

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

April 18, 2005

Environmental Bond Ballot Question Wins Approval

The Senate and House this week gave final approval to a \$625 million environmental bond issue question to be put to voters on May 17 ([House Bill 2](#)). Gov. Rendell signed the bill within an hour of its passing.

This is the largest single investment in the environment since Gov. Ridge proposed the original Growing Greener Program in 1999 -- \$645 million-- and then Gov. Schweiker nearly doubled it to \$1.2 billion in 2002. That program remains in place.

"If authorized by voters, this historic investment will be terrific not just for Pennsylvania's environment, but its economy and overall quality of life," Gov. Rendell said. "I applaud the legislature for putting this initiative before the voters of Pennsylvania, and urge citizens to have their voices heard on an important package that will dramatically improve the environment and quality of life in Pennsylvania in the spring Primary Election."

"This measure is the result of negotiation and compromise, and ensures that the question will be put to voters in time for the May 17 municipal primary election," said Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango), Majority Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. "We stood up to the governor's attempt to increase taxes while continuing to fund Growing Greener environmental initiatives launched by Republicans in 1999."

"I am glad we were able to reach this compromise so that Pennsylvanians will have an opportunity to vote on the referendum question in May," said Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne), Minority Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. "I appreciate the hard work that went into this effort on both sides of the aisle and with the Governor's office. The money and the programs will improve the quality of life for all Pennsylvanians and encourage economic development in many areas of the state."

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**Desktop Wild Flower/Plant
Arrangement** courtesy [Karen Hohman, PA CleanWays](#). Download the file and right click on the image to save to your computer desktop

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"We set a deadline for ourselves to get a question on the ballot in time for the May primary and we have met that goal," said Rep. William Adolph (R-Delaware), Majority Chair of the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. "The decision of whether or not the Commonwealth will use a \$625 million bond to fund vital environmental initiatives throughout the state will now be in the hands of Pennsylvania voters. Most importantly, we have remained steadfast to the Republican commitment to fund these initiatives with no new taxes or fees."

"It's been a six-year learning experience for some legislators, but citizens of the Commonwealth will be able to have their say on whether Pennsylvania and its communities, jobs, environment and future are worth a \$625 million investment," said Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield), Minority Chair House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee. "Approval of the bond initiative would make quality-of-life and economic improvements not only for today's generation, but for those who will follow in our footsteps."

The question for the ballot is straightforward –

“Do you favor the incurring of indebtedness by authorizing the Commonwealth to borrow up to \$625,000,000 for the maintenance and protection of the environment, open space and farmland preservation, watershed protection, abandoned mine reclamation, acid mine drainage remediation and other environmental initiatives?”

House Bill 2 contains language that says that act does not authorize the imposition of new or additional fees or taxes to pay for the bond and leaves unresolved how the bond is to be paid for and specifically how the funds are to be spent. That legislation – [House Bill 3](#) or another vehicle -- will have to be passed later, if voters approve the bond.

Gov. Rendell had proposed \$153 million in new or increased fees on household and industrial waste originally in 2004 to fund his Growing Greener II initiative.

Gov. Rendell said at the signing ceremony for House Bill 2 he thought this bond issue might be paid for without raising fees.

Sen. White also said, “Senate Republicans remain committed that a significant portion of any increased spending authorized by voters must be allocated among counties to reflect county-established priorities. We believe those closest to the problems are best able to categorize their needs, and should be able to choose from a menu of permissible uses as outlined by law.”

An issue still lurking is how to provide monies for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Fund that will run out of money by July 1. New fees? Restoring the earmarked monies from the Capital Stock and Franchise Tax as proposed in a Senate-passed bill? Stay tuned for more.

NewsClips: [Public to Vote on Environmental Spending](#)
[Editorial: Growing Greener Bond Vote Can Echo Forever](#)
[Voters to decide on environmental spending](#)
[Rendell Hails Green Bond Issue](#)
[White Comments on Green Bond Passage – \(video\)](#)
[Pennsylvania Poised for Historic Investment in the Environment](#)

Session Schedule

The House will return to voting session May 2.

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The Senate will be in session April 18, 19, 20, then returns May 2.

Budget Clock Ticking

The House did complete work this week on the main state budget – [House Bill 815](#) – after considering more than 300 amendments, but it still has other major budget pieces to put in place, including more than a dozen non-preferred appropriations, the Capital Budget and related bills.

The Senate, meanwhile also moved budget related bills – Senate Bills 609-614 – into position for a final vote, including the Capital Budget.

This is all part of the delicate legislative dance to get vehicles in place in both Chambers to carry the final budget—whenever it happens.

- 20 voting days are scheduled through the June 30 budget deadline in the House
- 23 voting days in the Senate

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- Penn State Creates New Environment and Natural Resources Institute
- Private Well Owners Invited to Workshop Program
- PRWA Cross Connection Control & Backflow Prevention Conference May 19-20
- DEP Seeks Firm to Conduct Tracer Studies, Assess Chlorine Contact Times

Taking Positive Action

- Game Commission Gives PPL Wildlife Award
- Pennsylvania Teacher Among Winners of IMCC Awards

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

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

Attachment 1: [Wild Flower Desktop Photo \(jpg\)](#)

(Right Click on Photo to Use as Desktop Wallpaper)

Attachment 2: [Print a Copy of Wild Flower Arrangement - PDF](#)

Attachment 3: [Names of Wild Flowers in Photo - PDF](#)

On the Hill

On the Senate and House Agenda for Action

The Senate will be in voting session April 18, but the House will not. But both have bills and issues on the agenda.

