

—PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Crisci Associates

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[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

16,000 Miles of Polluted Streams Add Urgency to Call for Clean Water Funding



Clean water is a right, not an option, yet a [newly released report](#) shows that more Pennsylvania streams are losing the battle against pollution this year than in past years, according to the Department of Environmental Protection, adding urgency to the call last week for a [PA Fair Share for Clean Water funding plan](#).

The report, “The 2008 Pennsylvania Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report,” shows that nearly 16,000 of Pennsylvania’s 86,000 miles of streams and rivers do not meet water quality standards. In addition, over 38,300 acres of lakes and ponds are similarly impaired.

In addition to commending DEP for their work in obtaining the data, CBF recognized the report as a valuable tool for watershed groups and citizens interested in improving local water quality.

“Approximately half of Pennsylvania’s streams drain to the Chesapeake Bay. With nearly 16,000 miles of our streams laden with pollution, it’s no wonder the Bay is suffering,” said Harry Campbell, CBF’s Pa Staff Scientist. “At its heart, the Bay restoration effort is about respecting and restoring our streams—the streams in our own backyard. If we find the political and societal will do that, the Bay will respond in-kind.”

The report, first released in 1998, is released every two years, as an on-going assessment of Pennsylvania’s waterways in order to determine the stream miles impaired and the causes of impairment.

“It’s unfortunate that as the state continues to assess the health of additional miles of streams, we continue to find waterways severely degraded by pollution,” said Campbell.

The health of our waters directly impacts the health of our communities. Over 80 percent of all Pennsylvanians get their drinking water from surface waters – our lakes, streams and rivers. Yet the DEP assessments conclude that these same resources are choking from excessive phosphorous and nitrogen, high acidity levels, toxic metals, and are laden with sediment that erodes from our lands.

“This report is significant because it shows we are losing ground in terms of meeting water quality standards and we need to do much more to insure we have safe water for people and aquatic life,” said Matthew Ehrhart, CBF’s PA Executive Director. “Pennsylvanians are blessed to have such an abundance of water resources - it’s time we ensure clean water for everyone.

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Last week a coalition of groups, including CBF, publicly proposed a Pennsylvania Fair Share for Clean Water Funding Plan that will help Pennsylvania meet our water quality goals by addressing pollution from sewage treatment plants and agricultural operations, while also providing much-needed funding for conservation districts and the Department of Agriculture to accomplish these goals.

The diverse coalition includes: CBF, the PA Farm Bureau, PA Municipal Authorities Association, PA Association of Conservation Districts, the PA Builders Association and other groups.

The first year of the Plan proposes the allocation of \$100 million to help wastewater plants finance required improvements; \$50 million to direct cost-share aid to farmers to install conservation practices (including \$35 million for REAP farm tax credits and \$15 million in cost-share grants); \$10 million to county conservation districts to expand technical assistance to farmers; and \$10 million to restore cuts to the Department of Agriculture farm programs. The proposal would also reform the state's nutrient credit trading program to help allow for future economic development.

“It is appropriate this Earth Day that we take stock of where we are in terms of water quality improvements, and where we need to be,” said Matthew Ehrhart, CBF's PA Executive Director. “Our kids and our families deserve healthy, viable streams that meet water quality standards and provide for clean drinking water, healthy communities and recreational opportunities.”

According to the DEP report, the top impairments come from abandoned mine drainage (5,584 miles), agricultural practices (5,320 miles), and runoff from urban/suburban areas (4,170). CBF is working statewide to help communities deal with some of these water quality and pollution issues.

To learn more, visit the [Pennsylvania Fair Share for Clean Water Plan webpage](#).

Video Blog: [Coalition Outlines PA Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#)

Support Ends for Watershed Snapshot Water Quality Monitoring Events

The Department of Environmental Protection and the Delaware River Basin Commission announced on their websites they will no longer support volunteer water quality monitoring events that are part of the annual [Watershed Snapshot](#).

The [Watershed Snapshot program](#) was started by the Delaware River Basin Commission and has operated for over ten years, traditionally for one week around Earth Day each year.

Both DEP and the Delaware River Basin Commission cited “other priorities,” lack of funding and a downward trend in participation in the program in their reasons for discontinuing the program.

Earlier this year DEP made a decision not to continue funding statewide for the [Pennsylvania Senior Environment Corps](#) which for 10 years involved over 2,900 seniors in providing water quality data to the department. Language directing DEP to fund the program out of its existing budget was not included in the 2007-08 budget.



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Both the Snapshot and PA Senior Environment Corps programs were just mentioned by DEP in the [2008 Pennsylvania Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report](#) as education and awareness outreach initiatives it undertakes.

Links: [Coalition Proposes Pennsylvania Fair Share for Clean Water Funding Plan](#)

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

On the Hill

On the Senate/House Agenda/Session Schedule/Bills Introduced

Here's what's coming up on the Senate and House agenda for next week, as well as the voting session schedule through June 30.

Session Schedule

The Senate will return to voting session on April 28 and the House returns May 5, after the April 22 Primary Election.

House 2008 Session Days—

May 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, and 14

June 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30

Senate 2008 Session Days--

April 28, 29, 30

May 5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21

June 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30

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

Calendars/Committees

The Senate and House published committee schedules for next week and floor Calendars when they return to voting session.—

Calendars

House (May 5): [Senate Bill 1017](#) (Brubaker-R-Lancaster) providing for a ban on dishwasher detergent with phosphates; [House Resolution 546](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging Congress to investigate gas and energy prices; [House Resolution 627](#) (George-D-Clearfield) urging federal government to provide more heating assistance funding.

[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.

Bills Introduced

These environmental bills of interest were introduced this week—

Forest Task Force: [House Resolution 712](#) (Hutchinson-R-Venango) reauthorizing the forestry task force.

Hybrid Vehicles: [Special Session House Bill 61](#) (McIlvaine Smith-D-Montgomery) making an appropriations for the hybrid vehicle rebate program.

Earth Day NewsClips



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. And look at these special Earth Day NewsClips--

Earth Day Clips: [Earth Day Offers Best Reasons Yet to Get Outdoors](#)
[California Senior Turns Dump Into Nature Trail](#)
[Help Needed for Wissachickon Creek Cleanup](#)
[Franklin County Businesses Plan Earth Day Events](#)
[Clearwater Conservancy Cleanup Day](#)
[Pittsburgh Getting 250 Street Trees for Anniversary](#)
[Earth Day Festivities Expected to Draw Crowd in NE](#)
[Volunteers Needed to Clear Litter for Giants Despair Park](#)
[PA Cleanup Effort to Start Saturday](#)
[Earth Day, Many Ways To Get Involved in Schuylkill](#)
[Beech Creek Watershed Associations Plans Cleanup](#)
[Earth Day Party Offers to Recycle Cell Phones](#)
[Earth Day Celebrations in Full Swing](#)
[Gordon Gets Greener By Planting 76 Trees](#)

PUC Calls on Pennsylvanians to Make Earth Day Pledge to Conserve



The Public Utility Commission this week asked each Pennsylvania utility customer to make an "Earth Day Pledge" to [conserve energy and water](#) this Earth Day, April 22.

As part of this initiative, the Commission will distribute conservation tips for consumers, including guidance on how to conserve water and some simple spring cleaning chores that may make your home more energy efficient.

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"As we commemorate Earth Day, let us make a conscious effort to conserve energy and help the environment by pledging to make a change," said PUC Chairman Wendell F. Holland. "It could be as simple as pledging to replace a light bulb in your house with a new energy efficient fluorescent bulb, adjust your thermostat or weatherize your house. Save energy. Save the environment,"

"By switching to CFLs, the average consumer can save about \$30 or more in electricity costs over the lifetime of the bulb," said PUC Commissioner Tyrone J. Christy. "This is one simple change that could help save consumers money and create a more energy efficient home."

These swirly bulbs use about 75 percent less energy than standard incandescent bulbs and last up to 10 times longer. CFLs also produce less heat than an incandescent light bulb, cutting additional energy costs associated with home cooling.

The best places to use CFLs in the home are in the most used light fixtures, like those in the living room, bedroom, kitchen and dining room. CFLs can even be used for outside lighting, especially lights that remain on through the night.

This Earth Day, the Commission offers its own pledge to continue its ongoing efforts to educate consumers on ways to be more energy efficient and conserve, while also preparing them for potential increases in rates. As part of its [Prepare Now initiative](#), the Commission reached out to consumers on ways to save energy and money during the winter months.

Earlier this year, during the [Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Utility Service](#), sponsored by the Commission, ratepayers were encouraged to conserve energy at home and also in their community-at-large.

Family Oriented Great Green America Fest May 3-4



The [Great Green America Fest](#) is "green and growing" and this year will be held on May 3-4 near Manheim, Pa at the site of the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire.

This family-oriented, eco-folk fest will provide nonstop "edutainment," complete with music, arts, games, and food all around the focus of bettering the environment.

Interactive educational presentations, activities, and displays for all ages will be presented by knowledgeable speakers and field experts on topics such as renewable energy, sustainability, global warming, biodiversity, fair trade and recycling.

The Green Fest is a combined effort between the [Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire](#), green partners such as government agencies, major corporations, small businesses, and nonprofit organizations.

For more information, visit the [Great Green America Fest website](#).

Highmark Blue Shield Announces Sustainable, Eco-Friendly and Green Strategy

As Kermit the Frog says, "It's not easy being green." But Highmark Blue Shield recognizes the impact of our business decisions on the environment and the community, and has created and is in the process of implementing [sustainable, eco-friendly and green \(SEG\) business practices](#).

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SEG projects at Highmark include a variety of facility management, community and business projects that will help to create a healthier work environment for employees and for the communities where Highmark does business.

In June 2007, the company created a full-time sustainability coordinator position. By creating a new department, Environmental Management, Highmark has pledged to promote and apply sustainable SEG business solutions to improve employee wellness, reduce operating expenses, and workplace productivity.

