiative that targets older established neighborhoods for revitalization.

"Elm Street has been extremely successful at stabilizing participating neighborhoods," Rep. Freeman said. "The program deserves to continue in order to help revitalize urban neighborhoods."

Rep. Freeman said more than two dozen neighborhoods have been designated as Elm Street communities, and more than 100 municipalities have been eligible for similar improvements in their neighborhoods through Elm Street residential reinvestment grants.

"This law can mean the difference between urban revitalization and urban blight," Rep. Freeman said. "It is critical to the well-being of some of our oldest communities in Pennsylvania."

Currently, the program provides up to five years of financial assistance for municipalities to hire an Elm Street manager to work with local officials and community groups to establish a plan for revitalizing targeted neighborhoods. House Bill 2233 would allow Elm Street managers to continue for up to an additional five years, if necessary.

The measure would also have Elm Street managers work to promote the establishment of consumer services, such as banks, grocery stores and pharmacies, in older urban residential neighborhoods.

Grants are used for administrative costs, and infrastructure and structural improvements such as sidewalk repairs, tree plantings and building façade work. The Elm Street manager also focuses on marketing plans; promoting home ownership and other housing options; addressing social and economic concerns in the targeted neighborhoods; and assessing current zoning codes and comprehensive plans to ensure their compatibility with revitalization efforts.

"Elm Street has gone a long way in helping these older, great neighborhoods come back to life," Rep. Freeman said. "They were once great places to live, work and raise families. I think Elm Street is helping to make them great once again."

### **House Committee to Consider Deep Mine Safety, Plastic Bag Ban**

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will meet Tuesday to consider legislation updating the state's Bituminous coal deep mine safety law and legislation that would ban the use of plastic bags at retail stores.

The bills include: [Senate Bill 949](#) (Kasunic-D-Somerset) updating the Bituminous Coal Mine Safety Act and [House Bill 2198](#) (Bennington-D-Allegheny) banning the use of plastic bags in stores.

Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) serves as Majority Chair of the Committee and Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) serves as Minority Chair.



## Earth Day News

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April 22 is Earth Day and to help celebrate, *PA Environment Digest* will set aside this special section to highlight Earth Day-related programs, projects and events. Send your stories to: [DHess@CrisciAssociates.com](mailto:DHess@CrisciAssociates.com) .

### EPA Celebrates Earth Day with New Web and Multimedia Features

How can you reduce your carbon footprint, make your home or business water efficient or save energy? Visit the special U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [Earth Day web features](#). They include:

- [Green Tips](#) – Sign up for daily environmental tips via email. Also, download the Green Tip "widget" to use on your social networking site or blog. Everyday there are reports in newspapers, on television, on the radio and the web with suggestions on how to reduce our carbon footprint, make our homes and businesses more energy efficient and create communities that are sustainable.
- **Audio Podcasts** – Twice per week during the month of April, listen to EPA's experts discuss ways you can reduce your environmental footprint. The podcasts will be available for download on [EPA's home page](#) and are also available for free subscription on iTunes.
- **"Green Scene"** – EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson will host the latest edition of the agency's new online video series. The administrator discusses Earth Day 2008 and the importance of environmental stewardship.
- **Historical Video** – The history of EPA and why it was created, as told by all nine former administrators, will be available in two separate videos on EPA's multimedia portal.
- **Special Events**-- Special Events – Multimedia coverage of the annual Presidential Environmental Youth Awards and People, Prosperity and the Planet Competition will be available for public viewing following the events.
- **Photo Contest** - Help choose the winner. We chose 30 finalists from nearly 750 photos.
- **Ask EPA** – Molly O'Neill, EPA's Chief Information Officer and Assistant Administrator for Environmental Information, will host an online discussion on April 24 at 2 p.m. EDT. Molly will highlight the agency's National Dialogue on Access to Environmental Information and take ideas for improving access, including suggestions to improve EPA's homepage.

For more information, visit [EPA's Earth Day webpage](#).

### Clinton County CleanScapes Schedules Four Cleanup, Beautification Events

The [Clinton County CleanScapes Program](#) has scheduled four cleanup and beautification programs in the coming months. They include:

**April 10-- Chapman Twp., Clinton County.** Join CCC and DCNR Sproul Forest staff as they remove illegally dumped debris from a future snowmobile trail adjacent to Boone Rd.

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just north of Renovo. The cleanup site is moderately to steeply sloped and rocky. Pre-registration required by 12 noon on April 8.

**April 26-- Castanea Twp., Clinton County.** Join CCC for this litter and illegally dumped woody debris removal project. The PPL right-of-way is flat and may be muddy. Side areas may be moderately to steeply sloped. Waterproof shoes are recommended. Pre-registration required by 12 noon on April 24.

**July 19--Woodward Twp., Clinton County.** Join CCC, Sunken Treasure Scuba Center and Citizen Hose Co. Water Rescue members during the 5th Annual West Branch Susquehanna River and Roadway cleanup event. Boaters will launch from Farrandsville Road and hikers will cleanup scenic Farrandsville Road. Canoe/kayak shuttle service and kayak rentals are available by calling Rock, River and Trail Outfitters at 570-748-1818. Pre-registration required by 12 noon on July 17.

**August 16-- Jersey Shore Borough, Lycoming County & Pine Creek Twp., Clinton County.** Join CCC, Sunken Treasure Scuba Center and Jersey Shore Borough for the 2nd Annual Two Rivers Cleanup Event. Boaters will remove man-made debris from the lower reach of Pine Creek to the West Branch Susquehanna River and end at the Jersey Shore boat launch. Waders will remove tires from a pre-selected site. Canoe/kayak shuttle service and kayak rentals are available by calling Rock, River and Trail Outfitters at 570-748-1818. Pre-registration required by 12 noon on August 14.

Registration and questions should be sent to CCC Project Director Elisabeth Lynch McCoy at 570-893-4123 or send email to: [elynych@clintoncountypa.com](mailto:elynych@clintoncountypa.com). To access CCC past and current projects or to become a supporting CCC member visit the [Clinton County CleanScapes Program webpage](#).

### Dauphin County Sets Community Recycling Day May 17

Dauphin County will again hold a [Community Recycling Day](#) to accept electronics, appliances, used tires and many other items for either free or a modest fee on May 17 at the Harrisburg Area Community College parking lots.

### Fairmount Park Promotes Regatta Recycling in 2008

[Fairmount Park](#) and its partners will promote recycling trash in several upcoming events in Philadelphia.

Partners in a new recycling program include: The Schuylkill Navy, [Keep Philadelphia Beautiful](#), Philadelphia Streets Department, Water Department and Fairmount Park, who have come together in a joint effort to create a public recycling program.

This environmental endeavor focuses on practicing, as well as educating students and park goers about the importance of recycling. It is a unified effort to keep the park system and water resources clean and offers an outlet for positive change.

The program will offer free recycling bags in an effort to keep trash to a minimum. In addition, the program will provide recycling collection along race routes, which are easily identified by the bright blue containers and clear plastic bags which hold the

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recyclables. "Recycling Ambassadors" from Keep Philadelphia Beautiful will be present during all races to provide further information concerning the proper use of the containers.

Race participants and spectators are encouraged to recycle their glass, plastic and aluminum items.

Already, the program has established a bright presence in the parks. In its first week alone, over 760 pounds of material were collected at the season's first regatta. It is planned to continue the recycling program through the 5 Manny Flicks and the Stotesbury Regatta leading up to the big college showdowns in May. All are encouraged to come out and support the racers, and keep the parks clean by recycling!

Fairmount Park is Philadelphia's system of parks encompassing over 9,200 acres, all within the City of Philadelphia. Made up of 63 separate parks that range from inner city neighborhoods to vast natural areas, Fairmount Park covers 10 percent of the city's real estate.

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

### **Central PA Conservancy to Cleanup Riverfront Park on April 22**

The [Central Pennsylvania Conservancy](#) in partnership with the City of Harrisburg, Department of Parks and Recreation will be out on Earth Day, April 22 from 10am – 3pm cleaning up Riverfront Park in downtown Harrisburg.

This event is a great opportunity to do your part for Earth Day on your lunch hour! CPC invites everyone to come and join us in one of our two locations on April 22nd. T-shirts, water, snacks and all equipment, including gloves and hand sanitizer will be provided at both staging areas located at 3211 N. Front Street and at the corner of Market & Front Streets.