In the Senate: [Senate Bill 197](#) (Rafferty-R-Montgomery) providing DEP with additional authority to enforce landfill requirements and consider past violations in permit decisions, and [Senate Bill 291](#) (Conti-R-Bucks) authorizing watershed-wide zoning by municipalities are on the Senate Calendar as well as the Senate versions of budget bills – Senate Bills 609 thru 614.

In the House: The Game and Fisheries Committee informational meeting on DCNR's deer count.

Legislative Action in the Senate and House This Week

In addition to the environmental spending bond issue question passing, the Senate and House took action on other bills and resolutions. Here's a quick rundown--

In the House

Historic Tax Credit: The Finance Committee reported out [House Bill 504](#) (Killion-R-Chester) establishing an historic preservation tax credit (part of Gov. Rendell's original Quality of Life – Growing Greener II Initiatives)

Downtown Redevelopment: The State Government Committee reported out [House Bill 965](#) (Hickernell-R-Lancaster) to expand the Downtown Enhancement Program to include residential uses voted out with a request to re-refer to House Local Government Committee.

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National Bike Month: [House Resolution 174](#) (Baldwin-R-Lancaster) designating National Bike Month.

Arbor Day: [House Resolution 209](#) (Marsico-D-Dauphin) designating April 29 Arbor Day.

Watershed Awareness Month: [House Resolution 234](#) (Adolph-R-Delaware) designating May as Watershed Awareness Month.

Pending: [House Resolution 184](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) designating PA Hiking Week and [House Bill 136](#) (Fleagle-R-Franklin) authorizing local governments to help fund watershed associations are on the House Calendar.

In the Senate

Environmental Education: The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee unanimously reported out [Senate Bill 410](#) (M.White-R-Venango, Musto-D-Luzerne) establishing the [PA Center for Environmental Education](#) in law and referred to Senate Appropriations,

Landfill Permits: [Senate Bill 197](#) (Rafferty-R-Montgomery) providing DEP with additional authority to enforce landfill requirements and consider past violations in permit decisions was also reported out of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Wildlife Week: [Senate Resolution 80](#) (Conti) recognizes April 17 through 23, 2005 as “National Wildlife Week” in Pennsylvania passed the Senate.

Joint Conservation Committee Hears Keep PA Beautiful Message

The [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) heard from DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Executive Director Julia Marano and Blaine Bohnam of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society about the [Great PA Cleanup!](#) and other anti-littering and beautification initiatives as part of a special Earth Day Environmental Issues Forum.

Secretary McGinty noted it took a diverse partnership, including private companies, to create the Great PA Cleanup! initiative, explaining that over 500 cleanups took place last year and 100,000 people contributed to the effort.

Julia Marano said [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#) is an alliance of government, communities and business groups which all share the goals of litter prevention, community beautification and proper waste handling. She noted there is a direct link between quality of life, economic vitality and a clean environment and that her



organization works to determine best practices to be effective in keeping Pennsylvania beautiful.

Marano said there are three factors critical to improving Pennsylvania's environment: individual behavior, public policy and programs, and law and enforcement. She said four programs can help influence these factors: roadside beautification, a library of education materials, reducing and reusing construction and demolition waste and minimizing illegal dumping of construction and demolition waste and a statewide media campaign to reduce litter and illegal dumping

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful has several priorities-- improving laws and enforcement, including conducting a national review of state and local litter and illegal dumping laws, assisting local police academies in educating officers about litter laws and researching effective enforcement methods to prevent litter and illegal dumping.

Blaine Bohnam gave the Committee background on the [Pennsylvania Horticultural Society](#) and its 14,000 members. He explained the Society's [Philadelphia Green Program](#), designed to create restore and care for Philadelphia's open spaces, which creates community gardens and public landscapes, completes Park revitalizations and does vacant land management.

The Society is undertaking several other initiatives: [TreeVitalize](#) a program to get homeowners to plant trees around Philadelphia, stormwater management and working on regional projects with the cities of York and Harrisburg

Committee Chair Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) adjourned the meeting and announced the next Committee meeting will be held on May 9 on the topic of greenhouse gas action plans.

Green Makes \$ense

Join Companies that Saved \$1 Billion and the Environment

Last week *PA Environment Digest* highlighted Earth Day at home, on the farm and at school, this week we are pleased to put the spotlight on things businesses can do to save energy, reduce waste and cut water use to improve the environment and your bottom line in a special publication –[Green Makes Sense – Save Money, Be Green](#).

Learn how just the 295 winners of the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence have saved over \$1 billion in operating costs by turning to green technologies and becoming more energy and resource efficient.

Our *Digest* this week gives you a good example in Bird-In-Hand Woodworks in Lancaster County and how they solved a business problem – lack of space—with green technology that reduced air emissions, increased efficiency and saved them real money.

Also learn from Stephen Zeller of Brinjac Engineering how a basic pollution prevention and energy efficiency audit can be the first step in helping you identify concrete ways to improve the environment and save you money.

Can the right energy management strategies create shareholder value? Learn how in this new executive briefing put together by www.GreenBIZ.com.

In the meantime, celebrate Earth Day by doing something positive for the environment, like finding a Great PA Cleanup! event near you by going to the [Great PA Cleanup! webpage](#).

Attachment 1: [Green Makes Sense – Save Money, Be Green](#)

Attachment 2: [Earth Day 2005 – At Home, On the Farm, At School](#)

Solving Business Problems Using Less Polluting, Green Technology

[Green
Makes
Sense](#)

Problem: your furniture company is outgrowing its 70,000 square foot manufacturing facility and there's no where to expand.