"By educating employees about what they personally can do to help the environment at the office and at home, we can equip them with the tools to make informed decisions, leading to better personal and community health and economic benefits," said Phyllis Barber, sustainability coordinator at Highmark.

Highmark uses a comprehensive program that strives to improve process, reduce costs and waste, and increase or exceed customer expectations.

Highmark is currently undergoing multi-year renovations to its 612,000-square-foot Center Street campus in Camp Hill. The renovations are being designed and built in accordance with the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program standards. The program recognizes buildings that go above and beyond in eco-friendly features, such as using, promoting recycling, and conservation of water and energy.

The renovations include environmentally friendly finishes and carpets, energy-efficient HVAC systems and indirect lighting, and motion detectors for lighting and increased day lighting. Replacement and upgrading of air conditioning systems with new, more efficient equipment has produced a 20 percent reduction in electric consumption and an average savings of \$11,000 per month, and a reduction in water consumption of more than 1.5 million gallons of water per year. The company has also replaced old restroom toilets that used five gallons of water per flush with new ones that use only 1.6 gallons of water.

Demolition materials are being handled in an environmentally friendly way by separating material types, such as metals and plastics to be recycled. In addition, the landscaping is being renovated to include native plantings, and the sidewalks are made with pavers that feature crushed recycled bottles.

Highmark provides its members with the option of receiving EOBs and member newsletters through online e-delivery. This technology allows members to view their EOBs online and receive newsletters electronically, therefore saving the resources of paper and postage.

For members who opt to receive EOBs through the mail, Highmark prints content on both sides of paper to reduce overall resources used.

Highmark operates a Silver LEED certified Data Center in Hershey, Pa. The Data Center, which provides computing infrastructure for the company, opened in November 2005 and was built using environmentally friendly attributes. These features include storm water management, erosion and sedimentation control, optimized energy performance, water recycling and more.

Approximately 85,000 pounds of paper and 7,000 pounds of cardboard are recycled each month in its Camp Hill facilities. Highmark's recycling efforts help East Pennsboro Township meet their recycling goals and obtain grant money.

Highmark uses environmentally friendly, green cleaning products at its facilities at its Data Center in and at its Center Street campus. These products include Green Seal

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certified cleaners, vacuum cleaners with HEPA filters to improve indoor air quality and Green Seal certified paper products for restrooms.

Highmark, through its partner Parkhurst Dining Services, is making dining facilities in Camp Hill more sustainable and eco-friendly. Current Parkhurst initiatives include napkins made from recycled paper; a FarmSource program that purchases goods from local farms; and the collection of used fryer oil to be converted to bio-diesel.

Next steps for Highmark Blue Shield include additional renovations throughout its Center Street facility and outside landscaping changes which include planting native and drought resistant plants and trees. The company is also developing metrics to benchmark major resources, such as the use of paper, water and electricity, and then target ways to conserve those resources.

For more information, read about Highmark's [sustainable, eco-friendly and green \(SEG\) business practices](#) online.

Multiple Community Cleanups Scheduled Throughout the State



Many community and watershed groups have scheduled litter cleanup events over the next several weeks. Go to the [Great PA Cleanup! website](#) to find locations near you or look here for local events...

April 19: Quittapahilla Creek Workdays, Lebanon County-- Stream cleanup and footbridge project. Bring work gloves and waders. Meet at 9:00 a.m. in Quittie Park, Annville. Call Don Thomas at 717-867-2804 to volunteer and for additional information.

April 19: Manada Creek Cleanup, Dauphin County-- Annual stream cleanup working in conjunction with FTIG personnel. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Rt. 443 bridge. Bring work gloves and waders. Call Dave Hrobuchak at 717-671-0586 to volunteer and for additional information.

May 10: Deibler's Gap Cleanup in Upper Paxton and Mifflin Townships, Dauphin County. To volunteer or for more information contact Michelle Dunn, PA CleanWays, 877-772-3673 ext. 37 or send email to: mdunn@pacleanways.org.

July 19 & August 16: Manada Creek, Dauphin County Workdays - Streambank restoration work in the DHALO section. Meet at the Furnace Road bridge at 8:30 a.m. Work is planned for about 4 hours each day. Lunch and beverages will be provided. Bring work gloves and waders, and safety glasses if you have them. Call Dave Hrobuchak at 717-671-0586 to volunteer and for additional information.

Have We Met Before? More Than Seven Billion Pepsi Cans To Promote Recycling

Wonder why that can of Pepsi you're holding feels so familiar? It could be because it's been in your hand before.

With at least 40 percent of the average aluminum can made from recycled material, Pepsi is telling the story of how used cans gain new



life through recycling. The "Have we met before?" campaign is designed to communicate the benefits of aluminum can recycling and encourage Pepsi consumers to make recycling a part of their daily routines.

The recycling facts and messages, which were provided by the [National Recycling Coalition](#), will be featured on approximately 500 million Pepsi cans and 250 million Diet Pepsi cans nationwide each month. That's a total of seven billion cans by the end of the year. The ad value for the space on those cans is estimated to be worth between \$35 million and \$40 million.

Kate Krebs, executive director of the National Recycling Coalition, says the initiative is well worth it.

"Recycling is a small step everyone can take that will make a real difference for our planet," says Krebs. "Our research tells us that most people recycle, when they remember. That's why reminding people about the positive impact of simply recycling an aluminum can is so powerful. A campaign like the one Pepsi is running will undoubtedly have a positive impact by reminding Americans to recycle and raising awareness of what effect recycling has on this great big beautiful planet we live on."

"It's important for all of us -- companies and individuals -- to do our part and recycling is one of the easiest ways to get involved," says Russell Weiner, VP of colas, Pepsi-Cola North America. "What better way to bring our Performance with Purpose mission to life and remind people of the benefits of recycling than by putting a message on the can itself, something that touches millions of people across the country every month?"

PepsiCo's commitment to sustainable growth, defined as Performance with Purpose, is focused on generating healthy financial returns while giving back to communities the company serves. This includes meeting consumer needs for a spectrum of convenient foods and beverages, reducing the company's impact on the environment through water, energy and packaging initiatives, and supporting its employees through a diverse and inclusive culture that recruits and retains world-class talent.

Research has shown that people are more inclined to recycle when they learn about the benefits of recycling, particularly the energy savings. Consumers have said that the information helps them understand the importance of recycling and provides them with an added incentive to do their part because they feel it's the right thing to do for the environment.

The "Have we met before?" recycling messages to be featured on Pepsi and Diet Pepsi cans this year include:

- Recycling could save 95 percent of the energy used to make this can;
- On average, aluminum cans produced in the United States contain 40-50 percent recycled content;
- The average person has the opportunity to recycle 25,000 cans in a lifetime;
- Recycling a single aluminum can saves enough energy to power a TV for three hours; and
- Recycle this can and save enough energy to power a 100-watt light bulb for four hours.

For more information, visit [Pepsi's environmental initiatives webpage](#).

Senator Mary Jo White Provides Earth Day Environmental Update

Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango), Majority Chair of the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, provided an Earth Day update on [environmental legislation](#) pending and passed in the General Assembly.

The update includes background on the Growing Greener Program, water supplies and recycling, funding the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program, alternative energy, global climate change and other environmental initiatives.



Earth Day Online Video Feature

Go Wild! By Landscaping With Native Plants



Spring is for planting and what better way to help celebrate Earth Day than to use native plants as part of your next landscaping project.

Frank Felbaum, a Native Plant Consultant for the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, talks about native plants, how to pick them and how to eliminate invasive species.

The setting for this video is a special display at the [Harrisburg Garden Expo](#) developed by partners DCNR, the [Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation](#), the Fish and Boat Commission, the Game Commission, [Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay](#), [Audubon Pennsylvania](#) and [GTS Technologies](#).

Landscape designer Dorthea Montaine collaborated to build the exhibit entitled, “Celebrating Pennsylvania’s Native Elegance.”

Video Blog: [Landscaping With Native Plants](#)

Other News

Governor's Task Force On Water Infrastructure Meets

Members of the [Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) announced by Gov. Rendell [in February](#) convened for the first time this week and began the work of addressing the estimated \$20 billion funding shortfall needed to upgrade Pennsylvania's aging and deteriorated drinking water and wastewater treatment infrastructure.

The Task Force is scheduled to make its recommendations in October, too late to help the sewage system ratepayers and farmers in over half of Pennsylvania that now face specific mandates by the Department of Environmental Protection under the federal Clean Water Act to reduce nutrient pollution in Pennsylvania waters flowing to the Chesapeake Bay. The cost to meet these mandates alone is estimated to be over \$1.5 billion. (*See [4/14/08 PA Environment Digest](#)*)

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"Pennsylvania's water-related infrastructure is old," said DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty. "Many of our systems—some of which date back to before World War II—suffer from overflows, chronic leaks, and a shortage of treatment capacity. Many of these issues stem from under funded operations, repair, rehabilitation and replacement work.

"We need to act now and address this matter because, without a reliable infrastructure, our economy and way of life will suffer. Over the next six months, we will look at how we can ensure reliable funding for our water and wastewater systems, and consider how we can utilize alternatives to costly capital upgrades that will yield a safe and dependable water supply."

According to a federal Clean Water Needs Survey, Pennsylvania is facing nearly \$11 billion in unmet drinking water infrastructure needs and at least \$7.2 billion in unmet wastewater infrastructure needs.

Secretary McGinty added that Pennsylvania's ability to address the unmet funding needs is made more difficult because of declining support from the federal government.

"Pennsylvania's share of the federal Clean Water State Revolving Fund has been cut in half during the last three years—down \$30 million to \$27 million," said Secretary McGinty. "And, the president's fiscal year 2009 budget proposal requested only \$555 million for this program, which would be the lowest level of funding in its history, if enacted.

At the same time, the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association said state funding to support wastewater treatment operations declined by over \$324 million over the last six years.