The event will be focused on beautifying two places, along Front Street between Walnut and State Streets, and along the riverfront centered around the Capital Region Economic Development Corporation building at 3211 N. Front Street.

Volunteers from all over central PA are encouraged to join us from 10am -3pm! Large groups as well as individuals are welcome.

Please contact Carla Burkett at the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy to register, 717-233-0221 or send email to: [cburkett@centralpaconservancy.org](mailto:cburkett@centralpaconservancy.org).

### **State Agencies Urge Participation in Great PA Cleanup!**

The state departments of Environmental Protection, Transportation, and Conservation and Natural Resources urged Pennsylvanians this week to participate in the annual [Great PA Cleanup!](#) that runs from April 19 to May 3.

Groups and event coordinators registering their events will be eligible for free disposal space for the trash they pick up and to win thank you prizes from participating sponsors. Groups must register their events by April 11 to be eligible.

Last year, more than 139,000 volunteers from all 67 counties removed 7.4 million pounds of trash from roads, parks, schools, waterways, wildlife areas and communities.

"The Great PA Cleanup! is one of the most ambitious, volunteer-driven community cleanup campaigns in the United States," said Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty and co-chair of the [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Alliance](#).

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“Whether you join an existing cleanup or organize a cleanup of your own, every Pennsylvanian can help make the Great PA Cleanup! a success.”

“The first impression is a lasting impression! We can’t let litter and trash present an unkind picture of Pennsylvania to either our visitors or residents. PennDOT works with more than 7,150 [Adopt-A-Highway](#) groups and thousands of volunteers all across the Commonwealth to keep our roadsides clean,” Secretary of Transportation Allen D. Biehler said. “Without the volunteers, PennDOT would spend three to four times more on roadway litter removal. We are proud to be a member of the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful alliance and work with businesses, organizations and other state agencies on this coordinated effort to clean up Pennsylvania.”

PennDOT supports the Great PA Cleanup! by providing participants with free gloves, safety vests and trash bags.

“Individual citizens can make a difference, but collectively we can make an impact. Take the “[iConserve Pennsylvania](#)” first step by participating in the statewide Great Pa Cleanup!” Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Michael DiBerardinis said. We encourage people to take pride in Pennsylvania and their communities by keeping our forests, fields, towns and cities free of trash and planting native trees, shrubs, and flowers. Check out other ideas at [iconservepa.org](#)”

“Trash and litter not only spoils our beautiful landscapes, it ruins property values, costs taxpayers money to pickup and can pollute streams and groundwater,” said David McCorkle, Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association and co-chair of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. “The Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Alliance and our partners promote events like the Great PA Cleanup! to draw attention to this important issue and to help prevent litter and dumping in the future.”

This year's initiative again includes a focus on [Litter-Free School Zones](#), a program launched by Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful to promote and implement anti-litter education and cleanup events at schools.

“Building on the success of last year, we are asking schools to join our Litter-Free School Zone Program to help teach kids to put litter in its place and to cleanup areas around their schools,” said McCorkle. “We have 85 schools enrolled in the program and we hope to double that number this year.”

Groups that register their cleanup events as part of the Great PA Cleanup! by April 11 will be eligible for free landfill space to dispose of non-recyclable waste collected during their cleanup events courtesy of the Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association member companies

Groups and coordinators who report the results of their cleanups will be eligible for thank you gift cards from a growing number of Pennsylvania businesses sponsoring the Great PA Cleanup.

PA CleanWays, a nonprofit group dedicated to fighting illegal dumping and litter, is coordinating all cleanup event registrations and collections reporting as a Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful partner.

The following organizations, local governments and companies provide support for Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and the Great PA Cleanup!:

**State Agencies:** Departments of Community & Economic Development, Conservation and Natural Resources, Education, Environmental Protection and Transportation,

**Local Government:** County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania State Association of Borough Managers, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors.

**Civic Organizations:** PA CleanWays, Pennsylvania Downtown Center, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Pennsylvania Host Municipal Inspectors, Pennsylvania Organization of Watersheds and Rivers, Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation, Pennsylvania Resources Council, Pocono Mountains Visitors' Bureau, Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania.

**Businesses:** AAA Mid-Atlantic, Home Depot, Inc., Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Pennsylvania Beverage Association, Pennsylvania Builders Association, Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association, Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association, Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association, The Steel Recycling Institute, Waste Management Inc.

For more information on registering and promoting events, reporting forms, prizes and tips on how to keep communities litter-free, visit the Great PA Cleanup! website at [www.GreatPaCleanup.org](http://www.GreatPaCleanup.org) .

The website also contains safety information, links to other cleanup organizations, a logo that can be downloaded, T-shirt iron-on transfers and posters, and lesson plans for teachers.

[Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#) is a non-profit organization supported by a wide range of businesses, trade organizations, civic and environmental groups, and state and local government agencies. It is the state affiliate of the national Keep America Beautiful that promotes litter prevention, community beautification and improvement, and waste reduction. Also call the toll-free Pennsylvania Recycling and Litterbug Hotline at 1-888-548-8372 for more information.

## Other News

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### PA Farmers Recognized for Improving Water Quality Destined for Chesapeake Bay

The [Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts Inc.](#) this week announced three Central Pennsylvania farms will receive the 2008 Pennsylvania Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Farm Award.

The winners include The Car-Wood Farm in Boiling Springs, William Hess Farms in Stillwater and Smith Hollow Farms in Martinsburg who will be formally recognized July 29 in State College during PACD's annual conservation awards program.

To further acknowledge their accomplishments, the landowners will receive certificates and large "Clean Water Farm Award" signs to erect on their property.

The Clean Water Farm Award, initiated in 1986, recognizes farmers within Pennsylvania's portion of the Chesapeake Bay Watershed who manage their daily farm operation while keeping a watchful eye on water quality. The farms' conservation plans address issues that help control potential pollutants such as eroded soil, pesticides, and fertilizers from entering streams or groundwater supplies.

Car-Wood Farm, a beef and cropland operation, is owned by Charles Carothers III. The Cumberland County Conservation District nominated this "good steward of the land" for the award. Carothers implements numerous Best Management Practices (BMPs), a combination of practices determined to be the most effective, practical means of reducing

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pollution. For example, this farm uses rotational grazing, fencing, and established animal trails and walkways to reduce soil erosion. The farm has a long tradition of conservation and Carothers goes out of his way to protect water quality in an area impacted by mounting development pressure.

William Hess Farms, a dairy farm, was nominated for the award by the Columbia County Conservation District. The operators, William and Steve Hess and Pam and Ray Tucker, implement a diversity of BMPs to continuously improve their farm. The established practices include construction of a wetland and filter area to treat waste water. The wetland and filter area absorb and treat the waste, removing the potentially harmful nutrients from entering waterways. William Hess Farms also installed stream crossings, fencing, and planted buffers to protect a two and one-half miles of stream which eventually flows into the Chesapeake Bay.

Smith Hollow Farms, a dairy operation, was nominated for the Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Farm Award by Blair County Conservation District. The Smiths implemented many conservation practices on their farms including installation of a manure storage facility, roof runoff system, streambank fencing, walkways, and crossings to reduce the amount of potentially damaging nutrients from entering a stream. Other stream protection efforts include planting a buffer of trees and grass to stabilize the streambanks and provide food and habitat for animals.

Recipients of the annual Chesapeake Bay Clean Water Farm Award are nominated by county conservation district staff. This annual award program is coordinated by the Pennsylvania

The awards are sponsored jointly by the DEP's Chesapeake Bay Program and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture to recognize farmers who implement Best Management Practices. The Pennsylvania [Chesapeake Bay Education Office](#) conducts numerous activities promoting the theme, "We All Live Downstream."

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

### **New Manure Digester Contributes to Climate Change Solutions**

The Brubaker Farms' dairy operation in Lancaster County has built a new anaerobic digester/generator system with carbon offset funding provided by [NativeEnergy](#) and other partners.

The Brubaker Farm is owned by Lisa and Michael Brubaker and Mike's brother Tony. The project was funded by NativeEnergy, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Commonwealth Financing Authority's First Industries Fund.

"Investing in the construction of high quality, family farm renewable energy projects is a powerful step in the fight against global warming that more and more people can support through our carbon offsets," says Tom Boucher, President and CEO of NativeEnergy. "Since methane has 21 times the global warming impact of carbon dioxide, new family farm projects represent real, effective solutions to the climate crisis."