As you consider the costs of moving in terms of employee disruption, capital costs and lost production, it isn't an attractive option.

So, how did the real life business managers at Bird-In-Hand Woodworks in Lancaster solve this problem?

By turning to green technology that allowed them to dramatically reduce the square footage used for coating and drying their products, cut air emissions and increase worker safety.

Bird-In-Hand makes high-quality wood furniture products for the pre-school and K through Third Grade market under the Childcraft brand and for other customers as a subsidiary of School Specialty, Inc.. The company was started in 1972 as an Amish-owned business and grew steadily until now they have 120 employees.

The company uses over 3 million square feet of Russian birch plywood and more than 225,000 board feet of maple from Pennsylvania forests every year to make its products.

"We had a huge amount of space—30,000 square feet of the 70,000—devoted to coating and drying our furniture products," said David Hommel, Vice-President of Manufacturing. "We knew this took up too much space, so we looked for alternatives."

Talking to their electric supplier PPL, they found help at the [Electrotechnology Applications Center at Northampton Community College](#).

"We tried water-based coatings and finishes because of their environmental benefits, but the more we increased volume, the more space and time it took" said Hommel. "The (Electrotechnology Applications) Center suggested using a coating process using ultraviolet curable finishes that made a dramatic difference."

"We now use less than half the space we did before, while tripling the volume of work we do," Hommel explained. "We also went from emitting 67 tons of air emissions a year to just one and a quarter tons, even with the increased volume of work."

Hommel said the key to the project was getting employee buy-in.

"The difference between making the project succeed or fail was convincing people this was a good thing," said Hommel. "We loaded our people into vans and took them to the Center so they could see the technology first-hand and get training on how to handle the equipment."



Download Photo Feature attached to this webpage.

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The company invested about \$3 million in changing to the new coating technology, of which \$1.2 million was to buy new equipment to handle the increased throughput volume the new system could handle.

“It took a week to make the change over in 2000, and on the seventh day we turned the switch and haven’t looked back since,” said Hommel. “The new system paid for itself in nine months.”

The business case for the project was strong, but the environmental benefits of the project also had value to the company in terms of reduced paperwork and in making the company a leader in their market.

“We are no longer a major Title V source (of air emissions), but a minor source,” said Hommel. “That means less paperwork and a single permit for the facility. And the conditions for the workers became safer because they didn’t have to wear respirators anymore”

“We’re in the education marketplace with children as our end users,” said Hommel. “We want to be able to look them in the eye and say we’re doing the very best we can for the environment.”

“We have regular meetings of our (corporate) “green team” to share what’s going on with our projects and what we want to do next in the company,” said Hommel.

Cutting air emissions isn’t the only environmental project Bird-In-Hand has implemented.

“We recycle almost everything,” said Hommel. “Wood dust, wood shavings are recycled into animal bedding and garden mulch.”

The company separates its metal, wood and other scraps it can’t recycle on site for recycling by others. Acetone, used to clean the coating equipment, is picked up and reprocessed.

“This year we have a goal to include a minimum of 10 percent post consumer waste recycled paper in our catalogs and want to increase it as quality and cost allow. We have at least 30 percent is post-consumer waste in our office paper now and the corrugated cardboard we use is also 100 percent recycled,” noted Hommel.

Bird-In-Hand won a [Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence in 2003](#) for their efforts to reduce air emissions and is a member of the [Businesses for the Bay](#) Program.

“As a company becomes more visible to the public, (environmental initiatives) become more important, especially for people working in the public sector,” said Hommel. “If you are at all interested in maintaining your place in the market, you have to be sensitive to environmental issues.”

“The major thing I learned from this experience was how to sell a project like this,” said Hommel. “It has to make economic sense first, and then you can point out the benefits to the environment and the community. It’s a win – win – win for everyone.”

The company has an open door policy and likes to show off the changes it has made to other companies. Several companies have, in fact, copied the process Bird-In-Hand uses, and that’s OK with Hommel.

“Maybe it’s our Amish roots and our rural heritage,” said Hommel. “My grandfather taught me to have respect for the land and I like to fish. This is part of our culture and something we’ve been doing for years.”

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- ✓ Review this online fact sheet on the [Bird-in-Hand Project](#)
- ✓ Contact David Hommel, Vice-President for Manufacturing for Bird-In-Hand Woodworks at 717-397-5686 or by email to: DHommel@childcraftededucation.com .
- ✓ [Electrotechnology Applications Center at Northampton Community College](#) can be reached at 610-861-5596 or by email to Dr. Mike Vasilik at vaslik@etctr.com.
- ✓ Additional resources are available through the [Professional Services Directory](#).

P2E2 Site Assessments – The Benefits to Business

By [Stephen N. Zeller](#), Certified P2E2 Site Assessor, [Brinjac Engineering](#)

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Energy costs for industries typically constitute from 10 to 25 percent or more of the total annual operating costs for a small business and or industry. Finding opportunities to cut those costs can have a big impact on a company's bottom line.

A P2E2 Site Assessment is an effective tool facility managers can use to identify opportunities for reducing energy consumption, cutting waste, air emissions and water use and their corresponding costs to your company.

The Department of Environmental Protection has available P2E2 Site Assessment Grants to help offset the cost of a professional assessment of facilities for energy efficiency and pollution reduction potentials.