Gov. Rendell created the task force, with [Executive Order 2008-02](#), to consider new funding options, as well as non-structural alternatives to expensive capital upgrades, such as nutrient credit trading, water re-use and conservation.

It is responsible for developing a report by October 1 that provides recommendations and financing options to support water-related services in the Governor's fiscal year 2009-10 budget proposal.

As part of its inaugural meeting, DEP organized work groups and named chairs and DEP support staff to each group. DEP also invited others outside the Task Force to be part of these work groups--

- **Needs Assessment** -- Examine the current and projected costs for the construction, upgrade, repair and operation and maintenance of Pennsylvania's drinking water and sewage infrastructure. Chair: John Schombert, 3 Rivers Wet Weather Project. DEP Staff: Lee Murphy.
- **Innovative Measures** -- Examine the projected cost savings realized by the consideration and implementation of all available non-structural alternatives such as trading programs. Chair: Chuck Wunz, HRG Consulting. DEP Staff: Paul Zeph.
- **Financial Resources** -- Examine the current and projected financial resources to address water and sewer services and infrastructure needs including potential sustainable funding from federal, state and local source and public/private partnerships, and determine if operation and maintenance can be funded. Chair: Steve Stetler, PA Economy League. DEP Staff: David Miller.
- **Financial Sustainability** -- Establish requirements for available funding including consideration for asset management, board and local official training, full-cost pricing, and prioritization and targeting of resources. Chair: Dean Kaplan, Public Financial Management, Inc. DEP Staff: Nicki Kasi.

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- **Legislative and Regulatory Needs** -- Review existing statute and regulation and identify any provisions that prevent the effective implementation of an Infrastructure Sustainability Initiative to include the elements of sustainability defined in the Executive Order. Chair: Erik Ross, Delta Development. DEP Staff: Pam Bishop.
Members of the Task Force include:
- **State Agencies (7):** Kathleen McGinty, secretary, Department of Environmental Protection, Donna Cooper, secretary, Governor's Office of Policy and Planning, Dennis Yablonsky, secretary, Department of Community and Economic Development, Steven Kaplan, secretary, Department of Banking, Paul Marchetti, executive director, Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority, Sonny Popowsky, Pennsylvania's Consumer Advocate, Karl Brown, executive director, State Conservation Commission
- **Legislators (8):** Rep. Bud George, majority chair, House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, Rep. Scott Hutchinson, minority chair, House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, Rep. Robert Freeman, majority chair, Local Government Committee, Rep. Stanley Saylor, minority chair, Local Government Committee, Sen. Mary Jo White, majority chair, Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, Sen. Raphael Musto, minority chair, Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee, Sen. Robert Regola, majority chair, Local Government Committee, Sen. Jim Ferlo, minority chair, Local Government Committee
- **Local Officials (9):** Terry Kauffman, manager, Borough of Mount Joy, William Inks, director of finance and administration, ALCOSAN, George Crum, director, Southwest Delaware County Municipal Authority, Douglas Bowen, general manager, Whitehall Township Authority, Ginnie Anderson Kane, commissioner, Upper Allen Township, and first vice president for the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors' Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force, Edward Troxell, director of government affairs, Pennsylvania Association of Boroughs, Richard Marcinkevage, manager, City of Lock Haven, Tom Ceraso, county commissioner, Westmoreland County, Lester Houck, secretary-treasurer, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors
- **Environmental Groups (1):** Judy Jengo, executive director, Green Space Alliance
- **Drinking Water Industry (2):** Kathy Pape, President and CEO, Pennsylvania American Water, Nicholas DeBenedictis, chairman, president and CEO, AquaAmerica Inc.
- **Others (3):** Dr. Jared Cohen, president, Carnegie Mellon University, Sally B. Holbert, registered landscape architect, founding principal, Land Logics Group, Donald Bluedorn, chair, Statewide Water Resources Committee

The Task Force will hold a series of public meetings around the state during the next two months to gather public input on water infrastructure needs.

The next meeting of the Task Force will be May 8 to hear testimony on infrastructure needs.

For more information, visit the [Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force webpage](#) or contact Marcus Kohl, DEP, 717-783-7404 or send email to: mkohl@state.pa.us.

NewsClips: [Group Starts Struggle of Finding \\$20 Billion for Water, Sewer Lines](#)
[Easton Will Spend \\$13 Million on Water System Upgrades](#)

Links: [Coalition Proposes Pennsylvania Fair Share for Clean Water Funding Plan](#)

EFC Sustainable Infrastructure Forum Set for May 20-22 in Philadelphia

The Environmental Finance Center is sponsoring a [Sustainable Infrastructure for Water and Wastewater Forum](#) in Philadelphia on May 20-22 for system operators in the states covered by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Regions 3 and 4.

The Forum will take place at EPA Region 3's offices at 1650 Arch Street.

Forum participants will benefit from special training in asset management, full-cost pricing, environmental management systems and three new software packages to help water and wastewater systems with system planning: CUPSS, TEAMS and Dashboard.

EFC, affiliated with the University of Maryland, is a company whose primary function is to educate communities on the role of finance and economic development in the protection of the environment and watersheds.

For more information on workshop registration, agenda, accommodations, directions and parking information, go to the [Forum webpage](#).

Links: [Coalition Proposes Pennsylvania Fair Share for Clean Water Funding Plan](#)

\$72 Million in Water Infrastructure Loans/Grants Announced

The [Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority](#) this week approved \$72 million in low-interest loans and grants for 19 brownfields, drinking water, wastewater and storm water projects in 15 counties.

Most of the money approved, \$64 million, is for low-interest loans. Combined with \$8 million in grants, PennVEST will fund 19 clean water projects.

The awards range from a \$356,081 loan and grant for an innovative and cost-effective wastewater management system to serve a community in Tioga County to an \$11 million loan to help fund a brownfield remediation project in Philadelphia that will facilitate the development of a world-class food distribution center and create 300 new jobs.

[A list of approved projects is available online.](#)

Links: [Coalition Proposes Pennsylvania Fair Share for Clean Water Funding Plan](#)

Growing Greener Grant Application Information Meeting April 22 Harrisburg

The Department of Environmental Protection will hold an informational session at 1 p.m. on April 22, in Harrisburg to help watershed groups, municipal officials and community planners apply for 2008 [Growing Greener I and II grants](#).

The session will be held at DEP's Southcentral Regional Office Building, 909 Elmerton Ave., and will last until 3 p.m.

"We want to make the grant application process as easy and convenient as possible," said Rachel Diamond, DEP's south central regional director. "This session is designed to help interested parties submit an accurate and complete grant application."

The session will include a brief overview of the 2008 Growing Greener application package followed by a question and answer session.

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As part of the application process, applicants can also seek funding through DEP's Flood Protection Grant Program and the federal Section 319 Non-point Source Grant Program.

Flood protection grants fund project improvements, non-routine maintenance and specialized equipment in communities that operate and maintain state and federal flood protection projects. Section 319 grants fund the development of watershed implementation plans to address non-point source impairments.

Participants are strongly encouraged to print and review the guidance package from the department's website before attending.

This year the competition for Growing Greener Grants from the Environmental Stewardship Fund will be very aggressive since the Governor's proposed 2008-09 budget would reduce monies available for grants from the Fund by [\\$29.2 million](#) to pay debt service for the Growing Greener II bond issue.

Applications must be postmarked no later May 16, or hand delivered that day by 4:30 p.m. to the DEP Grants Center on the 15th floor of the Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market St., Harrisburg. Late submissions will not be considered.

For more information, visit the [Growing Greener Grant Program webpage](#) or call DEP Watershed Manager Mary Golab at 717-705-4700. To request an application package, send email to: GrowingGreener@state.pa.us.

Links: [Coalition Proposes Pennsylvania Fair Share for Clean Water Funding Plan](#)

Fairview Township Uses Nutrient Credits to Help Meet Mandates

[Fairview Township](#), York County, this week became the second municipality to [use nutrient credits](#) to help reduce its costs for meeting mandates calling for the reduction of nutrients going into Pennsylvania waters flowing to the Chesapeake Bay.

There are 184 wastewater plants in the Chesapeake Bay drainage area, covering more than half of the state, that are required to meet the nutrient reduction requirements.

[Red Barn Trading Company](#) executed a long-term sales agreement with Fairview Township for the purchase of 300,000 nutrient credits over a period of fifteen years.

The credits will be generated by shipping animal manure to areas outside of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Prior to using nutrient credits, Fairview Township was prepared to spend \$4 million or more to upgrade the municipality's one sewage treatment plant. The purchase of the Red Barn nutrient credits represents a cost savings of 68 percent and eliminates the need for capital upgrades, allowing Fairview Township to avoid a substantial increase in sewer rates and additional bond and other financing debt altogether.

Bob Stanley, Fairview Authority Chairman, repeated the Township and Authority's objective in executing the credit contract, "To minimize the financial impact on our ratepayers. The purchase of nutrient credits requires a 6 percent rate increase. Capital improvements to our plant would have required a 16 percent increase. This is a cost effective solution to our Township's compliance with the Chesapeake Bay regulations."

Peter Hughes, President of Red Barn Trading, is excited to be working with Fairview Township and delivering nutrient credits through the long term contract. "Fairview Township officials should be commended for seeking out the least cost solution for their ratepayers," said Hughes.

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The credits sold to Fairview Township are already DEP-certified as saleable nutrient credits listed on [DEP's website](#). As a result of this sale, Red Barn will reduce its number of available credits by 20,000 per year.

Currently, Red Barn has more than 480,000 certified nutrient credits available for the Pennsylvania market, which represents the majority of credits available for purchase. Almost all of the approved credits involve shipping manure outside the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

NewsClip: [Swap Helps Fairview Twp. Save Money, Cut Pollution](#)

Links: [DEP Certifies First Proposals for Generating, Trading Nutrient Credits Coalition Proposes Pennsylvania Fair Share for Clean Water Funding Plan](#)
[DEP- Pending and Approved Nutrient Credits](#)

Oyster Project Honored for Work in Delaware Bay

The [Delaware Bay Oyster Restoration Project](#) was honored with the 2008 Government Award at the 26th Annual Recognition Dinner hosted this week in Philadelphia by the [Water Resources Association](#) of the Delaware River Basin.