The new anaerobic digester on the 1,500 acre family farm is producing enough energy to power and heat most of its operations; reducing the family's reliance on grid-supplied electricity and propane, and the environmental impact of fossil fuel sources.

"We are very proud of our role, directly supporting new renewable energy projects with family farms, tribes, communities, and school systems," explains Boucher. "Through

NativeEnergy, our clients have a direct relationship with the projects and people helping to solve the climate crisis."

Like many farming families, the Brubakers are stewards of the environment, fully aware of the impact their actions have on the land. By gathering and cultivating the support of various resources, this family of dairy farmers has taken their environmental stewardship to the next level-- to their community -- while also stimulating their local economy.

**Link:** [Brubaker Farms Completes Conservation Pilot Program](#)

## DEP Recognizes Wellhead Protection Efforts in Honey Brook, Chester County



The Department of Environmental Protection recognized the Honey Brook Borough Water Authority this week for its voluntary efforts to become the first water authority in Chester County to have an approved [wellhead protection plan](#).

John Hines, acting director of the DEP's Bureau of Watershed Management, noted the importance of this benchmark.

"Honey Brook's effort is a shining example of what can be done when community leaders commit to developing a common sense approach to drinking water protection," said Hines. "This effort provides safeguards to protect our communities, our citizens and our future."

Source water protection programs are locally designed, voluntary efforts to protect drinking water sources used by public water systems. The programs may take the form of watershed protection for surface water sources, wellhead protection for groundwater sources, or a combination of approaches.

The Honey Brook plan was developed through the cooperation of the water authority, Honey Brook Township, and local citizens. Technical assistance to the steering committee was provided by the [Pennsylvania Rural Water Association](#), [Chester County Conservation District](#), [Chester County Water Resources Authority](#), [Brandywine Valley Association](#), DEP and the engineering firm of [Spotts, Stevens & McCoy Inc.](#)

The plan recommended protecting the authority's wells through regulatory options, including a zoning ordinance, permitting, storm water drainage requirements, and non-regulatory options such as easements and public education.

Most significantly, the township adopted an ordinance in October that established wellhead protection districts. Controls on subdivisions, new requirements on storm water drainage, and limitations or prohibitions on land uses will be established within those districts.

The development and implementation of a wellhead protection program generally takes several years to plan and obtain DEP approval.

With the addition of the Honey Brook system, which was approved in 2005 and implemented in 2007, there are now five approved programs in the southeast region. Each plan has been tailored to its system's resources and constraints.

For more information about protecting drinking water, visit [DEP's Source Water webpage](#).

## **Applications for Fish and Boat Commission State Wildlife Grants Due May 5**

The Fish and Boat Commission announced it will accept applications for [State Wildlife Grant Program](#) until May 5.

The projects, funded through the grant program, will address high-priority conservation needs for endangered, threatened and at-risk reptile, amphibian, fish and aquatic invertebrate species across Pennsylvania.

“We look forward to working with our conservation partners across the state to develop the best projects for long-term conservation benefits to the Commonwealth,” said Doug Austen, Executive Director of the Fish and Boat Commission. “This program provides us with a great opportunity to protect these animals, which are important indicators of environmental health.”

The federal dollars for this program are awarded to the Fish and Boat Commission from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service through the State Wildlife Grant Program. Pennsylvania has yet to receive notification of its 2008 apportionment, thus funding of any selected projects will be contingent upon this award.

The Fish and Boat Commission hopes to finalize project selections by mid-July.

To download a State Wildlife Grant Program application package, please visit the [State Wildlife Grant Program webpage](#).

## **Gov. Rendell Asks New York to Make Room in Reservoirs for Coming Rain**

Gov. Rendell said this week that with New York City reservoirs near full capacity, officials in the Delaware River basin states should act to better protect downstream communities in light of the rain forecast over the next two weeks.

Seasonal triggers, or guidelines that direct when to release water, went into effect April 1 that restrict releases from the reservoirs at any time other than when completely full. Those triggers are intended to ensure adequate water supplies are available during the summer months.

However, the Governor, as chair of the Delaware River Basin Commission, called on officials from Delaware, New Jersey, New York and New York City to support a commonsense plan that would modify the guidelines to help accommodate the expected rainfall and protect against potential flooding on the main stem of the river.

“Forecasts are calling for substantial rain to continue through April,” said Gov. Rendell. “With reservoirs already full, additional rain could create problems downstream.”

In a letter, Gov. Rendell asked the decree party principals—officials from the basin states and New York City—to sign an agreement that would temporarily modify the [flexible flow management plan](#) that was put into effect last year.

Under the flexible flow management plan, releases in April are designed to mitigate reservoir overflows, yet ensure reservoirs are at full capacity by May 1. It is expected that typical spring rain throughout the month will replenish the water supply to meet demand increases beginning in May.

If the Governor’s request is approved, New York City could make more frequent and higher volume reservoir releases through April.

“Under the plan we enacted last fall, we now manage the reservoirs in a way that accounts for our needs for drinking water, recreation and flood protection,” said the Governor. “Since the reservoirs are already at capacity, and with the April showers we



expect every year, we could continue to release water and not jeopardize our supply as the summer gets under way.”

The flexible flow management plan was designed to provide greater flood protection, improve fisheries management, and allow for greater flexibility to address future water needs without compromising the reliability of the public water supply for New York City and Philadelphia. The plan was temporarily instituted in September by the parties to a 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decree that governs diversions and releases from the New York City’s Delaware basin reservoirs.

It is one of the recommendations developed by the Delaware Flood Task Force formed by Gov. Rendell following three devastating floods to hit the region from 2004 to 2006.

The Delaware River Basin Commission is working to institute the flexible flow management plan through a formal rulemaking process. For more information, visit the [DRBC website](#).

**NewsClips:** [Rendell Calls for Action Prevent Flooding](#)  
[Rendell Asks NY For Water Release](#)  
[New York Asked to Drain Reservoirs](#)

### **Pine Creek Watershed Survey Evaluates Angler Use, Harvest, Management Practices**

The strong attraction of anglers to Pine Creek will be examined in a streamside survey starting Saturday along the celebrated waterway, whose diverse fishery and rugged, natural beauty embody the [Pennsylvania Wilds](#).

More than 30 miles of Pine Creek - from Slate Run to near Jersey Shore, Lycoming County - will be part of the angler survey by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and Penn State University.

"For more than 100 years, cold, clean water, unspoiled beauty and excellent fishing have drawn anglers to the Pine Creek watershed," said DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis. "Because the waterway flows through two state forest districts, DCNR and the Fish and Boat Commission are working together to better understand what fish species Pine Creek anglers seek, how they fish for them, and how they view current regulations.

"Input from stream surveys, as well as more in-depth, follow-up mailings, may help shape possible future fishery management and regulation changes by the Fish and Boat Commission that will better protect the resource, while taking into account angler sentiments," Secretary DiBerardinis said.

"Before effecting any fishery changes along Pine Creek, the Fish and Boat Commission must evaluate the population dynamics of fish species and determine angler use," said Fish and Boat Commission Executive Director Doug Austen.

"Because implications of management decisions are complex and far-reaching, the Fish and Boat Commission and DCNR staff want to improve our understanding of the biological and social dimensions of Pine Creek watershed management," Austen said. "Resource protection is most important but, from a social perspective, it is critical to recognize and appreciate the current angler use and input as it relates to different fish species, fishing opportunities and regulations.

"Findings of this project will allow both agencies to set best management practices using the current biological and social factors of the watershed."

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Secretary DiBerardinis said anglers, as well as local businesses serving them, express conflicting perspectives on how trout fishing in Pine Creek and its tributaries should be managed.

"Because of the large DCNR-managed lands in the area, our staff is constantly asked about fishing regulations, access, parking and other related topics, so it's appropriate that the two agencies work together on this project, he said."

Fishing on the lower, warm-water portion of Pine Creek is less understood, but anglers are known to target smallmouth bass, rock bass, and walleyes. A significant nighttime fishery may exist. Little is known about warm-water anglers' level of effort or preferences for different fish species.

The survey area of Pine Creek will stretch from Route 220 upstream to the mouth of Slate Run. From April through October, data will be collected using a streamside angler survey combined with a follow-up mail survey.

Trained survey clerks randomly will interview anglers on various stream segments and at different times. Questions will focus on angler distribution, tackle used, favorite fishing times and species sought. Travel characteristics, economic impact of Pine Creek angling, reaction to rules and regulation, and a variety of other angler information also will be logged.