The process of doing an assessment and evaluating the potential for cutting costs offers companies both short-term and strategic opportunities to make businesses not only more efficient, but more competitive.

In many cases there is an immediate payback in taking recommendations of an assessment, but more likely the long-term payback of changes can be significant.

Sometimes it's as simple as installing time-sensitive thermostats, other times it may call for more investments, but with a bigger reward over time.

If you're interested in having a site assessment done, it is critical to hire a certified and qualified site assessor.

Some site assessors are more familiar with energy, some with water treatment, some with wastewater treatment and others with food processing. We always recommend requesting copies of previous reports to review as part of the selection process to see the type of work that the site assessor will deliver.

To learn more about the assessment process, the DEP P2E2 Site Assessment Grant Program and to see examples of the potential savings, a special white paper is attached to this webpage.

Executive Briefing - Energy Management Creates Shareholder Value

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Companies have been engaging in energy-efficiency strategies for years as a means to control costs. Increasingly, a body of evidence suggests that companies that take a systematic and strategic approach to energy management can enjoy a broad array of tangible and intangible benefits of interest to investors.

This briefing paper from www.GreenBIZ.com describes how financial analysts and institutional investors have come to understand this energy-value connection, and how energy management is becoming another measure by which they assess companies.

The briefing provides examples of the bottom-line value of strategic energy management, and provides insight into overcoming barriers faced inside many companies. To download [Click here](#).

How to Promote Innovation in Environmental Protection Programs

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The Environmental Protection Agency this week released a 23-page guide for environmental protection program managers on the expanding variety of innovative strategies and practices available to public environmental agencies.

The document was made available at the spring meeting of the [Environmental Council of the States](#), the national association of state and territorial environmental agency leaders.

The "[Environmental Innovation Portfolio: Strategic Approaches for Leading Change](#)" highlights a broad array of projects and programs used by states and EPA to enhance public agencies' productivity and environmental performance.

The report categorizes the types of strategies that environmental agencies can use to obtain better results. It highlights promising projects as examples of approaches that can be adopted or adapted and promotes networking among people working on similar problems who can benefit from shared experiences.

The section on improving delivery of agency services profiles Massachusetts' Environmental Results Program. This program, which uses industry-wide performance standards and annual self-certifications of compliance as an alternative to environmental permitting, has proven highly effective at improving compliance rates for small businesses.

Another section on Supporting Superior Environmental Performance profiles the Clean Texas Program. This program provides participating facilities with public recognition and other incentives if they maintain a high-quality environmental management system, pollution prevention program and compliance record.

The remaining categories include: Setting Strategic Direction and Priorities; Enhancing Regulatory Outcomes; Promoting Environmental Sustainability; Leveraging Partnerships for Environmental Protection; and Designing Targeted Geographic Solutions.

A copy can be found on the [Innovation Portfolio webpage](#).

Pennsylvania Colleges & Universities Increase Wind Energy Commitment

The [Pennsylvania Consortium for Interdisciplinary Environmental Policy](#) (PCIEP), in partnership with leading wind energy marketer [Community Energy, Inc.](#) (CEI), announced this week that nine member colleges and universities are increasing their commitment to Pennsylvania-based wind energy.



The wind purchases are part of a campaign launched by CEI and PCIEP called "Getting to 10 percent Wind." The campaign encourages Pennsylvania colleges and universities to increase their existing wind energy purchases to match at least 10 percent of their total usage with wind energy.

To date, 34 PCIEP members are purchasing wind energy, representing nearly half of all colleges and universities purchasing renewable energy in the nation.

The universities that have signed on, and the percentage of their energy coming from wind power include: Eastern University (32.2 percent), Dickinson College (12.1 percent), The University of Pennsylvania (10.4 percent), Juniata College (10.4 percent), Allegheny College (10 percent), Chatham College (10 percent), Duquesne University (10 percent), Keystone College (10 percent), and Mercyhurst College (10 percent).

Combined PCIEP member wind energy purchases now total 92,200 megawatt hours (MWh) or the equivalent of 23 wind turbines, constituting the largest non-governmental aggregated commitment to wind power in the U.S. PCIEP's member institutions' decision to purchase pollution-free wind power mix in Pennsylvania reduces the amount of carbon dioxide equivalent to planting nearly 7.5 million trees, not driving 96 million miles, or taking 15,121 cars off the road each year.

"We are proud of those colleges and universities who have accepted the challenge to purchase 10 percent or more of their electricity from wind, and we know that their commitment will inspire others to follow their lead," said Brent Alderfer, President and CEO of Community Energy, Inc. "The more Pennsylvania customers who sign up to purchase clean, emission-free NewWind Energy(R), the more Pennsylvania wind farms will be brought online, creating jobs, local economic benefit, and a better future."

Other schools that are purchasing NewWind Energy® are Drexel University (8.3 percent), Franklin & Marshall College (7.1 percent), Carnegie Mellon University (6 percent), Gettysburg College (5 percent), and Penn State University (5 percent).

CEI has over 12,000 customers in Pennsylvania and many of the largest retail purchasers of wind energy in the country.

PECO, Aqua America, GlaxoSmithKline Make Wind Power Commitments

PECO Energy President Denis O'Brien and DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty announced this week an agreement to purchase 2,582 megawatt-hours (MWh) of wind power per year for three years. This purchase ensures that wind power supplies 10 percent of the energy needs for the company's headquarters in Philadelphia.

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PECO also honored Nick DeBenedictis, CEO of Aqua America, and James Hagan, vice president of Environmental Health, and Safety of GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) for their dedication to the environment and purchase of PECO WIND, PECO's environmentally friendly wind power option.