Lieutenant Colonel Gwen E. Baker of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers presented the award to Dr. Eric Powell, director of Rutgers University's Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory in Port Norris, New Jersey. Powell accepted the award on behalf of the 10-member Delaware Bay Oyster Restoration Task Force, of which the USACE is also a member.

Since 2004, the Delaware Bay Oyster Restoration Project has contributed approximately \$40 for every \$1 invested, or roughly \$168 million, to the state economies of both Delaware and New Jersey. According to estimates, that ratio may reach as high \$50:\$1 once harvests take place for the first time this year.

This success comes as a result of the task force's large-scale reef enhancement program in Delaware Bay, which has increased oyster recruitment, or survival among juvenile oysters, by two fold during that same timeframe. The bi-state coalition has done this by depositing more than 1.4 million bushels of oyster and clam shells onto historic reefs, which provide oyster larvae with a clean, hard place on which they can attach, grow, and reach their full potential.

"This program is vitally important not only for the health of our state economies, but also for the health of Delaware Bay and the many species that depend on it," said Powell. "Were it not for shell-planting activities, we might very well have lost a regional fishery to disease, habitat loss, and other factors that repeatedly decimated the population both in the 1950s and the 1990s."

Members of the Delaware Bay Oyster Restoration Task Force include: the Cumberland County Empowerment Zone, Delaware & New Jersey Shellfish Industry, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Delaware River and Bay Authority, Delaware River Basin Commission, Delaware State University's College of Agriculture and Related Sciences, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, Rutgers University's Haskin Shellfish Research Laboratory, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District.

For more information, please visit the [Partnership for the Delaware Estuary](#) website.

Delaware River Basin Parties Agrees to Lower NYC Reservoirs

Gov. Rendell this week said officials from New York, New Jersey, Delaware and the federal government have agreed to a plan that will better protect Delaware River basin communities from the threat of flooding.

Under the plan approved April 15, water releases from the three New York City reservoirs will continue through April even if the reservoirs go below 100 percent of capacity. The modified plan ensures that as much as 8 billion gallons of water will be kept out of the reservoirs.

“I’m pleased and encouraged that New York City and the other parties agreed to take this precautionary step to better protect our communities along the Delaware River,” said Gov. Rendell. “While we can’t scientifically quantify the benefits lowering these reservoirs will have, continuing to make releases beyond when the reservoirs are at full capacity, as they are now, is a commonsense approach that will provide an added measure of comfort to residents downstream.”

Earlier this month, with the reservoirs at capacity and spilling, Gov. Rendell called on officials from Delaware, New Jersey, New York and New York City to support a plan that would modify the water release guidelines to help accommodate the seasonal rainfall and protect against potential flooding on the main stem of the river.

The Governor added that this plan also ensures that drinking water supplies will not be threatened for New York City, Philadelphia and Bucks County.

“With continued normal rainfall, we think the reservoirs will be full on May 1 as we enter the period of increased use,” Gov. Rendell said. “To ensure we protect our drinking water supplies, we will re-evaluate the releases each week until the end of the month. Should we enter a period of below-normal rainfall, the releases can be stopped.”

Seasonal releases from the reservoirs are governed by a flexible flow management plan that was temporarily instituted last September by the parties to a 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decree. According to the FFMP, releases continue in April only when the reservoirs are completely full to ensure adequate water supplies are available during the summer months.

The plan is one of the recommendations developed by the Delaware Flood Task Force formed by Gov. Rendell after three devastating floods 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.

To view the management plan, visit the [Delaware River Basin Commission website](#).

NewsClip: [Under Pressure from Rendell, NYC Agrees to Lower Reservoirs](#)
[New York to Release Water From Reservoirs](#)
[Reservoirs Only Part of Flood Problem](#)

PEMA Reminds Municipalities, Citizens to Clear Debris to Prevent Flooding

The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency is urging municipalities and citizens to take steps now to protect themselves and their property from [potential flood damage](#) this spring and summer.

"Given that municipalities are responsible for local infrastructure, there are steps that officials can take to reduce the threat and impact of potential flooding," said PEMA Director Robert P. French. "Citizens can also take an active role to protect themselves and their property by properly maintaining their homes and planning ahead. All family members should know what to do if there is a threat of flooding or an actual flooding emergency."

French said municipalities should perform pre-flood season inspections and remove debris around local bridges, culverts, and storm drains every spring. Clearing tree and brush debris from inlets helps water flow and reduces the potential for flooding.

Municipal officials should look for the following danger signs as they conduct inspections: debris that has collected under structures, or that blocks sewers and drains; roadway settlement; pavement or structures with visible cracks; tilting of substructure units; and significant erosion from embankments.

PEMA recommends that municipalities document inspections and debris removal by using date-stamped digital photos and detailed maintenance logs to show conditions prior to and after cleanup, and to demonstrate a commitment to regular maintenance of local infrastructure.

Residents should be aware of the risk of flooding in their area. Their municipal government office can provide information regarding whether or not a property is in a flood plain and the history of flooding in the region.

In addition, residents should: learn the community's flood-warning signs and alert signals; contact the local emergency management office for help planning an evacuation route and practice it often with all family members; learn what radio stations to listen to for emergency information; develop an emergency communications plan that includes family or friends outside the region (in an emergency, local communication systems often break down and out-of-town communication is easier); make sure all family members know the emergency contact's name, address, and phone number; teach all family members how to respond to flooding and how to turn off gas, electricity, and water at the home; and teach children how to appropriately call 9-1-1 for police and fire department assistance.

All residents living in an area that is affected by flash flooding should have an evacuation plan, as well as alternate routes mapped out in advance. Also, have disaster preparedness supplies on hand, including flashlights and extra batteries; portable, battery-operated radio and extra batteries; first aid kit and manual; emergency food and water; non-electric can opener; essential medicines/prescriptions; cash, credit cards and important legal documents; and sturdy shoes.

French also reminded Pennsylvanians that purchasing a flood insurance policy is one of the most important things people can do in advance to help recover from flood damage. It is important to remember that flood insurance policies require 30 days to take effect after purchase. While wind damage is covered by most homeowner's or business insurance policies, damage caused by flooding is not. Policies are available for homes, businesses, and municipal property.

For more information on emergency preparedness, visit [PEMA's Fact Sheet webpage](#).

NewsClip: [Crawford Takes Steps to Head Off Flooding](#)

Rendell Administration Recognizes Achievements of PA Local Governments

Lt. Governor Catherine Baker Knoll and Department of Community and Economic Development Secretary Dennis Yablonsky praised the efforts of eight municipal organizations and nine local leaders this week during the 12th annual "[Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence](#)" award ceremony.

"The most successful teams have players who work together towards a common goal," Secretary Yablonsky said. "Whether it's allocating funds to help purchase new police department equipment, supporting efforts to consolidate services, distributing grants to make our neighborhoods more attractive, or offering guidance when new laws take effect, we consistently and effectively work with our municipal entities, making them some of our strongest teammates in putting Pennsylvania on the road to enduring progress."

The Lieutenant Governor also noted her appreciation for those who serve on the "front line" closest to their constituents.

"Local government people simply have no place to hide from the high expectations of their friends and neighbors. They are the first line of offense and defense in the American system of government," she said. "Thank you for being so good at what you do."

The two presented plaques and certificates to local government entities in six categories. Nine individual awards were also presented to those who saw where their communities could use improvement, then worked tirelessly to fix them.

Local governments and officials give awards related to environmental projects include:

[Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority, Lebanon County:](#) The authority was recognized for developing a unique educational program within renewable energy power production facility. The power plant doubles energy production from existing renewable fuel supplies, applies innovative technology to collect landfill gas, reduces the risk of landfill gas escaping to the environment, and educates the public on renewable energy. This project exemplifies efficiency, cost savings, and innovation.

[Lancaster Inter-Municipal Committee, Lancaster County:](#) The group received its award for developing a multi-municipal plan for 11 contiguous municipalities that are members of the [Lancaster Inter-Municipal Committee](#), a council of governments in central Lancaster County. The plan stresses the importance of directing expansion to designated growth areas, and delineates 36 growth opportunity districts where officials can encourage more compact, mixed use development. The plan exemplifies strategies of how municipalities throughout Pennsylvania can work together in planning for the future.

[City of Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne County:](#) The city received this award for its work to prevent flood devastation in South Wilkes-Barre. The city completely reconstructed four bridges that span Solomon's Creek. The new bridges, two of which are complete, feature state-of-the-art flood protection equipment which allows high water to flow in a way that

alleviates the potential dangers of flooding to the surrounding areas. According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, this is the first system of its kind in the United States.

NewsClip: [Wilkes-Barre Receives Award for Flood Work](#)

Douglas K. Bowen, Manager, Whitehall Township Authority, Lehigh County: As manager of the [Whitehall Township Authority](#) for more than 30 years, Bowen has shown his dedication to his community and a commitment to providing people with safe, sufficient drinking water in an environmentally responsible manner. Bowen has shared his expertise and commitment in various capacities. He has served as a volunteer committee person, board member and officer of the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association, leading the organization for the past year as its president. Appointed by Governor Casey and reappointed by Gov. Ridge, he served on the board of directors and as chairman for the Pennsylvania Municipal Retirement System. Bowen is a tireless worker for governmental efficiencies, advocating new technologies and environmentalism. He has demonstrated attributes above and beyond the call of duty when serving the interests of his communities.

Barry Seymour, Executive Director, Delaware Valley Regional Planning

Commission: Leading 117 staff and overseeing a \$20 million work program at the [DVRPC](#), Seymour began the first planning grant program at DVRPC and created the Smart Transportation for Growing Suburbs program to manage transportation planning and community design. He is a tireless advocate for regional, county and local government planning.