Draining much of Tioga and Lycoming counties, Pine Creek and the gorge it forms are a centerpiece of the 12-county Pennsylvania Wilds and a well-known National Natural Landmark. Pine Creek Gorge Natural Area follows the stream 12 miles within the Tioga State Forest, and the entire gorge stretches more than 40 miles through both Tioga and Tiadaghton state forests.

A multi-use rail trail parallels the stream for more than 60 miles, ending at Jersey Shore, Lycoming County. Four state parks are along or near the waterway: Colton Point and Leonard Harrison in Tioga County, and Little Pine and Upper Pine Bottom in Lycoming County.

For more information on the Pine Creek watershed, visit the [DCNR PA Wilds webpage](#).

### Conference Explores Collaborative Strategies for Water, Sewer & Stormwater

The [Environmental Law Institute](#) and [10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania](#) will hold a "[Saving \\$ - Managing Water: Regional and Collaborative Approaches to Water, Sewer and Stormwater Management in Pennsylvania](#)" Conference on May 22 at the Hilton Hotel in Harrisburg.

Elected officials, authority managers, watershed organizations, planners, engineers and citizens interested in water resources are invited to participate in this one-day conference.

The Conference will provide working examples of collaborative and regional approaches to water, sewer and stormwater management in Pennsylvania communities; explore the economic and development benefits of implementing practical collaborative approaches to managing and planning for water resources and infrastructure; and provide an opportunity to identify upcoming and future policy initiatives, and pending state activities that will affect communities' ability to launch and fund regional and collaborative approaches.

For more information and to register, visit the [Conference webpage](#).

## First Annual Watershed Management Workshop for Teachers July 9-10

The first annual [Watershed Management Workshop for Teachers](#) will be held at Mansfield University July 9-10.

The workshop is designed to prepare participants to assess and monitor water quality, more fully understand watershed-related issues and apply this expertise in their own school district.

Day one will involve morning lectures on topics such as delineating watersheds, basic water chemistry and sampling techniques. Of particular importance will be the visits to functioning acid mine drainage abatement projects (vertical flow wetlands, limestone ponds and diversion wells) near Blossburg Borough and Babbs Creek, and to Tioga/Hammond Dams, an Army Corps of Engineers flood control project.

Much more than a “show and tell,” these excursions will require participants to use a GPS unit, test water samples at several sites, and use kick nets to collect aquatic insects for later identification. All of this information will be used in a mapping exercise on the second day.

The morning of day two will feature guest lecturers from Trout Unlimited, Bradford County Conservation District, Tioga County Conservation District and the Municipal Water Authority of the Borough of Mansfield who will discuss watershed-related problems they encounter.

Participants will then complete water testing and identification of macroinvertebrates from samples collected on day one. Computer activities will follow where participants learn to use DeLorme topographic software and upload their GPS data. Commonly used internet sites for mapping and for obtaining information on water quality and availability will also be demonstrated.

Finally, they will use their data to produce maps and tables relating species diversity to water quality. Teachers wishing Act 48 credit will also be required to assess the quality of a stream in their home district and submit a report on it within one month of the workshop's conclusion.

At the close of the workshop each attendee will be given a "kit" containing materials for classroom, lab, and field activities, including: a Delorme Topographic CD of the Eastern U.S. to allow for basic mapping and 3-D views of their local watersheds; an inexpensive pH testing kit suitable for field use; soil color book, one or two student-tested "lessons in a can" (self-contained classroom activities that will include master copies of handouts, background material, charts and diagrams), and a classroom exercise covering some aspect of watershed management; pamphlets, brochures and handouts collected from U.S.G.S., the Department of Environmental Protection, Fish and Boat Commission, PA Geological Society and other resources; and, a list of helpful websites along with local, state and federal contacts related to watershed management.

This dynamic Conference will be held at [Mansfield University](#). A block of rooms is available on campus. If you choose to stay on campus for one night, the conference fee is \$55. If you are local to the Mansfield area, the conference fee is \$30.

For more information visit the [Watershed Management Workshop for Teachers webpage](#), or contact Dr. Jennifer Demchak at 570-662-4613.

### **Annual Native Plant Sale Scheduled for May 2-3 in Emmaus**

The [Wildlands Conservancy](#) will host its [annual Native Plant Sale](#) on May 2-3 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at [Pool Wildlife Sanctuary](#) in Emmaus, Pa.

Native wildflowers, grasses, trees, shrubs, and vines will be on sale. [Master Gardeners](#) will be on site to offer advice and answer questions. Members of the Wildlands Conservancy will receive a discount on plant sales. This Native Plant Sale is sponsored by [East Penn Bank](#).

Pennsylvania's native plants are plant species that lived and thrived in this area before it was colonized by Europeans in the 1600s. Native plants are well adapted to similar soil, moisture and weather conditions of the area making them more apt to survive the winter cold and summer heat.

They are resistant to most pests and diseases and require no irrigation or fertilization once established. Native plants are important for storm water management, erosion control, air and water quality, landscape aesthetics, recreational opportunities, food and habitat for wildlife.

“Many of our Lehigh Valley neighbors anticipate this event every year. Customers leave with a beautiful plant and knowing that they are doing their part to help the environment,” states Maureen Ruhe, director of environmental education.

For more information, visit the [Annual Native Plant Sale webpage](#) or contact Maureen Ruhe at 610-965-4397, ext. 36.

### **Noxious, Invasive Weed Management Course Set for September**

The first Northeastern Weed Science Society [Noxious & Invasive Vegetation Management Short Course](#) will be held in Pennsylvania September 15-18.

The NEWSS NIVM Short Course will target public and private land managers (parks, conservancies, preserves, forests, private parcels and farms) from Maine to North Carolina who desire a better understanding of weed management.

The course will stress ecologically-based plant management and include monitoring and assessment, prevention, cultural, mechanical and chemical plant management. Classroom, laboratory and field exercises will be utilized and the program will be designed to encourage interaction between instructors and students.

Weed management professionals from throughout the Northeast will help conduct the program. To cover the cost of instruction, teaching materials and facility rental we are charging \$300 for the 2.5 day terrestrial short course and \$100 for the one day aquatic short course or \$400 for the entire event.

Students will have to cover travel, lodging and some meal expenses.

At this time we request your assistance in circulating this announcement. The Society has posted the announcement flyer and pre-registration documents on the [NEWSS website](#).

For more information, see the [online announcement](#) or contact Melissa Bravo, Bureau of Plant Industry, Department of Agriculture at 717-787-7204 or send email to: [mbravo@state.pa.us](mailto:mbravo@state.pa.us).

## DCNR Seeking Student Applicants for Environmental Careers Camps

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources this week invited high school students interested in pursuing environmental careers to apply for DCNR's summer residential camps.

"The Environmental Careers Outdoors Camps have been very successful," DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis said. "As the program enters its seventh year, we now are seeing past campers emerging as stewards of this state's bountiful natural resources. We know we have been successful in honing an awareness of the natural world and the variety of careers related to it."

Camps will be offered June 15-21 at Kings Gap Environmental Education and Training Center, near Carlisle, Cumberland County; and July 13-19 at the Kirby Episcopal House and Chapel, Glen Summit, Luzerne County.

"These camps are a worthy investment in the future of our youth and our natural resources, and DCNR staffers proudly support them," Secretary DiBerardinis said. "Canoe with these young campers, or join them in a breakfast conversation and you know instantly they represent a unique pool of intelligence, spirit and commitment to environmental improvement."

The ultimate goal of each camp is to introduce 25 students to conservation and environmental careers, and encourage their pursuit. From stream sampling of fish and aquatic life, to forestry skills, daily activities are planned to get students out in the field to meet and observe environmental professionals.

Participants are exposed to a wide range of career experiences, including water quality assessments, geology field studies, and overnight camping experiences. There will be opportunities to meet conservation professionals to learn about career opportunities.

Offered without charge, the instruction and daily activities will be overseen by specialists and officials of DCNR's bureaus of state parks, forestry, and topographic and geologic survey. Selected students in grades 10 -12 will be provided a hands-on, team-building learning experience in an outdoor setting.

After the camps, attendees will have a chance to seek internships, and mentoring and job-shadowing positions, and return as future camp leaders.

For Environmental Careers Outdoors Camp enrollment applications and information, write to ECO Camp Coordinator, Bureau of State parks, Environmental Education and Information Division, P.O. Box 8551, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8551; telephone 717-783-4356; or send email to: [ECO\\_Camp@state.pa.us](mailto:ECO_Camp@state.pa.us) .