Both companies recently purchased wind power generation, with Aqua America powering 100 percent of their headquarters and two other administrative buildings with wind power, and GSK powering 10 percent of their headquarters with wind power.

Combined, these three purchases alone have the same environmental benefit as planting 430,000 trees or not driving 5.5 million miles.

The company's headquarters uses 2,150,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity a month. The building houses more than 1,000 employees who support PECO's customer care, transmission system operations, and other utility support functions as well as executive offices.

Also on hand for the celebration was Patty Klenk of Blue Bell, Montgomery County. Klenk was honored as the 11,000th residential customer to support wind energy and select PECO WIND.

The environmental benefit of the more than 11,000 customers choosing PECO WIND is the same as planting about 2.2 million trees or not driving 28 million miles. Specifically, there are about 3,000 PECO WIND customers in Philadelphia, 1,700 customers in Bucks, 2,000 customers in Chester, 2,300 customers in Delaware, 2,200 customers in Montgomery, and a handful of customers in York counties.

Launched in May 2004, PECO WIND is among the largest and fastest growing green power programs in the country, as noted by the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). It is supplied by leading wind energy marketer, Community Energy, Inc.

The first wind energy product offered by a utility in Pennsylvania, PECO WIND is available to residential and business customers in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, Philadelphia and York counties. It is supplied by a new, state-of-the-art wind power facility in Waymart, Pennsylvania near the Poconos.

For more information or to sign up, customers can call 1-866-WIND-321, or the [PECO Wind webpage](#).

Penn State Student Leave Behinds Turn Into "Trash to Treasure" Sale

The philosophy of rescue and re-use that led to the creation of the Penn State-Centre County United Way [Trash to Treasure Sale](#) four years ago is now the driving force behind a second event -- the Holmes Hall Salvage Sale.

In preparation for upcoming renovation work, Penn State has cleaned out the interior of Holmes Hall and donated the hall's contents -- including oak veneer solid-core doors, wall-mounted oak bookshelves and bolsters, lumber and other usable wood



2002 Trash to Treasure Sale Items

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items -- to the Centre County United Way.

These salvaged items will be sold at the Holmes Hall Salvage Sale to be held May 14 and 15 at Holmes Hall on the University Park campus. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the 36 agencies funded by the Centre County United Way.

The Holmes Hall Salvage Sale will take place just two weeks before the fourth annual Trash to Treasure Sale, which will sell items donated by Penn State residence hall students at the end of spring semester. Last year's Trash to Treasure Sale kept 75 tons from the landfill and raised almost \$55,000 for the Centre County United Way.

[This year's Trash to Treasure Sale](#) will be held from 7:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. May 28 at Beaver Stadium (Gate B). The Holmes Hall Salvage Sale will be held from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. May 14 and from noon to 5 p.m. May 15 at Holmes Hall, which is located on the north end of campus on Park Avenue, near Shortlidge Road.

Parking for the sale will be available in the lots adjacent to Warnock Commons, which is on the corner of Park and Shortlidge Road.

Allegheny County Workshop to Help Reduce Diesel School Bus Emissions

The Allegheny County Health Department and the Department of Environmental Protection are sponsoring a free workshop on May 10 to help school districts and transit companies reduce exhaust emissions from diesel-powered school buses. The deadline for registration is April 18.

The program will offer information on actions schools can take to curb school bus emissions, like switching to cleaner fuel, retrofitting buses with pollution control equipment and accelerating the purchase of new, less-polluting diesel-powered buses.

Government grants are available to schools, including those that lease diesel-powered buses from private companies, for purchasing retrofit devices and using cleaner fuel.

The workshop, which includes lunch, will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Boyce Campus of Community College of Allegheny County in Monroeville. It is open to parent-teacher organizations and environmental groups as well as school districts, school bus companies and colleges and universities that transport students.

To register call the Allegheny County Health Department at 412-687-ACHD.

Grants to Educate Youth on Potential of Careers in the Environment

The Environmental Protection Agency announced it is now accepting [Youth and the Environment Training and Employment Program grant proposals](#).

Deadline for applications is April 22.

Youth and the Environment grant funds are to be used for training programs that introduce economically disadvantaged urban and rural high school students to various occupational opportunities in the water and wastewater arena through summer employment.



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For more information contact Margaret Dodds by telephone at 202-564-2738 or by email to dodds.margaret@epa.gov.

EPA/DEP Set Final TMDL at Lake Wallenpaupack, Christiana Watersheds

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, working with the Department of Environmental Protection, has established final Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) plans to improve the water quality of [Lake Wallenpaupack](#) in Pike and Wayne counties and Christiana River Watershed in Chester County, PA, Delaware and Maryland.

Lake Wallenpaupack is a 5,531-acre man-made lake with approximately 219 square miles of drainage area. Its 52 miles of shoreline cross the boundaries of three townships (Paupack, Palmyra, and Salaem).

The Christina River Basin covers about 564 square miles in portions of Chester County, Pa., New Castle County, Del. and Cecil County, Md. and drains to the Delaware River at Wilmington. The water bodies impacted by these TMDLs include portions the Red Clay and White Clay Creeks and Christina and Brandywine Rivers in Pennsylvania and Delaware.

When a water body does not meet its water quality standards for a particular pollutant, the federal Clean Water Act requires the state to include the water body on its list of impaired waters.