Dallas A. Dollies Award for Excellence in Planning: Anna Breinich has served more than 30 years in the municipal, private and non-profit sectors and has been active in state and national affairs with a lengthy list of accomplishments. As director of community planning for the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#), she helped towns and rural areas across the state promote economic opportunity and a local legacy of history, architecture, beauty, and natural resources. She was an adjunct associate professor and Harrisburg program coordinator of Temple University's Planning Master's degree program. She has served as president of the Pennsylvania Planning Association, chair of the American Planning Association's Chapter president's council, and PPA Professional Development Officer as well as a member of the PPA board of directors and legislative committee. She was elected to national office in 2006 and is the Region I Commissioner for the American Institute of Certified Planners. She also had an active role through the 10,000 Friends policy advisory committee in building the 2000 Growing Smarter MPC amendments and has served on her own township planning commission. Anna is being recognized for demonstrating a lifelong commitment and devotion to planning.

The Governor's Awards for Local Government Excellence are presented annually by the [Governor's Center for Local Government Services](#). The Center's staff chooses the winners from applications submitted by municipal organizations throughout the Commonwealth.

[A list of all award winners is available online.](#)

PPL Educational Grants Program Encourages Environmental Action

To help empower students to make a difference, PPL is accepting applications for its 2008 [Environmental Education Grant Program](#) which focuses on renewable energy and energy conservation projects.

Applications are due October 15.

“PPL continues to look for new ways to partner with school districts in the communities where we live and work,” said Meg Welker, education relations director for PPL. “Through the Project Earth Environmental Education Grants program, we hope to encourage students to take positive steps to protect our resources.”

Through these competitive grants, schools can receive from \$500 up to \$5,000 in funding for projects that focus on energy and environmental issues like renewable energy demonstrations, energy conservation and the greening of schools.

Early submittals are encouraged. Winners will be announced in November.

[All qualifying public, private and parochial schools](#) near major PPL facilities are eligible for these competitive grants. Schools are strongly encouraged to partner with an organization, association or business that shares their interest in the environment, but the school must submit the application, receive the grant money and have primary responsibility for the project.

For more information, visit the [PPL Environmental Education Grant Program webpage](#).

Pennsylvania Resources Council Invites Entries in Lens On Litter Photo Contest



2004 winner by Karen Hohman

The [Pennsylvania Resources Council](#) invites student and adult amateur photographers from the around the state to be part of the 24th annual [Lens On Litter Contest](#) designed to highlight litter and illegal dumping problems in the Commonwealth.

Entries are due October 31.

“This is the only contest I know where photographers can use their creativity to show something ugly like litter, old tires and rusting appliances and win,” said Larry Myers, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Resources Council.

“It is a unique combination of art and promoting

awareness of an important environmental issue everyone can see.”

“But these photos have more than an educational purpose, they will turn art into action,” said Myers. “The sites in the photos will be targeted by the Pennsylvania Resources Council for cleanup by working with local groups.”

The Lens On Litter contest is open to amateur photographers taking photographs of litter in Pennsylvania.

There is a top prize of \$1,000 in each of two categories: adult and student. Eight additional prizes, four to each group, will be awarded with second place winners receiving \$500, third place \$250, and fourth place \$150.

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This year the Lens on Litter contest is sponsored by: AAA Mid-Atlantic, Inc., The Hershey Company, Kimberly Clark Corporation, Rohm and Haas Company, and Wawa Inc.

Send entries (limit three per person) to the Pennsylvania Resources Council, 3606 Providence Road, Newtown Square, PA 19073. All entries must contain the following information on the back of the photo: entrant's name, address, telephone number, title given to photo, and location of litter site. If the entry is from a school age child, the school grade and school name must be provided. Photos will not be returned and will become the property of the PRC.

For more information, visit the [Pennsylvania Resources Council webpage](#) or call 610-353-1555.

PROP Offers Composting Practical Science Courses June 18, 19

The Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania, in conjunction with the Department of Environmental Protection and Penn State Altoona, are once again offering their class on the [basics of large-scale composting](#) June 18-19 in Pittsburgh.



Sessions on site design, equipment selection, environmental protection, and product quality are all included. Several hands-on exercises are part of the course, giving students practice in measuring various aspects of a working compost pile and in the various calculations that go into compost management.

The compost facility of AgRecycle will be featured. AgRecycle is one of the premier compost facilities in the state, having won the Governors' Award for Waste Minimization in 1995. The site provides the opportunity for a demonstration of the various types of equipment as well as an area for the students to learn some important techniques.

Two well known composting experts return to teach the class: Bob Rynk, editor of the On-Farm Composting Handbook, and Cary Oshins, long-time compost educator for Rodale Institute and PROP.

Upon completion of this course, participants will receive a Penn State certificate verifying 1.4 hours of Continuing Education credits earned towards the Recycling Professional Certification. Also, this course is a required elective for the Composting Specialization and the Composting Operator Course Certificate.

Tuition for the course is \$139 for PROP members and \$279 for non-members and takes place on the New Kensington Campus of Penn State. Advance registration and payment is required by June 4.

For more information, please contact Amy Carlotto Zuckett, Education Director, by sending email to: azuckett@proprecycles.org or call 814-742-7777.

Agriculture Secretary Applauds Brubaker Farms For New Manure Digester

Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff this week helped unveil a new anaerobic manure digester at Brubaker Farms in Lancaster County which generates more than 4,000 kilowatt hours of electricity per day, or enough to power more than 150 homes.

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Brubaker Farms used state and federal grants and low-interest loans to help pay for the installation of the digester. Secretary Wolff said the digester, which runs on manure from the 700 cow dairy farm, is a good investment in the state's future.

"This manure digester is helping produce power for the community in a way that is good for the environment," said Secretary Wolff. "The farm only uses about five percent of the power generated by the digester, so the rest is sold to the power grid for neighboring communities. By using the digester to process the farm's manure, they are also reducing their impact on air and water quality."

The farm estimates that the equivalent of 47,300 pounds of carbon dioxide is reduced per day through the digester. The solid waste of the digester is used instead of sawdust for animal bedding and is sold as mulch.

NewsClip: [Dairy Farm Runs on Cow Power](#)

DEP Now Accepting Applications for BioFuels Subsidy Grants

The Department of Environmental Protection is now accepting applications for biofuels subsidy grants of up to five cents per gallon under the [Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Program](#). Applications are due June 20.

Producers of ethanol or biodiesel in the Commonwealth are eligible for a reimbursement of 5 cents a gallon for up to 12,500,000 gallons covering a 12-month period. Grant funds may also be used to cover the added cost to purchase E85 (gasoline ethanol blend) or biodiesel.

Eligible applicants include tax-exempt entities such as school districts, local government agencies, transit authorities, colleges and universities and nonprofit entities.

Eligible applicants requesting funding for the purchase of biodiesel or E85 may be eligible for funding to install refueling equipment.

Project costs cannot be incurred before the submittal of an application during the grant open opportunity time period. (*formal notice*)

For more information and an application package, visit the [Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Program](#) or call 717-783-8411.

PA Energy Harvest Grant Applications Now Being Accepted By DEP

The Department of Environmental Protection is now accepting [PA Energy Harvest Grant](#) applications for innovative energy deployment projects addressing air quality and watershed protection issues.

Applications are due June 20 for the approximately \$5 million available for this program. (*formal notice*)

Eligible projects promote awareness and build markets for cleaner or renewable energy technologies, including: renewable energy deployment, including biomass energy, waste coal reclamation for energy, deployment of innovative energy efficiency technologies and distributed generation projects.

For more information, visit DEP's [PA Energy Harvest Grant webpage](#) or call 717-783-8411.

Applications Due for Innovative Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency Grants

The [Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority](#) is now soliciting grant applications for innovative, advanced energy projects, demand side management projects and from businesses interested in locating advanced energy operations in the Commonwealth.

Applications are due June 20 for the \$11 million in funding available. ([formal notice](#))

Eligible projects include: solar energy, wind; low-impact hydropower, geothermal, biologically derived methane gas, including landfill gas, biomass, fuel cells, coal-mine methane, waste coal, integrated gasification combined cycle, demand management measures, including recycled energy and energy recovery, energy efficiency and load management; and clean, alternative fuels for transportation.

Projects related to distributed generation for critical public infrastructure are particularly encouraged.

Entities eligible to apply for grants include: corporations, partnerships, associations and other legal business entities; nonprofit corporations; Pennsylvania municipalities; and public corporations, authorities or bodies.

More information will be posted on the [PA Energy Development Authority webpage](#).

Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy Grants Available in Duquesne Light Area

The [Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority](#) is now accepting applications from local governments for energy efficiency and renewable energy premium power grants of up to \$100,000 in the Duquesne Light service territory.

Applications are due June 20 for the \$1.8 million available for these grants. ([formal notice](#))

Eligible applicants include municipalities, local government authorities and first responders.

Eligible projects include: energy efficiency projects with a payback period of 2-year or less, such as advanced lighting projects, and premium power projects for public infrastructure and first responders.

Premium power projects may be solar energy; wind; low-impact hydropower; geothermal; biologically derived methane gas, including landfill gas; biomass energy; fuel cells; or coalmine methane. Premium power refers to projects that will provide reliable power even if conventional energy, such as the electricity grid, becomes unavailable.

More information will be posted on the [PA Energy Development Authority webpage](#).

Earth Force Initiative to be Launched in the Northern Allegheny Region

The [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) and [Lake Erie Allegheny Earth Force](#) announced this week they will be launching an Earth Force environmental education initiative in the Northern Allegheny River region with an open house on April 22.

The open house and public information session from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. at the Earth Force's new Meadville office, 301 Chestnut St., Meadville.