## March PCEE Environmental Ed Connections Newsletter Now Online

The [March EE Connections](#) environmental education newsletter published by the [Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education](#) is now available online.

The [Spring 2008 Legislative newsletter](#) is also available. Highlights include:

**Highlight:** Check out PCEE's "[Bay Quest](#)," an environmental education tool that introduces students to pollution problems within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The WebQuest assigns each student a role in the watershed's community as they investigate potential impacts to the local environment and economy. Bay Quest is a fun, interactive way to implement PA's Environment and Ecology Academic Standards into the classroom!

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**General News:** Pennsylvania the Only State on EPA's Green Power List, Great Green America Fest' and 'Green and Growing' Field Trip, 'Global Wealth' Film Festival at SRU, 'Unspoken Borders' Sustainable Design Conference, Earth Hour - March 29, 2008

**K-12 News:** Applications due for Litter Hawk Youth Award Program, 'Stream Cleaner' eForum 2008, 'Wildlife Leadership' Adventures Applications Due, Creek Connections Annual Student Research Symposiums, Environmental Science Field Trip for Homeschoolers

**Higher Education:** PhillyCarShare and U. of Penn Add Vehicles to Fleet, Five Local Schools Receive Sustainable Design Grants from EPA, SRU Receives Grant to Expand Green Programs, Application due for Environmental Scholarship, NWF Release, 'Higher Education in a Warming World'

**Professional Development:** PA Land Conservation Conference, Free Educators Birding Seminar, Lehigh Valley Watershed Conference 'Pennsylvania Coal' Course at Jennings Environmental Center, 'Freshwater Ecology' Workshop at Carnegie Science Center, Sustainable Living Series - Green Buildings, Audubon Society Professional Development Workshops

**Grants/Awards:** DEP Recycling Grants Available, 'Project Slingshot' Applications Due, 'Captain Planet' Grant Applications Due

Contributions welcome! The Center receives news and information from a variety of sources across Pennsylvania and beyond. We appreciate all of the organizations, agencies and individuals who provide EE services and share their relevant information.

If you would like to contribute to future issues of EE Connections, please submit your article before the 15th of the month. Articles should be of statewide interest and are subject to space availability.

Share EE Connections! If you know of others who would appreciate receiving EE Connections, please complete the [on-line form](#) or call 724-738-9020.

To see all of the resources available, visit the [Pennsylvania Center for Environmental Education website](#).

### **Heinz Refuge Offers “Learning About the Environment Through the Lens” Program**

The [Friends of the Heinz Refuge Photo Group](#) will host its annual “Learning about the Environment Through the Lens” Program for area high school students at the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge at Tinicum near Philadelphia.

The program will accept students age 14-18 and will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 3 and from 9 a.m. to noon May 10.

For 10 years the program has been offered, students have used 35mm SLR film cameras. While these cameras provided a great foundation for learning it was time for the program to go digital.

The group hopes to have SLR styled digital cameras and lenses dedicated specifically to the TTL program in the future. But for now students can bring their own

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cameras. They should understand their basic operation, including the manual mode, and have their own digital media. Students opting to bring their own cameras should also bring their instruction manual. Photo Group members mentoring will also be making some of their own equipment available and refuge equipment will also be used for the program

The first Saturday session includes classroom learning about the refuge, Tinicum Marsh, their role in the Darby Creek Watershed and Delaware Estuary, and about both the art and science of photography. After lunch the students are then asked to capture images on the refuge based on a theme they are given. They are teamed up with Photo Group mentors who are there to advise and to lend their expertise and experience.

On the second Saturday, the students will create individual poster displays as well as a team display using the images they shot and their own text and captions. They will receive certificates of completion and the displays will be exhibited at the refuge for several weeks.

Pre-registration is required. To pre-register, call 215-365-3118. Space is limited and students will be taken on a first call, first serve basis.

### Farm Bureau Urges General Assembly to Act on Biofuels Initiatives- Video Blog



The [Pennsylvania Farm Bureau](#) held a press conference this week to encourage action on legislation to promote biofuels production in time to help provide farmers additional income and stave off the closing of existing biodiesel producers.

Farm Bureau President Carl Shaffer said farmers support Gov. Rendell's initiative to promote biofuels and separate legislation that would provide per gallon incentives to biodiesel makers to promote production and markets for soybeans and corn raised by Pennsylvania farmers.

Shaffer said they support [Special Session Senate Bill 36](#) (M.White-R-Venango), [Special Session Senate Bill 22](#) (Tomlinson-R-Bucks) and [Special Session House Bill 42](#) (Kessler-D-Berks).

He noted rising fuel prices have hurt farmers particularly hard raising their cost of growing crops, but said farmers are anxious to contribute to the biofuels initiative that would cut the U.S. dependence on foreign oil.

**Video Blog:** [Carl Shaffer on Biofuel Opportunities for Farmers](#)

Sen. Mike Brubaker (R-Lancaster), Majority Chair of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, joined the Farm Bureau in calling for action on biofuels legislation saying it presents a great opportunity for Pennsylvania farmers.

**Video Blog:** [Sen. Brubaker's Remarks on Biofuels](#)

Rep. David Kessler (D-Berks) provided an overview of Special Session House Bill 42 that provides for a \$1 per gallon incentive to producers of biodiesel in order to promote the production of Pennsylvania-grown fuels.

**Video Blog:** [Rep. Kessler on Incentives for Biofuels](#)

Ben Wootton, President of Keystone BioFuels in Cumberland County, said he had to lay off 80 percent of his workforce due to his inability to distribute his 100 percent pure

biodiesel to customers. Faced with competition from other states that provide per gallon subsidies, Wootton said he was supporting legislation to level the playing field between competitors.

**Video Blog:** [Ben Wootton Talks About PA's Biofuels Industry](#)

Keith Oellig, a Dauphin County soybean farmer, said the skyrocketing cost of diesel fuel and natural gas used to make fertilizer has increased his cost of production significantly. He said the production of biofuels will not solve the energy problems, but it will be an important step toward stabilizing farm production costs.

**Video Blog:** [Keith Oellig Talks About Biofuels From Producer Viewpoint](#)

Carl Shaffer said the Farm Bureau believes the future of renewable fuels production in the state requires swift action from the General Assembly.

“Pennsylvania should be a renewable fuels leader among states. The time is now for adoption of the PennSecurity Fuels Initiative. State lawmakers also need to take immediate action to prevent the collapse of our new biodiesel industry,” concluded Shaffer.

### **Seven Regional Energy Management Workshops for Small, Medium Businesses Set**

The Department of Environmental Protection and a variety of partners are sponsoring a series of seven regional [Energy Management Workshops](#) for small and medium-sized businesses who want to save money on their energy costs.

The workshops will be held:

- **April 24--** Small Business Development Center, Duquesne University, 600 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh;
- **May 6--** Penn State Great Valley Campus, 30 E. Swedesford Rd., Malvern;
- **May 15--** Economic Progress Alliance of Crawford County William J. Douglass Conference Center, 764 Bessemer St., Meadville;
- **May 22--** Electrotechnology Applications Center, Northampton Community College, 3835 Green Pond Road, Bethlehem;
- **May 28--** Bucknell University, Elaine Langone Center, 701 Moore Ave., Lewisburg;
- **June 3--** Lancaster County Career & Technology Center, 432 Old Market St., Mount Joy; and
- **June 12--** SMC Business Councils George Westinghouse Science & Technology Center, 1382 Beulah Rd., Pittsburgh.

Learn how to reduce high energy costs through easily implemented, cost effective changes for commercial and industrial facilities. Find out about financial and technical resources that are available for energy efficiency upgrades for businesses.

The half-day workshops will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and will provide information on energy supply options, illustrate how to identify energy cost-saving opportunities and show how to develop an energy action plan. Doors open at 7:45 AM.

These free morning workshops are sponsored by the Office of the Small Business Ombudsman of the Department of Environmental Protection and the following local business assistance providers and organizations: Electrotechnology Applications Center, Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program, Duquesne Small Business Development Center, Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia, Northwest Industrial Resource Center, Western Crawford County Chamber of Commerce, Gannon Small Business Development Center, PAEP Pollution Prevention/Energy Efficiency Roundtable



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Lehigh University Small Business Development Center, SEDA-Council of Governments, Lancaster County Career & Technology Center and SMC Business Councils

Funding for the workshops is provided through a U.S. Department of Energy grant.