Once the water body is impaired, a TMDL must be developed to set the maximum amount of a specific pollutants that an estuary, lake or river can receive. After that load amount is calculated, specified sources of that pollutant in the watershed are required to reduce their contributions of the contaminant to specified levels.

The final TMDLs can be reviewed on the [EPA Region 3 TMDL webpage](#).

Conservation Plan for Yellow Breeches Complete

The [Yellow Breeches Watershed Association](#) (YBWA) has announced the completion of the Yellow Breeches Creek Watershed Assessment and Rivers Conservation Plan.

Copies of the draft reports will be available for public and municipal comments for a 30-day period beginning on April 25. Comments on the draft reports should be forwarded via email to bdunlap@hrg-inc.com by May 23.

A public meeting to discuss any comments will be held at the Lower Allen Community Park Barn at 7 p.m. May 10. Copies of draft reports will be available at local libraries and will also be distributed to municipalities within the watershed and to other parties upon request. Library copies will include printed large format maps. Electronic copies will be available at www.ybwa.org.

The goals of this project were to identify and prioritize areas of impairment within the watershed and potential improvement projects. Reaching the goals of the Watershed Assessment and the Rivers Conservation Plan involved many tasks, such as the collection and analysis of existing and new watershed data, the identification and ranking of the watershed needs and problem areas, the development of management options and strategies for solutions, and public outreach and participation.

To learn more about the Yellow Breeches Creek Watershed Assessment and Rivers Conservation Plan or how you can become involved with future programs and

initiatives within the watershed, visit the [Yellow Breeches Watershed Association webpage](#).

WPC Project Seeks Help with Seasonal Pools Registry

The [Western Pennsylvania Conservancy](#) is inviting individuals and interested groups to become part of a seasonal pools registry and research project funded by a [State Wildlife Grant](#).

The project involves partnering with scientists from academic institutions, non-profit organizations, state and federal agencies and public volunteers to identify, locate and study seasonal pools in Pennsylvania.

The information gathered will be used as a baseline for future inventory, studies and regulatory considerations.

This project complements the ongoing studies conducted through the [Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program](#) by biologists with WPC and The Nature Conservancy.

Individuals or groups interested in volunteering in this effort should contact Ephraim Zimmerman at ezimmerman@paconserve.org or call 412-586-2334.

Call for Presenters – October PA Lake Management Society Conference

The [Pennsylvania Lake Management Society](#) will hold its 16th annual conference on October 18 & 19 in State College.

The Society is seeking proposals for presentations at the conference that fit with the mission and purpose of the Society - to promote further understanding of lakes, ponds, reservoirs, and impoundments, and their watersheds; the ecosystem of which they are a part; and their protection, restoration and management.

Presenters should submit their presentation ideas by June 30.

Forward abstracts and biographies to PALMS, c/o Jason Smith by email to jsmith@fxbrowne.com either in the text of the email or as a Word attachment.

Abstracts on disk can be sent to Jason at F. X. Browne, Inc., c/o PALMS, P.O. Box 1398, Marshalls Creek, PA 18335. Questions can be directed to Jason at the email address above or by phone at 570-588-7900, ext 19.

State Forester Warns of Spring Wildfire Danger as Trout Season Opens

The opening of the traditional trout season April 16, amid a prolonged stretch of sunny, dry and windy days, has prompted Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Bureau of Forestry officials to urge woodland visitors to guard against wildfire dangers.

DCNR cautioned that despite frequent and heavy rain in recent weeks, lack of green foliage in the spring, scant rainfall, low humidity and sunny, windy days all have increased chances of forest and brush fires spreading. Their cause is almost always traced to one source -- human carelessness, he said. At least 110 fires were reported last week in brush and woodlands across the state.

Nearly 10,000 acres of state forest are burned by wildfires each year, and nearly 85 percent of all fires in Pennsylvania woodlands occur during the months of March,

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April and May. Almost all of these fires threaten people and their homes, as well as trees and wildlife.

Wildfires are named for their rapid spread through bare vegetation when dry, windy conditions prevail. They are especially troublesome in the spring when wind, dry weather, direct sunlight through bare trees, and the abundance of dead undergrowth all can lead to rapid fire spread. March, therefore, is viewed as the beginning of wildfire season, the most common time of the year for such fires.

State forestry officials urge landowners to check with local municipalities to see if outdoor burning is allowed, and to use extreme caution when burning trash and debris, one of the most common causes of wildfires. Residents are advised to: create “safe zones” around homes and cabins by removing leaves and other debris from the ground and rain gutters; stack firewood away from structures; and trim overhanging branches.

Campers and other state forest visitors are reminded that open fires are forbidden on state forestland when the fire danger is listed as high, very high or extreme.

The Bureau of Forestry is responsible for the prevention and suppression of wildfires on the Commonwealth’s 17 million acres of private and state woodlands.

For more wildfire prevention information, contact local district foresters in the blue pages of your phone book or the Bureau of Forestry at 717-787-2925; or visit [DCNR’s Forest Fire Protection webpage](#).

Wild Resource Conservation Grant Workshop and Festival

The Wild Resource Conservation Program is working on two major activities: the Wild Resource Festival scheduled for June 4 at [Bald Eagle State Park](#) and the Grant Application Process, which has a June 30 submission deadline.

Three dozen activities are planned for the festival—something for everyone. The events and activities list will be updated on the [Wild Resource Conservation webpage](#).

The application form for WRCP grants is also available on the WRC webpage.

For more information on the festival or the grant program, contact [Dr. Ronald A. Stanley](#), Executive Director of the program.