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The project, called the Northern Allegheny River Conservation Literacy Project, will employ a problem-solving educational model that imparts scientific knowledge, addresses local conservation priorities, is rooted in scientific and policy research, and promotes sustainable solutions throughout the Northern Allegheny River watershed - one of the most ecologically significant regions in North America.

The work is being funded through a Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Wild Resources Conservation Program Environmental Education grant.

“The upper Allegheny region, including the world-renowned French Creek, is one of the most ecologically significant aquatic systems in Pennsylvania, and among the most biologically rich in the United States,” noted Mark Gorman, director of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council’s office in Meadville. “This project will utilize the Earth Force ownership and empowerment model of environmental education, which is an approach that has worked extremely well in other parts of the country, nurturing an environmental stewardship ethic that leads to real and effective conservation. This particular project will focus on conserving the region’s wealth of rare, threatened and endangered plants and animals - species that are abundant here, but missing or found only in low numbers elsewhere.”

The Earth Force Education Director, Margarita Dangel, be available during that period to talk individually with teachers, school administrators, students and others who might be interested in becoming involved in the Allegheny River Conservation Literacy Project.

For more information, visit the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) and [Lake Erie Allegheny Earth Force](#) websites.

Seedlings For Schools Program Invites Elementary Schools to Participate

The [Wildlife For Everyone Endowment Foundation](#) and the Game Commission are inviting elementary schools to participate in the new Seedlings for Schools Project.

Trees are important to wildlife, people, and the environment. Through Seedlings for Schools students may plant seedlings at home, on school grounds, or in their community. Through the Program, primarily for third grade students, kids will discover the vital role of trees in the environment.

There is no charge to schools participating in this project. The seedlings will be provided by the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Howard Nursery.

The cost of shipping is being covered by; Waste Management, Wildlife For Everyone Endowment Foundation, Pheasants Forever Chapter 603, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and Mealey's Furniture.

For more information, contact the [Wildlife For Everyone Endowment Foundation](#) at 814-238-8138 or send email to: info@wildlifeforeveryone.org .

DCNR Invests \$12 Million to Protect Natural Resources, Open Space

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources this week announced [\\$12 million in grants](#) to promote land conservation and other projects that are designed to create trails and protect open space and greenways.

Funding for the grants comes from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Keystone '93 and Growing Greener I and II programs.

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Projects range from \$1.25 million to Limerick Township for the purchase of more of 80 acres in Montgomery County for recreation and open space, to \$10,600 to Freeland Borough in Luzerne County for the acquisition of two acres next to existing parkland.

"Our local partners – including municipalities, counties, land trusts and conservancies – are critical to our successful efforts to protect our natural areas," Gov. Rendell said. "Our grants help them meet the vision they have for their communities and regions."

Other projects include:

- \$250,000 to Lehigh County for the Trexler Nature Preserve Environmental Center;
- \$75,000 to the Northeastern Pennsylvania Educational Television Association for a Take it Outside television series;
- \$129,900 to Penn State to continue the Keystone Active Zone campaign to connect people to their local parks and trails to promote health;
- \$100,000 to Elk County for the North Central Greenways and Open Space plan in the Pennsylvania Wilds region; and
- \$150,000 to Potter County to support the Pennsylvania Wilds Planning Team.

A complete list of projects funded [is available online](#).

Pennsylvania Achieves Farmland Preservation Milestone

The Pennsylvania Farmland Preservation Board set a new record this week by preserving the state's 3,500th farm, the Department of Agriculture announced.

The approved farmland included four Westmoreland County farms, which gives the county 9,268 acres preserved on 66 farms since 1991.

"We are extremely proud to announce the preservation of more than 3,500 farms in Pennsylvania, and 9,000 acres in Westmoreland County," said Agriculture Secretary Dennis Wolff. "The Commonwealth has earned an outstanding reputation for our agricultural products, and that reputation has been extended to our farmland preservation program, ensuring that agricultural land will be available for the next generation of farmers."

The achievement was celebrated at the Phillip Long Farm, a 336-acre crop farm that was approved for preservation in 2005. The 71 farms preserved this week are located in 20 counties: Beaver, Berks, Bucks, Bradford, Chester, Clinton, Columbia, Cumberland, Erie, Franklin, Indiana, Lancaster, Lehigh, Mercer, Northampton, Schuylkill, Tioga, Union, Westmoreland, and York.

Pennsylvania is the national leader in farmland preservation, covering 3,521 farms and 389,247 acres. Since 1988, state and federal funds, along with counties and local municipalities, have contributed more than \$1 billion to preserve farmland.

The state's farmland preservation program works through the Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program, which was developed 20 years ago to help slow the loss of prime farmland to non-agricultural uses. The program enables state, county and local governments to purchase conservation easements, also called development rights, from owners of quality farmland.

For more information, visit the [Farmland Preservation Program webpage](#).

Annual National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Says Emissions Dropped 1.1 Percent

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this week released the [national greenhouse gas inventory](#) which reports overall emissions during 2006 decreased by 1.1 percent from the previous year.

The report, Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks: 1990-2006, is the latest in an annual set of reports that the United States submits to the Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which sets an overall framework for intergovernmental efforts to tackle the challenge posed by climate change.

“Each year since 1993, EPA’s experts have built a comprehensive inventory of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions,” said Robert Meyers principal deputy assistant administrator for EPA’s Office Air and Radiation. “Our understanding of emission sources is paramount to combating climate change.”

Total emissions of the six main greenhouse gases in 2006 were equivalent to 7,054.2 million metric tons of carbon dioxide. These gases include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride. The report indicates that overall emissions have grown by 14.7 percent from 1990 to 2006, while the U.S. economy has grown by 59 percent over the same period.

The decrease in emissions in 2006 was due primarily to a decrease in carbon dioxide emissions associated with fuel and electricity consumption. The following factors were primary contributors to this decrease:

- compared to 2005, 2006 had warmer winter conditions, which decreased consumption of heating fuels, as well as cooler summer conditions, which reduced demand for electricity;
- restraint on fuel consumption caused by rising fuel prices, primarily in the transportation sector; and
- increased use of natural gas and renewables in the electric power sector.

EPA prepares the annual report in collaboration with experts from multiple federal agencies and after gathering comments from a broad range of stakeholders across the country.

The inventory tracks annual greenhouse gas emissions at the national level and presents historical emissions from 1990 to 2006. The inventory also calculates carbon dioxide emissions that are removed from the atmosphere by “sinks,” e.g., through the uptake of carbon by forests, vegetation and soils.

For more information, visit the [EPA Greenhouse Gas Inventory webpage](#).

Environmental Professionals: Climate Change-PA Perspective Conference

The Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals will hold its annual conference with the theme “[Adapting to Global Climate Change: A Pennsylvania Perspective](#)” on May 7-9 in Grantville, near Harrisburg.

The keynote speaker for the event will be Larry Schweiger, President & CEO of the National Wildlife Federation and Pennsylvania native, who will speak about the climate change issue.

Presentations on climate change in Pennsylvania will be made by representatives of the Department of Environmental Protection, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, the

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Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission and other prominent organizations as part of the Land Use Program Track and Plenary Session.

For those more interested in professional development, a separate Program Track will include topics such as ‘Making Wetland Jurisdictional Determinations Post-Rapanos,’ ‘Specialty Certifications for Environmental Professionals,’ and ‘The New PennDOT Transportation Project Development Process.’

The Pollution Prevention/Energy Efficiency (P2/E2) Program Track will offer many additional seminars, including ‘Performing an Energy Efficiency Assessment,’ ‘Green Building’ and ‘Business Sustainability and Climate Change.’

Two “all new” alternate Traveling Workshops will kick-off the conference on May 7: a "North Tour" with site visits to the Locust Ridge Wind Farm, the Frackville Coal Reprocessing Plant, and Hawk Mountain; and a "South Tour" with visits to Three Mile Island, Keystone Biofuels Plant, and the State Museum of Pennsylvania. Please note that fees for the workshops are in addition to other registration fees.

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

Audubon’s Tim Schaeffer Moves to Fish & Boat Commission as Policy Director

[Audubon Pennsylvania](#) Executive Director Dr. Timothy Schaeffer will be moving to the Fish and Boat Commission as the Director of Policy, Planning and Communications starting April 21.

Dr. Schaeffer came to Audubon in March 2005 and has worked to put important bird area coordinator staff in the field, held the first two chapter meetings bringing together members from across the state in a long time, initiated major fund raising efforts for [Mill Grove](#), the home of John James Audubon in

Pennsylvania, [Waggoner’s Gap Hawk Watch](#) and [Fairmount Park Important Bird Area](#) educational programs in Philadelphia and worked to diversify the funding base for Audubon in Pennsylvania.

He has been the primary spokesman for Audubon Pennsylvania on the critical issues of deer management, wind power and feral swine habitat destruction and improved the ability of Audubon to have an impact on legislation moving in the General Assembly.

Dr. Schaeffer has also served as regional director for the Pennsylvania Environmental Council’s Central Pennsylvania Regional Office and was the Science and Policy Director for the Pennsylvania Organization for Watersheds and Rivers.

He has been a member of a number of state and regional boards, including the Governor’s Advisory Council for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation, the Department of Environmental Protection’s Water Resources Advisory Committee and the Potomac Water Resource Regional Committee.

He also coordinated a number of statewide coalitions and facilitated the Pennsylvania Habitat Alliance. He is a founding board member of the Pennsylvania Institute for Conservation Education, is an active member of the Susquehanna River Trail Association and participated on the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources’ Wind Farms and Wildlife Collaborative.



Dr. Schaeffer holds a Ph.D. from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, a J.D. from Syracuse University, an M.S. from Carnegie Mellon University, and a B.A. from Gettysburg College.

Audubon Pennsylvania's Interim Executive Director will be Jean Bochnowski, Director of the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove.

Spotlight

Springtime Alert: Do Not Disturb Young Wildlife



Whether hiking in the woods, driving through the countryside or simply enjoying nature, Game Commission officials encourage outdoor enthusiasts to leave wildlife alone and not remove it from the wild, especially young of the year.