For more information and to register visit the [Energy Management Workshops webpage](#) or call DEP's Office of Energy and Technology Deployment at 717-783-8411.

### ConocoPhillips, Penn State Partner on Nationwide Energy Prize Program

ConocoPhillips and Penn State are launching the [ConocoPhillips Energy Prize](#), an awards program that seeks to recognize new ideas and original, actionable solutions that can help improve the way the United States develops and uses energy.

Entries are due May 28.

In its inaugural year, the program will award up to \$300,000 in cash prizes and focus on generating innovative ideas and solutions that help in three areas:

- Developing new energy sources, including new ways to develop alternative energy;
- Improving energy efficiency, such as new methods to significantly reduce the amount of energy consumed in the United States; and
- Combating climate change, including solutions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"Providing adequate, reliable and diverse supplies of energy; significantly improving energy efficiency; and taking action on climate change are challenges that will require innovative technology, resource commitments and responsible stewardship by energy producers and consumers alike," said Jim Mulva, chairman and chief executive officer of ConocoPhillips. "With help from Penn State and its award-winning Energy Institute, the ConocoPhillips Energy Prize is one way to generate excitement and interest in fostering new energy ideas and solutions that will ultimately benefit society."

"Our focus is on developing clean, reliable and affordable energy, and through the ConocoPhillips Energy Prize, we can help spur technology research and development in this area of focus," said Dr. William Easterling, dean of Penn State's College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, which houses the [EMS Energy Institute](#). "We are pleased to work with ConocoPhillips on this endeavor, while encouraging the nation's brightest minds to turn their ideas into reality."

A qualified panel of energy and environmental judges will select up to five finalists to present their concepts during a two-day awards event in October. Concepts will be judged on the basis of creativity, scalability, commercial viability and sustainability.

Official rules for the 2008 [ConocoPhillips Energy Prize are available online](#).

**NewsClip:** [Partnership Offers Prize to Develop, Improve Energy Sources](#)

### PA Energy Star Partners Significantly Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Three Pennsylvania organizations are among those showcased in a [report released this week](#) by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for reducing greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency.

The award winners include: [Giant Eagle Inc.](#) in Pittsburgh, Pa., [Gorell Enterprises, Inc.](#) in Indiana, Pa. and the [Council Rock School District](#) in Newtown, Pa.

The report, "Profiles in Leadership, 2008 Energy Star Award Winners," highlights 74 award-winning organizations across many sectors of the U.S. economy.

"These energy all-stars prove that a brighter future starts with each of us," said Donald S. Welsh, regional administrator EPA. "We are glad to partner with organizations in the mid-Atlantic region to preserve our environment and our energy resources."

National award winners were selected from the 12,000 organizations in the Energy Star program. Energy Star partners commit to improve the energy efficiency of products, homes, buildings and businesses. The winners have made substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency. They are both large and small organizations with long track records of success as well as those that are quickly excelling in energy efficiency.

In 2007 with the help of Energy Star, Americans saved \$16 billion on their energy bills and avoided greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of 27 million vehicles. To date, more than 2.5 billion Energy Star qualified products have been sold, and nearly 840,000 new homes and 4,000 office buildings, schools, hospitals, and public buildings have earned the Energy Star. Energy Star qualified products provide what today's consumers expect.

[The report is posted online.](#)

### **FirstEnergy, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Sign Renewable Power Pact**

[FirstEnergy Solutions](#) this week signed its largest green supply contract with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, a leader in pursuing environmentally sustainable practices within the health care industry.

UPMC has purchased approximately 24,000 renewable energy certificates of FirstEnergy Solutions' MixedGreens product as a source of a portion of their electric generation. This agreement represents 10 percent of UPMC's electricity load in the Pittsburgh area.

One REC is produced when a renewable energy generator produces one megawatt-hour of electricity. When a company purchases RECs, it is choosing to support the development of renewable electric generation.

MixedGreens is a combination of renewable resources, including wind, biomass, geothermal electric, photovoltaic and hydroelectric.

"We have 145 megawatts of capacity available to us from wind farms in western Pennsylvania, with another 70 megawatts expected to go online this year," says Arthur Yuan, vice president of Sales and Marketing for FES. "Our MixedGreens energy products are a great way for customers to support environmentally friendly energy resources."

"At UPMC, we strive to enhance the quality of life for our patients and the communities in which we live and work. Our agreement with FirstEnergy Solutions serves as another example of our commitment to advancing environmentally sustainable practices, while supporting research and education focused on environmental links to disease," says Allison Robinson, director of UPMC's environmental initiatives.

For instance, the health system recently created a \$5-million "[green action fund](#)" to support environmentally friendly projects across the health system. It's also building one of the first green pediatric hospitals, supporting significant paper and equipment recycling programs, and removing mercury-containing items from its hospitals.

## **PUC Unveils Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Website**

The Public Utility Commission this week announced the opening of a Pennsylvania [Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Program website](#) as part of an ongoing effort to implement and enforce requirements outlined in the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act of 2004.

“This is another implementation step to make information about AEPS available to the public in a user-friendly manner,” said PUC Chairman Wendell F. Holland. “The creation of this website furthers our efforts by making vital information on alternative energy more accessible. The information is now just a click away for companies, consumers and customer generators.”

The AEPS Act requires that a certain percentage of all electric energy sold to retail customers within the Commonwealth be derived from alternative energy sources. The act applies to both electric distribution companies and electric generation suppliers, who must demonstrate their compliance on an annual basis.

The AEPS website is managed by Clean Power Markets, a Comverge Co., which is an entity chosen by the PUC to act as a third-party administrator of the AEPS. The website:

- Provides a portal for the application and registration of alternative energy facilities that qualify for the AEPS program;
- Assists in the management of Alternative Energy Credits produced by small customer-owned generators and energy efficiency measures;
- Facilitates the trade of AECs from alternative energy sources and energy efficiency measures through a regional bulletin board;
- Acts as an aggregator for small customer generators to facilitate the creation of alternative energy credits from these small customer-owned generation sources; and
- Supports alternative energy sources with registration in PJM’s Generation Attribute Tracking System (GATS).

For more information, visit [Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Program website](#).

## **Conference to Focus on the Future of Coal in Pennsylvania April 23-24**

The Clean Air Council is holding a two-day conference titled, “[The Future of Coal in Pennsylvania](#)” April 23-24 at the Harrisburg Hilton.

The conference will feature a frank dialogue on the issues surrounding coal, including coal's role in the national energy portfolio and the environmental problems associated with coal use.

The conference's opening session, "A Realistic Assessment of the World Energy System," features speaker Jennifer Layke, of the World Resources Institute, who will give a presentation of energy sources in Pennsylvania, the United States, and the world, together with a projection of future energy needs, and an analysis of trends in the global energy economy.

He will answer questions like: What is the energy supply growth curve for wind and solar from various sources? And what is the status of regional and world fossil fuel reserves?

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Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen McGinty will serve as the keynote speaker at Tuesday's luncheon. Wednesday's luncheon features Eric Schaeffer, Executive Director of the Environmental Integrity Project.

Other panels include such topics as: Carbon Capture and Storage, The Future of Coal in Transportation and Other Non-Electricity Uses; State Action, Investment Perspectives on Coal and a Carbon-Constrained World; Other Social and Environmental Impacts of Coal; What is the State of the Art in Coal Combustion; and Political Realities and National Coal Policy.

The conference is hosted by Clean Air Council, and presented with the support of Environmental Defense, the Emily Hall Tremain Foundation, PPL Corp., and the Department of Environmental Protection.

For more information, visit the “[The Future of Coal in Pennsylvania](#)” webpage or contact Michael Leone at 717-230-8806 or send email to: [mleone@cleanair.org](mailto:mleone@cleanair.org).

### **New Energy and Infrastructure IssuesPA 2008 TV Program To Air**

The second TV program in the [IssuesPA 2008 series](#) entitled, “Energy and Infrastructure: Where We Need To Be” will be aired soon on public televisions stations across Pennsylvania.

The series is sponsored by: The Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities, WITF-TV and the Pennsylvania Public Television Network, as well as the Pennsylvania Economy League, The Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, and the Department of Community and Economic Development.

This program is the second episode in a series of four programs airing in the first six months of 2008 that will focus on the issues most critical to the state's economic competitiveness and community vitality.