Penn State Creates New Environment and Natural Resources Institute

In a move aimed at strengthening cooperation and collaboration between agricultural and environmental research, education and outreach, Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences has created a new [Environment and Natural Resources Institute](#).

William Easterling, director of the Penn State Institutes of the Environment, believes the new initiative by the College of Agricultural Sciences will allow for more effective involvement of agriculture and forest resources faculty in large intercollege research, teaching and outreach efforts.

The new institute will be directed by [James Shortle](#), distinguished professor of agricultural and environmental economics, who expects the initiative to emphasize the diversity of the college.

Creation of the institute, Shortle believes, will yield a higher level of activity in the environmental areas within the college.

Private Well Owners Invited to Workshop Program

Owners of wells, springs and other private water systems in Pennsylvania can get information on maintaining a safe water supply by [viewing a satellite videoconference](#), 7-8:30 p.m. on May 3.

Sponsored by [Penn State's Master Well Owner Network](#) and the [Pennsylvania Ground Water Association](#), the program will originate from Penn State's University Park campus and will air live at more than two dozen Penn State Cooperative Extension offices around the state.

The program will cover well construction, maintenance, water testing, wellhead protection and water treatment.

The Master Well Owner Network, Pennsylvania's volunteer network for private water source protection, is a group of trained volunteers dedicated to promoting the proper construction and maintenance of private water systems in Pennsylvania. To date, there are 244 trained Master Well Owner volunteers in 55 counties. They have provided assistance to more than 4,000 homeowners with private water systems.

Master Well Owners have gone through an eight-hour training on private water system management. Each master well owner's job is to go out into his or her community and spread that new information to at least 100 people over a two-year period.

For more information, visit the satellite program webpage or contact at 814-865-2250 or by e-mail to mwon@psu.edu.

PRWA Cross Connection Control & Backflow Prevention Conference May 19-20

[Pennsylvania Rural Water Association](#) will hold a [Keystone Cross Connection Control & Backflow Prevention Conference](#) on May 19-20 at the Ramada Inn & Conference Center in State College.

A public forum will kick off the two-day conference. It features a panel of experts in the cross connection control and backflow prevention programs in Pennsylvania. Included will be representatives of the American Society of Sanitary Engineers (ASSE) certified trainers, DEP managers, political leaders, certified testers and system operators.

For an entrance fee of \$25, attendees can attend the training classes and presentations that are scheduled to fill the rest of Thursday and Friday. There are classes designed by ASSE, ABPA, and PRWA - DEP approved classes for contact hours. There will be exhibitors with technical updates that include presentations for these innovations.

The conference is for plumbers, sprinkler system installation contractors, system operators, water industry policy makers, and anyone interested in safer drinking water. Pre-registration is desired. Call for a registration form or register on line at the [Conference webpage](#).

For questions about the conference, contact Sharon at Sharon@prwa.com or 814-353-9302.

DEP Seeks Firm to Conduct Tracer Studies, Assess Chlorine Contact Times

The Department of Environmental Protection is seeking proposals from consulting engineers interested in performing tracer studies at approximately 106 surface water treatment plants.

The 86 targeted facilities serve at least 10,000 persons but fewer than 50,000 people. In addition, 20 tracer studies will occur at smaller plants that have changed disinfection design and practice as a result of previous tracer studies. About 35 systems would undergo a tracer study each year in Pennsylvania.

The studies will prepare drinking water suppliers for the “balancing act” of maintaining adequate Giardia and virus inactivation at all times while avoiding over-disinfection that can lead to disinfection byproduct formation. Currently, surface water suppliers may be unaware of the actual short-circuiting that is occurring in chlorine contact basins.

The tracer studies will not only improve public health protection in the Commonwealth, but they will also enable suppliers to comply with increasingly more stringent and complex regulations.

For more information contact David Hissner at 717-772-4018 or e-mail dahissner@state.pa.us.

Taking Positive Action

Game Commission Gives PPL Wildlife Award

The [Pennsylvania Game Commission](#) presented PPL Corporation with the commission’s Working Together for Wildlife Award this week.

Joanne H. Raphael, vice president of External Affairs for PPL, accepted the award from Michael W. Schmit, Game Commission deputy executive director, at PPL’s Montour Preserve near Washingtonville, Pa. The award recognizes PPL’s support of wildlife and habitat management initiatives in Montour County.

Since the [Montour Preserve’s](#) creation in the 1970s, PPL has supported activities such as seedling planting and the annual stocking of pheasants on nearly 4,000 acres of land owned by PPL near the preserve.

It has provided facilities and trainers for the state’s hunter-trapper education programs. In addition, it has maintained parking lots for hunters, provided a map for sportsmen to use, and supported Game Commission law enforcement practices and other wildlife management activities on PPL-owned land.

PPL’s Montour Preserve has also joined the Game Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in supporting the activities of Pheasants Forever, a nonprofit wildlife habitat conservation organization that focuses on improving farmland and other nonforested habitats for pheasants and other small game.

Situated in the Appalachian foothills of north central Pennsylvania, the Montour Preserve includes the 165-acre Lake Chillisquaque. The preserve offers a variety of educational and recreational opportunities, including hiking on more than 14 miles of trails, birding, boating, fishing, cross-country skiing and fossil hunting at its popular

fossil pit. The preserve's Visitors Center serves as a nature and history museum and is open year-round.

PPL operates Montour Preserve in conjunction with the company's Montour power plant in Derry Township. The preserve is operated as part of [PPL Project Earth](#), an initiative through which the company educates the public about energy resources and the environment.