"Being outdoors in the spring is an enjoyable way to spend time and learn more about nature," said Calvin W. DuBrock, Game Commission Bureau of Wildlife Management director. "In the coming months, it will become common to find young deer, rabbits, birds, raccoons or other wildlife that may appear to be abandoned. Rest assured that in most cases, the young animal is not an orphan or abandoned and the best thing you can do is to leave it alone."

DuBrock noted adult animals often leave their young to forage for food. Also, wildlife often relies on a natural defensive tactic called the "hider strategy," where young animals will remain motionless and "hide" in surrounding cover while adults draw the attention of predators or other intruders away from their young.

"While it may appear as if the adults are abandoning their young, in reality, this is just the animal using its natural instincts to protect its young," DuBrock said. "Nature also protects young animals with camouflaging color and by giving them little scent to avoid being detected by predators."

"Wild animals are not meant to be pets, and we must all resist our well-meaning and well-intentioned urge to want to care for wildlife. Taking wildlife from its natural settings and into your home may expose or transmit to people or domestic animals wildlife diseases. Wildlife also may carry parasites - such as fleas, ticks or lice - that you wouldn't want infesting you, your family, your home or your pets."

DuBrock noted that, each year, people ignore this advice by taking wildlife into their homes and then are urged to undergo treatment for possible exposure to various wildlife-borne diseases, such as rabies.

"In nearly all cases, people's well-meaning and well-intentioned actions still require that the animal be put down in the interest of protecting public health," he said. "Unfortunately, pop-culture has instilled in people a certain stereotype of what a rabid animal looks like. And, while some animals will act vicious and even foam at the mouth, many times an infected animal will be quiet and still, appear uncoordinated or may be found dead. Handling these animals still can result in exposure to rabies and require someone to undergo treatment as a precaution, especially if the animal can't be captured for testing."

In addition to protecting public health, Game Commission Bureau of Wildlife Protection Director Rich Palmer said that the agency also is concerned with wildlife implications from humans handling wildlife.

"Habituation to humans is a serious concern, as wildlife that loses its natural fear of humans can pose a public safety risk," Palmer said. "For example, last year, a yearling, six-point buck attacked and severely injured a Clinton County couple. Our investigation discovered evidence and witness testimony that a family who lived near the victims had illegally harbored and fed the deer as a fawn, and had continued to do so up until the time of the attack.

"This particular incident was the subject of numerous news stories around the state, and serve as a dangerously fitting example of the possible negative side-effects of feeding or simply getting too close to wildlife."

In addition, Palmer noted that it is illegal to take or possess wildlife from the wild. Under state law, the penalty for such a violation is a fine of up to \$1,500 per animal.

"Under no circumstances will anyone who illegally takes wildlife into captivity be allowed to keep that animal," Palmer said. "While residents love to view wildlife and are very compassionate, they must enjoy wildlife from a distance and allow nature to run its course."

Palmer also pointed out that, under a working agreement with state health officials, any "high risk" rabies vector species confiscated must be euthanized and tested rather than relocated. Though any mammal may carry rabies, species identified in the agreement are: skunks, raccoons, foxes, bats, coyotes and groundhogs.

"Except for some species of bats, populations of all other rabies vector species are thriving," Palmer said. "Therefore, to protect public health and safety, it only makes sense to put an animal down for testing, rather than risk relocating a potentially rabid animal."

DuBrock said it is always wise to avoid wild animals and even strange domestic pets because of the potential rabies risk.

"Animals infected with rabies may not show obvious symptoms, but still may be able to transmit the disease," DuBrock.

People can get rabies from the saliva of a rabid animal if they are bitten or scratched, or if the saliva gets into the person's eyes, mouth or a fresh wound. The last human rabies fatality in Pennsylvania was a 12-year-old Lycoming County boy who died in 1984.

Feature

High Potentate of the Allegheny River – John Hummel

Sen. Rob Wonderling (R-Montgomery) recently spoke with Venango County grassroots environmentalist John Hummel about the evolution of the environmental movement and the role of citizens, environmental organizations, and business in cleaning up our air, water and land.

The conversation is part of the Senator's "[Talking Pennsylvania: 21 Conversations for the 21st Century](#)" book.

Sen. Wonderling will join John Hummel at an Earth Day event on April 24 at 10 a.m. at the Polk Center in Venango County.

The conversation follows.....



Sen. Wonderling

In the nearly 40 years that have passed since the first Earth Day back in the spring of 1970, the people of Pennsylvania have embraced an ethos of environmental stewardship that has made an enormous difference in the state of our environment.

Many trace the birth of the modern environmental movement to Rachel Carson's extremely influential book, *Silent Spring*. Carson, who was born and raised in Springdale, Pennsylvania, was the first scientist to capture the public's interest and raise its awareness about the damage being done to our natural environment by our modern economy.

Over the past four decades, the "environmental movement" has come to take many forms – ranging from highly corporatized lobbying organizations that employ all of the techniques and tricks that every other major, national special interest group does, to small, local groups focused on one specific environmental challenge located within a community.

Most of these groups focus on raising money, supporting certain political candidates, lobbying governing bodies from town councils up to Congress, generating publicity for their cause, raising public awareness, and perpetuating their own existence.

But there's another part of the environmental movement that is largely unheralded but which is often more effective than any of the large organizations – they are the grassroots environmentalists. These activists – and there are thousands of them throughout the Commonwealth – tend not to spend a lot of time trying to organize a group, raising money, or getting involved in politics.

Instead, they see an environmental issue or a challenge, usually in their own backyard, and they focus on solving it, either alone or together with a small number of likeminded friends and neighbors. They don't rush to write by-laws, establish themselves as a tax-exempt organization, and set up a fund-raising operation.

Instead, they use the power that every citizen of Pennsylvania has – the power to speak up and be heard – to try to influence the course of events for the good of the environment. And by using that power – the power of citizenship – they can make an enormous difference.

John Hummel is one of those people. John and his wife, Pam, live in and raised their sons in, what can only be called "God's Country," on the banks of the Allegheny River near Kennerdell in Venango County. Their cottage sits at the base of a mountain, and their property runs to the edge of the river.

As John and I sat in his gazebo down by the water's edge on a beautiful early summer day, I quickly came to understand what he meant when he welcomed me to his "eternal sanctuary." The peaceful sounds of nature – the gentle wind in the trees, the soft sound of the river as it coursed past us, the call of the birds – were unbroken by any of the sounds of our modern age. That gazebo is as reverent a place as any cathedral and the natural beauty in which it sits is as sacred a place as any altar.

John has spent more than 30 years working for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, but not as an environmental scientist. His educational background is in health care administration which he applies as a staff development specialist for the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare at Polk Center.

He has no formal training in environmentalism, but what he does have is every bit as valuable. He has a true appreciation for protecting the health of our environment and a true commitment to leaving the world a better place for his having been here.

Like many citizen activists, John was first moved to action when a place close to home was threatened. Back in the late 1970s, when the "oil crisis" had the country

scrambling to produce alternative forms of energy, a group of investors decided it wanted to build a synthetic fuel plant on the tip of a ridge right across from John's "eternal sanctuary."

John and his neighbors quickly made known their opposition to locating such a facility in the middle of such an inappropriate place, and as the oil crisis faded, so did the plans for this plant.

Several years later, another group of investors decided that they wanted to buy that same site and build a coal-fired power plant on it. This group, which, according to John, thought "they were so smart and so slick that they could just come in and show these local crackers how things are done," ended up being shown by John and other citizen-activists how not to do things.

In one memorable show of effective grassroots activism, John's partner, Tom Thomas, an anesthesiologist from Kennerdell, made one phone call to a union leader, who mustered 300 union members to protest the developer's threat to use non-union labor in constructing the plant if local opposition wasn't stopped. At the end of the day, the developer gave up on its plans; the local activists had outsmarted and outmaneuvered them at every turn.

During the fight against this power plant, John came to know his local congressman, Representative Bill Clinger. Congressman Clinger, who served nine terms in the House of Representatives from 1979 to 1996, was in favor of building the plant, because of the jobs it would create in his district. But he was also in favor of preserving the environmental health of the area around where the plant was to be built.

To make that commitment real, Congressman Clinger proposed designating that portion of the Allegheny as a National Wild and Scenic River. That designation would guarantee federal protection for the river and its immediate environment (to learn more about this federal designation visit www.rivers.gov), while allowing for appropriate uses of the river.

As John describes it, "Congressman Clinger and I had a really interesting relationship. I was all for the wild and scenic river designation but I was totally against the plant being built." But even though they were not in total agreement, John had established a relationship of mutual respect with Congressman Clinger, and that would prove beneficial a few years later when a third proposal for building a power plant came up.

This time, the developer was a large power company that had lots of resources and lots of experience in locating new facilities. But they didn't use that experience to muscle their way in; they used it to work cooperatively to address local concerns and work with local activists.

"They were a whole different type of person – people that I really came to like a lot," John told me. "We actually had a meeting right here on my deck with them and we ended up working with them on how to minimize the impact on this river valley, and on this river."

As I listened to this, I wasn't sure I was hearing John right. Most of the environmentalists I have dealt with since being elected to the State Senate come from the ranks of the professional environmental community. I cannot imagine any of them telling me they were able to work with the developers of a new power plant project.

As John was speaking, my gaze wandered across the river to the ridge. I saw no evidence that there was a power plant up there, so I asked John, "What ended up happening? The plant still isn't built, right?" John's reply shocked me.

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“No,” he told me. They built it. It’s there. It’s on top of that hill. You wouldn’t know it though, would you?”

I had to admit, I was surprised. Sitting along the riverbank and looking across to the ridge, there was no way of knowing that a coal burning power plant was operating there. It really was amazing. And then I remembered what John had told me just a few minutes before about the developers of this plant: “They were very respectful of the local people. They were honest. That went a long way.”