Hosted by WITF-TV's Nell McCormack Abom, Energy and Infrastructure: Where We Need To Be features guests that include: John Quain, Pennsylvanians for Reliable Power, David Patti, President/CEO, PA Business Council, Terry Kauffman, 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania, Nathan Willcox, Energy and Clean Air Advocate, Penn Environment, Michael Love, President/CEO, Energy Association of PA, Building Green, Maureen Guttman, Director, Governor's Green Government Council and Marcus Sheffer, Green Building Consultant, The Seven Group.

The program will seek to answer questions like: Will Pennsylvania grow or change based on energy and infrastructure needs? Will people decide to live closer to where they work because of the high cost of energy? What forms of energy will replace what we use today? Is the alternative energy industry the next great force to grow the economy? What part does conservation play? Are we building green in Pennsylvania and what does that mean? What will it cost? What's driving the move toward getting greener?

On the transportation infrastructure issue, the program will answer questions like: What are Pennsylvania's greatest transportation needs? Should we be focusing attention on existing transportation infrastructure or building new roads? As fuel costs rise, will more people choose mass transit?

Transportation issue guests include: Rick Hogg, Deputy Secretary for Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, Andrew Hilt, Executive Vice President, American Council of Engineering Companies of PA and Laverne Collins, Director of the Bureau of Public Transportation, Department of Transportation.

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The programs in the IssuesPA 2008 series focus on issues affecting Pennsylvania voters, their families and communities, providing an in-depth examination of several multi-faceted issues that influence Pennsylvanians' lives - today and in the future.

Each 60 minute episode of IssuesPA 2008 features diverse viewpoints and examples of how different areas of Pennsylvania have adapted to the changing landscape.

The next two installments of IssuesPA 2008 are Health Care: The Pulse of Reform and Government: For the People, By the People? Each episode will be hosted by WITF's Nell McCormack Abom.

[Please check your local listings](#) or check the [IssuesPA 2008 website](#).

### **EPA Makes \$50 Million Available to Clean Up Diesel Engines Nationwide**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the availability of almost \$50 million in [Clean Diesel grant funding](#) to establish clean diesel projects aimed at reducing emissions from the nation's existing fleet of diesel engines.

Applications are due June 13.

State, local, regional and tribal governments can apply for the grants, as well as non-profits and institutions with transportation, educational services and air quality responsibilities.

The grants are targeting school or transit buses, medium and heavy-duty trucks, marine engines, locomotives and nonroad engines. Grant recipients can use a variety of cost-effective emission reduction strategies, such as EPA-verified retrofit and idle-reduction technologies, EPA-certified engine upgrades, vehicle or equipment replacements, cleaner fuels and creation of innovative clean diesel financing programs.

Diesels are the economic workhorses of the nation, and over the past decade, EPA has set stringent new particulate and nitrogen oxide standards for most types of new engines. These regulations will annually prevent more than 20,000 premature deaths and yield more than \$150 billion in public health benefits when fully implemented.

Some [EPA Regional offices](#) have already started issuing requests for grant applications, called Requests for Proposals, and, along with EPA Headquarters, will continue to roll them out throughout the spring.

NCDC uses a proactive, incentive-based approach to achieve environmental results. More than 400,000 existing diesel engines have already been retrofitted during the campaign's first few years, cutting harmful emissions by nearly 300,000 tons.

For more information, visit the [Clean Diesel grant funding webpage](#).

### **EPA Web-Based Environmental Compliance Tool Available for Colleges**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced a [new web-based compliance assistance center](#) that provides comprehensive environmental compliance assistance and pollution prevention information for colleges and universities.

The center was developed by the National Association of Colleges and University Business Officials with support and funding from EPA.

The website makes it easier for school officials to learn more about applicable environmental regulations and ensure a safe and sustainable environment for their students, faculty and staff.

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The online center provides information on topics including waste management, air and water resources, drinking water, and public safety. Viewers can find out what types of campus activities are regulated by EPA, see how best to comply with environmental regulations, query federal enforcement and compliance data, learn how to apply for federal grants, and e-mail comments to EPA on regulations under development.

EPA sponsors 15 other web-based compliance assistance centers on agriculture, auto repair, automotive recycling, chemicals, construction, federal facilities, health care, local government, metal finishing, paints and coatings, printed wiring board, printing, transportation, tribal, and U.S. borders. These websites were visited nearly 2 million times last year.

[Campus Environmental Resource Center is available online](#). Information on [EPA's compliance assistance centers](#) is also available online.

### DEP Takes Over Major Federal Program Regulating Radioactive Materials

Under an agreement signed last week with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Pennsylvania this week assumed regulatory authority over approximately 700 radioactive material users in the state, a change Gov. Rendell said will strengthen public safety by improving emergency response capabilities.

The Governor said with its new "agreement state" status, Pennsylvania will be better able to provide timely and accurate information to state and local authorities responding to incidents involving radioactive materials, which improves public safety.

"This move increases public safety because state officials will have greater knowledge of the radioactive materials that are being used in Pennsylvania, and will be better able to respond to any emergency situation," Gov. Rendell said. "State officials are usually the first to respond to incidents involving radioactive materials. Now, these officials will have more knowledge to protect the public from the first minute they arrive on scene."

Under the agreement, Pennsylvania assumes regulatory authority from the NRC over most of the in-state facilities using radioactive materials—the majority of which are medical facilities treating patients with nuclear medicine procedures.

Industrial, construction and pharmaceutical firms using radioactive materials also now fall under the state's jurisdiction, as do colleges and universities using nuclear materials for academic purposes.

Pennsylvania's nine nuclear power plants and one research reactor will continue to be regulated by the NRC.

The Governor added that the agreement also improves the business climate through lower licensing fees and less duplicative regulatory requirements.

"Pennsylvania's businesses will benefit because state licensing fees are expected to be lower than the NRC's in the long run," said the Governor. "These savings will help to reduce costs and encourage businesses to locate and expand here, creating jobs for Pennsylvanians."

Radioactive material licensing fees are expected to generate at least \$2 million a year, which should be sufficient to fund the entire cost of licensing, inspecting and regulating facilities within the state that hold such licenses.

As required by law, no state general fund tax dollars will be used for this program.

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"Many of Pennsylvania's major employers — medical facilities, pharmaceutical makers and manufacturers— use radioactive materials," said Gov. Rendell. "Providing these businesses with a single point of contact on issues related to radioactive materials and x-rays helps eliminate the potential for confusion and will streamline the regulatory and licensing process for these companies. That means a more efficient operation from the state's perspective and fewer regulatory hurdles and expenses for companies."

The NRC licensed 693 radioactive material users in the state and, prior to gaining the agreement state status, Pennsylvania licensed 436 users. About half of the state's licensees were also licensed by the NRC.

As an agreement state, Pennsylvania assumes oversight of the 693 NRC-licensed users and, discounting for the facilities carrying two separate licenses from the state and federal government, Pennsylvania will now license and regulate 911 total license holders.

Pennsylvania will manage the licensing and regulation efforts using highly trained radiological health physicists within the Department of Environmental Protection's Bureau of Radiation Protection. Many of these employees have been licensing, inspecting and regulating the radioactive materials licensees now under state jurisdiction, including all the medical and industrial facilities that use x-ray generating machines.

Pennsylvania was directed to enter into an agreement with the federal government to regulate radioactive materials by the state's Radiation Protection Act, or Act 147 of 1984.

For more information, visit DEP's [Bureau of Radiation Protection webpage](#).

**NewsClips:** [Feds Give PA Some Nuclear Regulatory Power](#)

### **EPA Releases Report on Environmental Stewardship and Collaboration**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's independent National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology this week [released a new report](#) urging the agency to make stewardship its unifying theme and ethic and become the world's premier model and catalyst for this approach to environmental protection.

It recommends that EPA focus all of its tools – strong regulatory programs, grants, voluntary partnerships and information programs – in this direction.

The report says that the success of EPA's stewardship efforts will be determined by the extent to which other institutions and individuals become stewards, and adds that working towards sustainability through environmental stewardship and collaboration is everyone's business. Environmental stewardship is the responsibility for environmental quality shared by all those whose actions affect the environment.

NACEPT advises, consults with and makes recommendations to the EPA Administrator on a broad range of environmental policy, technology and management issues. The Council is a balanced panel of representatives from academia, business and industry, non-governmental organizations, and state, local, and tribal governments.