Pennsylvania Teacher Among Winners of IMCC Awards

The [Interstate Mining Compact Commission](#) (IMCC) has announced recipients of its seventh annual Minerals Education Awards. Jennifer Bilott, a 7th Grade Science Teacher at the [West Hempfield Middle School in Irwin](#), Westmoreland County, won the Educator Awareness category for 2005.

The IMCC Minerals Education Awards are presented each year in two categories: the Mining Awareness Educator category and the Public Outreach Category.

Ms. Bilott has shared her passion for the study of rocks and minerals with her students who investigate rocks and minerals and their uses through various labs, demonstrations and hands-on activities.

Ms. Bilott's curriculum also covers energy resources, pollution and conservation. Hands-on activities include the study of rock cycle from formation through extraction, thus increasing knowledge and understanding about mining and its impacts. Activities that teach students to identify rocks and minerals, their characteristics and uses, are included.

Students also view videos demonstrating the rock cycle and the processes of mining and reclamation as part of their studies. Ms. Bilott has expressed a desire to expand into field trips and reaching out to other schools in her district to share her passion for earth science.

The Mining Awareness Educator award is presented to a teacher or school from one of the 21 member states of the IMCC. The award will be presented during a banquet at the [IMCC Annual Meeting](#), April 24-27 in Philadelphia.

Quick Clips

[Saving Land May Be Less Rewarding](#)

[Superfund Site Owner to Start Cleanup](#)

[Dumpsite Cleanup Started Under COALS Program](#)

[SKIP Announces Winners of Phone Book Recycling Contest](#)

[Groups Gear Up for Clean Up in Meadville](#)

[Students Learn About the Environment in Hummels Wharf](#)

[RecycleBank Cleans Up!](#)

[Op-Ed: Saving the Earth Will Take More than Trash Bags](#)

[Hawk Watching at Pine Grove Mills](#)

[Allergy Season Gets Early Start](#)

Watershed NewsClips

[Funding Available in Berks, Lebanon Counties for Planting Native Species](#)

[Editorial: Whale Watching After Delaware Spill](#)

[Del-a-whale River](#)

[Council goes over Bushkill Creek Corridor Plan](#)

[Stream Sign Program Helps Identify Their Waterways](#)

[Visitors may see water testing in Chartiers Creek](#)

[Conservancy corps checks Mill Creek pollutants](#)

[DEP Responds to Endangered River Report](#)

[Editorial: Susquehanna A Valuable Resource](#)

[Allentown Joins Safe Water Partnership](#)

[Editorial: Cooperation, Vision Get Park Project Moving](#)

[Bowman's and Tunkhannock Creek sites to see work](#)

[Gallows Run Watershed Presents Flood Reduction Plan](#)

[Mine Lands have new life in Luzerne County](#)

[Public pleased by stormwater project in Neshaminy Creek](#)

[POWR, RC&D Sign program nearly finished](#)

[Buffalo Creek Watershed draft report complete](#)

[Green Valleys holding watershed seminar](#)

[Government May Buy Flooded Homes](#)

[Trout Fishing a Tradition in PA](#)

Regulations

The Department of Environmental Protection published a corrective notice on Chapter 121.1 Air Resource regulations and the April 19 Environmental Quality Board meeting agenda is available.

[Corrective notice on Chapter 121.1 Air Resource regulations](#) was published in the PA Bulletin April 16. (PaB 2278)

The Environmental Quality Board [meets April 19 to consider stream redesignations, explosives rules, waste transfer station rules.](#)

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – April 16, 2005](#)

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

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The Department of Environmental Protection published a draft change to the Toxics Management Strategy, an extension of the General NPDES permit for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations and notice of changes in certified radon service providers list.

Draft Guidance: DEP ID: 361-0100-003. [Toxics Management Strategy](#). This guidance provides for a coordinated and consistent Statewide process for dealing with the United States Environmental Protection Agency priority pollutants with known or suspected toxic impacts. Comments due: May 16.

General Permit Extension: DEP [notice extending General NPDES Permit for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations](#) (PAG-12) through June 16, 2006. The permit was to expire June 16, 2005.

Radon Services: [DEP Notice of individuals and companies certified to perform radon related services in the Commonwealth](#). (PaB 2353) [Complete Directory online](#).

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

Highlights of Upcoming Events--

- [State Water Plan Meetings & Hearings in May and August](#)
- **April 19** – House Game and Fisheries Committee information on DCNR deer count.
- **April 19** – [Environmental Quality Board meeting](#) to consider three petitions on— waste transfer station regulations and stream redesignations in Chester and Monroe counties, final rulemaking on coal mining bond adjustments and mine subsidence control and revising the IRRC disapprove changes to explosive regulations.
- **April 19-20:** PA Chamber [Environmental Laws and Regulations Conference](#).
- **May 5-6** – [PA Greenway and Trail Summit](#). Mechanicsburg.
- **May 9** – [Joint Legislative Air & Water Pollution Control & Conservation Committee Environmental Issues Forum](#) to discuss greenhouse gas action plans.
- **May 6-7** - West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium -_Location: Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, State College, PA _Contact: Amy Wolfe at 570-726-3118 or awolfe@tu.org
- **May 12-13** – [PA Association of Environmental Professionals Annual Conference](#). Scranton.

Other Specialized Calendar links --

Watershed Events

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

Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar

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

Senate Committee Schedule **House Committee Schedule**

DEP Calendar of Events

Helpful Web Links

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

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

Contributions Invited

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

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

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