What also went a long way was the fact that the new power plant developer, along with Congressman Clinger, worked with John and his neighbors to advance the Wild and Scenic River designation. By the time everything was done, the plant was built, the river had received additional federal protection, and the condition of the river actually improved. That’s what I call a win-win-win situation.

The time I had with John was growing short – I had a plane to catch and I didn’t want to impose on John’s time. So I asked him to sum up for me why he thought the third attempt to build a new power plant succeeded where the others had failed and why he believed the third company was willing to work with him, when the first two developers had basically tried to strong-arm him and his fellow local activists into surrender.

Here’s what John told me, “I figured out early on that if you want someone to listen to you or to follow you or to consider your ideas, you have to be calm, you have to know what you’re taking about, you have to be rational, and you have to provide a solution that improves the quality of life for everybody, not just yourself.”

John paused and looked out across the river. He continued, “I didn’t want a power plant to be built because I was concerned it might spoil what I had – the beautiful view, the peace of nature. But there were others who had a different view – people who needed jobs, for example. So to succeed we needed an answer that would improve everybody’s quality of life.”

As I listened to the wisdom of this citizen – this person who used the power he had as an individual citizen, acting without the backing of a well-financed organization or a cadre of high-paid lobbyists – it struck me that what I had just heard is really the key to policymaking on every issue at every level of government.

Mutual respect; honesty; solid factual information; patience; rationality; a commitment to listening – these simple and straightforward concepts too often get lost in today’s politics of confrontation and distortion. Fanning the flames of fear and emotion may be effective in stopping progress in the short run. But for those who actually want to accomplish something, John Hummel’s approach is far more constructive.

Over more than two decades, John Hummel and his small band of like-minded neighbors and friends (not even a dozen, by his accounting) have won some major environmental victories – victories in which all the players walked away with something to show for their efforts. He’s done so without ever forming an organization; never raising funds; and never holding a title (although some have called him in jest, “The High Potentate of the Allegheny River”).

He has created a model for how citizens, and the private sector, and government can best protect our environment in the 21st century. We must expect government to facilitate, not dictate. We must expect business to balance the needs of their companies with the needs of the environment and of their neighbors. We must listen to interested and thoughtful individuals as readily and as carefully as we listen to the professional

environmental community. And we must be willing to take the time to work problems through until we find balanced and fair solutions.

This is an ambitious set of goals, but as John Hummel has demonstrated, it's not an impossible dream. If all the stakeholders are willing (and sometimes that's a big "if"), this approach can work.

There's an old Native American saying: "We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children." I was reminded of that as I sat in John Hummel's gazebo, watching the waters of Allegheny travel past, as they have for many millennia in the past and as they will for many thousands of years to come.

Each of us has the obligation to preserve these "eternal sanctuaries," as John Hummel calls his little slice of God's country – and I think John's approach provides an outstanding model, not just for protecting the environment, but also for addressing a whole host of other public policy challenges

If you would like a free copy of Sen. Wonderling's book or would like to speak with him about the book, please visit his [Talking PA website](#).

Grants & Awards

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 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**— [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**— [ConocoPhillips Energy Prize](#)
- **June 13**— [EPA Clean Diesel Program Grants](#)
- **June 16**— [Rachel Carson Sense of Wonder Contest](#)
- **June 20**— DEP [Section 902 Recycling Development Grants](#)
- **June 20**—**NEW**. [DEP PA Energy Harvest Grants](#)
- **June 20**—**NEW**. [DEP Biofuels Subsidy Grants](#)
- **June 20**—**NEW**. [PEDA Innovative, Advanced Renewable Energy Grants](#)
- **June 20**—**NEW**. [PEDA Duquesne Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy Grants](#)
- [RC&D Grants for Improving Livestock Operations](#)
- **September 20**— [Fish & Boat Commission Boating Facilities Grants](#)
- **October 15**—**NEW**. [PPL Project Earth Environmental Education Grants](#)
- **October 31**—**NEW**. [PA Resources Council Lens On Litter Photo Contest](#)

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

Quick Clips

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

[State Heating Assistance Extension Requested](#)
[DPW Refuses to Reopen Home Heating Assistance Program](#)
[Editorial: Use Flexibility in Home Heating Program](#)
[Dauphin County Weighs Energy-Saving Changes](#)
[Editorial: City of Harrisburg Works on Conserving Energy](#)
[It's Not Easy Building Green](#)
[Eco-Friendly Building Products on Display](#)
[Builders Can Save Money, Environment](#)
[Editorial: Energy Efficiency, An Idea Whose Time Has Come](#)
[Lawrence County to Borrow \\$2.3 Million for Energy Project](#)
[Athens School District Energy Conservation Program Results Huge](#)
[Energy From the Ground Up in Philadelphia](#)
[DEP Highlights Benefits of Using, Recycling Fluorescent Light Bulbs](#)
[Saying Wind Turbines Endangers Bat, Groups Notify Company of Lawsuit](#)
[DEP Secretary Helps Break Ground on Cambria County Wind Farm](#)
[Schuylkill County Company Goes 100 Percent Wind Powered](#)
[Plant Finds Ways to Recycle Sand, Water, Metal](#)
[Editorial: Ethanol's Lie](#)
[Editorial: Investment in Energy or Corporate Welfare?](#)
[Pittsburgh Port Authority Ridership Up as Gasoline Prices Increase](#)
[Bucks County Adopts Climate Change Initiative](#)
[Op-Ed: The Call of the Wild on Greenhouse Gas Reductions](#)
[Op-Ed: Vote for the Earth on Global Warming](#)
[Editorial: Global Alarmists, A Meltdown of Reason](#)
[Editorial: Climate Change Truth Endangered](#)
[Column: Too Much Drilling](#)
[Editorial: Natural Gas Rush, Drill, Baby, Drill](#)
[Interest in Natural Gas Drilling Spreads to Wayne](#)
[State Warning on Natural Gas Drilling Doesn't Faze Residents](#)
[Allegheny County to Keep Air Quality Enforcement Local](#)
[Editorial: Onorato's Air Quality Plan Not Without Flaws](#)
[EPA Brings Green to Refresh Brownfields](#)
[Developments May Reinvent Brownfields](#)
[Editorial: Banish Litter](#)
[Recycling Returns to Crawford County](#)
[Middletown, Delaware County Considers RecycleBank Services](#)
[Birders of a Feather Flock to Presque Isle's First-Ever Festival](#)
[Deer the Talk of Meeting](#)
[Another Blast at State Deer Program](#)
[My Life Is For the Birds](#)
[State of Art Law Needed to Ensure Mine Safety](#)
[Endangered Indiana Bat Puts Southern Beltway Project at Risk](#)
[Clinton County Conservation Summer Camp](#)

[Environment Presents Students With Challenges and Questions Wanted: In Depth Audit of Deer Program](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Officials Approve Upgrade to Pickering Creek Watershed](#)
[Stony Fork Creek Campground to Host Youth Fishing Program](#)
[Help Arrives in Chester County for Riparian Buffers](#)
[Creek Connections Gets Kids in Touch With Nature](#)
[Anglers Enjoy Nearly Ideal Opening Day for Trout Season](#)
[Conservation Security Program Available for Lower Juniata](#)
[Youghiogheny River, Pristine Streams Run Near Proposed Strip Mine](#)
[Proposed Law Restricts Water Wells in Kane](#)
[Editorial: Chesapeake Bay Cleanup Funding Request is Worthy](#)
[Temporary Plan on Delaware River Flooding Reported Likely](#)
[Lancaster Firm Develops Innovative Water Reclamation Process](#)
[Editorial: Clean Water- \\$170 Million](#)
[Coalition Proposes Fair Share Funding for Chesapeake Bay Cleanup](#)
[Pennsylvania's \\$170 Million Fair Share for Clean Water Plan](#)
[Study Establishes Upper Pottsgrove's Watershed Impact](#)
[COG Addresses Wyoming County Stormwater Plan](#)
[Amid Fears, Well Ordinance Passes](#)
[Water Specialist to Speak April 23](#)
[DEP Awards Contract to Restore Bark Camp Run Channel](#)
[DEP Awards No Cost Contracts to Reclaim Mine Lands in Loyalhanna River](#)
[Wetland Planned at Quittapahilla Creek](#)
[RiverWalk Returns, Minus the Condos](#)
[How Green Is My Roof](#)

Regulations

The Environmental Quality Board published proposed regulations regulating nitrogen oxide emissions from [glass melting furnaces](#) and [cement kilns](#). The Department of Environmental Protection published a [notice of pending and approved nutrient credits](#) under the Nutrient Credit Trading Program.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – April 19, 2008](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

No new policy documents were published this week.

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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](#)

- **April 22**— Primary Election Day / **Earth Day**
- **April 23**—DCNR [Conservation and Natural Resources Advisory Council](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. Harrisburg. 10:00.
- **April 23**—DEP [Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee](#), Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Monitoring Technical Work meeting. 2nd Floor Training Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **April 23**— [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 29**—**NEW**. House Finance Committee hearing on [House Bill 1676](#) (Levdansky-D-Allegheny) dedicating a portion of the Sales Tax to fund the Fish and Boat and Game Commissions. Room 418. 10:00.
- **April 30**— [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 8**—[Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **May 13-15**—[PA Water/Wastewater Association](#) annual conference. Valley Forge.
- **May 14**—DEP [Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee](#), Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Monitoring Technical Work meeting. 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **May 15**—House Labor Relations Committee hearing on the Hazardous Material Emergency Planning and Response Act. Bridesburg Rec. Center, 4625 Richmond St., Philadelphia. 11:00.
- **May 28**—DEP [Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee](#), Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Monitoring Technical Work meeting. 12th Floor Conference Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.
- **May 28**— [Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards Program](#). Pittsburgh.

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- **June 10**—DEP [Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee](#), Ad-Hoc Subcommittee on Monitoring Technical Work meeting. 10th Floor Training Room, Rachel Carson Building. 9:00.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

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

Helpful Web Links

[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

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

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