For the full report, Everyone's Business: Working Towards Sustainability Through Environmental Stewardship and Collaboration, [is available online](#).

## 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—

- **April 11**— [PA American Water Environmental Grant Program](#)
- **April 25**— DCNR [Community Conservation Partnerships Program Grants](#)
- **May 1**— [PA CleanWays' Sue Wiseman Student Scholarship](#)
- **May 2**— [Friend of the Lehigh River Awards](#)
- **May 2**— [DCNR Volunteer Forest Firefighter Grants](#)
- **May 5**— **NEW**. [Fish & Boat Commission State Wildlife Grant Program](#)
- **May 16**— [DEP Growing Greener Watershed, Flood Protection Grants](#)
- **May 20** – PennVEST [Infrastructure Loans/Grants for April 15 Meeting](#).
- **May 28**— **NEW**. [ConocoPhillips Energy Prize](#)
- **June 13**— **NEW**. [EPA Clean Diesel Program Grants](#)
- **June 16**— [Rachel Carson Sense of Wonder Contest](#)
- **June 20**— DEP [Section 902 Recycling Development Grants](#)
- [RC&D Grants for Improving Livestock Operations](#)
- **September 20**— [Fish & Boat Commission Boating Facilities 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

[Southeast PA Household Hazardous Waste Program Recognized](#)

[PA, Others Sue EPA on Global Warming](#)

[Slippery Rock Students to Pay Annual Fee for Earth-Friendly Projects](#)

[CMU Professor: \\$7 Gas May Cure What Ails Us](#)

[Urban Living Can Save You Plenty On Gasoline](#)

[Gore Launches Campaign to Cut U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#)

[Editorial: A Type of Energy Audit That Isn't Painful](#)

[Mayfield Ahead of Curve on Ethanol Aversion?](#)

[Delaware County School District Switches to Biodiesel](#)

[Op-Ed: Ethanol Hopes Run on Fumes](#)

[Op-Ed: Land Men Scrambling to Exploit Natural Gas Deposits](#)

[Op-Ed: Clean Coal Technology Can Fuel State's Energy Needs, Kathleen McGinty](#)

[Schuylkill County Coal-To-Liquid Fuel Project Hinges on Pending DOE Decision](#)

[Saving Money and the Earth](#)

[Environmental Efficiency No Longer Just About Tree Hugging](#)



[Regional Electricity Pricing Is Faulted](#)  
[PUC Wraps Up Public Hearing on Power Line](#)  
[Paying More Now for Electric to Save Later](#)  
[Montgomery School Board Votes for LEED Overseer](#)  
[Casey Urges Greater Dissent to Power Lines](#)

[PA Shuts Down Home Heating Aid Program for Next Winter](#)  
[LIHEAP Aid Ends, Leaving Many Without Help](#)  
[PA Gas Assn. Says Premature LIHEAP Shutdown Harms 62,000](#)  
[Editorial: Declare an Energy Emergency](#)  
[Op-Ed: Beyond the Casino – 3 Better Bets for Pittsburgh](#)

[Meadville Home Boasts Cutting-Edge Efficiency](#)  
[2 Carbon Businesses Make Green List](#)  
[Panel Envisions Green Development on Neville Island](#)  
[Green Hospital Starting to Rise](#)  
[Housing to Become Denser in Franklin County](#)

[Green Building Products Galore](#)  
[Pile of 850,000 Used Tires Is Gone](#)  
[Editorial: Perking Up Allegheny Parks](#)  
[More Eagles Spied in Skies Over PA](#)  
[Rail to Trail: Hanover to York Connection Gains Support](#)

[Lebanon Rail Trail Could Be Finished By End of Year](#)  
[Pike County Land Protection Program Set](#)  
[Looking to Clean Up Natural Lands](#)  
[More Sensitive Pocono Land Comes Off Real Estate Market](#)  
[Pittsburgh Adopts 6-Month Moratorium on Digital Billboards](#)

[Clean Sweep: Nutter Marshals Forces to Tidy Up Philadelphia](#)  
[DEP Provides \\$890,000 Recycling Markets Infrastructure Grants](#)  
[Volunteers Wanted for Wilkes-Barre Area Cleanups](#)

## **Watershed NewsClips**

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

[Yough is River of the Year](#)  
[Presque Isle Bay Swim Will Mark Magnificent Rebirth](#)  
[Musto Defends Sewer Plant Upgrade Project Required for Bay Cleanup](#)  
[Watershed Groups Keep Natural Resource Clean and Clear](#)  
[Rendell Calls for Action on New York Reservoir Levels to Prevent Flooding](#)  
[Rendell Asks NY For Water Release](#)  
[New York Asked to Drain Reservoirs](#)  
[Corps to Restore 33-Acre Section of North Park Lake](#)  
[Swanger Brings Swattie Measure](#)

[Sign of Spring: Gone Fishing](#)

[Whitewater Plan in Lehigh No Fish Tale](#)

[Study to Search Rivers for Drug Contaminants](#)

[State Cites Noise Levels to Restrict Dredging](#)

[\\$14 Million for Sewer Plant Upgrades Too Much](#)

[Clarion Landfill Closure Fund Will Be Spread Throughout the County](#)

## **Regulations**

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The Department of Environmental Protection [published a notice](#) withdrawing the Neshaminy Creek Watershed TMDL Plan.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – April 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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The Department of Environmental Protection published [final guidance](#) on the Pennsylvania Clean Vehicles Program.

DEP ID: 270-0810-005. Guidance Document for the Pennsylvania Clean Vehicles (PCV) Program. This document serves as a guide for the implementation and operation of the PCV Program.

[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](#)

- [DEP No-Cost Internet Remediation Courses](#)
- **April 8—NEW.** House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 949](#) (Kasunic-D-Somerset) updating the Bituminous Coal Mine Safety Act and [House Bill 2198](#) (Bennington-D-Allegheny) banning the use of plastic bags in stores. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 9:00.

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- **April 9**—**CANCELLED**. [DEP Water Resources Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Next scheduled meeting is July 9.
- **April 10**—**NEW**. House Transportation Committee hearing on [Senate Bill 295](#) (Browne-R-Lehigh) limiting the idling of diesel engines. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 9:30.
- **April 10**—**NEW**. Senate Local Government and Urban Affairs and Housing Committees hearing on multi-municipal planning and shared services. Greensburg Garden and Civic Center, Greensburg. 9:00.
- **April 10**—House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee hearing on [House Bill 2347](#) (Kessler-D-Berks) establishing the Organic Agriculture Development Act. Oley Valley Fair Centre, Oley, Pa. 1:00.
- **April 14**—[PA Infrastructure Investment Authority](#) meeting. Dixon University Center, 2986 N. Second St., Harrisburg. 10:00.
- **April 14**—**NEW**. Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30. (*Executive Order*)
- **April 15**—PA Infrastructure Investment Authority meeting. (*notice*)
- **April 15**—[Environmental Quality Board meeting](#). Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **April 15**—[DEP Citizens Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 11:00.
- **April 17**—**NEW**. DCNR [Snowmobile and ATV Advisory Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **April 17**—Sewage Task Force, [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) meeting. Penn State, State College. 10:00.
- **April 18**—PEC [Water Trail Working Session Conference](#).
- **April 18**—DEP [Coal and Clay Mine Subsidence Insurance Board](#) meeting. 10th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 10:00.
- **April 19**—Protecting Our Headwaters Streams and Wetlands-What You Can Do. Cedar Crest College, Allentown. 10:00-3:00. Contact: Barbara Benson, 610-282-33611 or send email to: [barbarabenson@bensonsails.com](mailto:barbarabenson@bensonsails.com).
- **April 22**—Primary Election Day / Earth Day
- **April 23**—**NEW**. [Susquehanna River Basin Commission](#) meets to consider increase in consumptive water use mitigation fee. Fish and Boat Commission office, 1601 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg. 10:00.
- **April 30**—**NEW**. House Republican Policy Committee hearing on the cost of implementing the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Cleanup Strategy. Pennsylvania College of Technology. Williamsport. 1:00.
- **April 30**—House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee hearing on [House Bill 1908](#) (Rohrer-R-Berks) relating to liability for opening private lands to recreation. Patton Volunteer Fire Company, Patton. 10:00.
- **May 13-15**—[PA Water/Wastewater Association](#) annual conference. Valley Forge.
- **May 28**—[Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards Program](#). Pittsburgh.

### [DEP Calendar of Events](#)

### [Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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(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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