

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

April 25, 2005

Campaign Started for Voter Approval of Growing Greener Bond Issue

Gov. Rendell, environmental groups and four former environmental agency Secretaries kicked off an effort to urge voters to approve the \$625 million bond issue on the May 17 ballot.

The question would authorize additional state funding for Pennsylvania's three largest environmental problems— acid mine drainage pollution, loss of farmland and open space and cleaning up rivers and streams.

The biggest hurdle facing the groups is just letting people know it's on the ballot.

Spring elections, in particular when no statewide candidates are running, often have very low turnouts.

A Vote Yes to Keep Pennsylvania Growing Greener Committee has been formed to promote the bond issue, chaired by John C. Oliver, former Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary under Governors Ridge and Schweiker and former President of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

The Harrisburg press conference featured Gov. Rendell, former Ridge and Schweiker Administrations Department of Environmental Protection Secretary David Hess, Deb Callahan, president of the League of Conservation Voters; Andrew McElwaine, president of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council; Kathleen McGinty, current secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection; Michael DiBerardinis, secretary of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; and John Hanger, president and CEO of PennFuture; and Dr. Douglas Austen, Executive Director, Fish & Boat Commission.

Three other former environmental agency Secretaries also attended the event to show their support—Arthur A. Davis, who served under Gov. Casey, and Peter S. Duncan and Clifford L. Jones who served under Gov. Thornburgh.

A similar kick off press conference was held in Pittsburgh that featured the endorsement of the Vote Yes campaign from the field of candidates running for mayor of Pittsburgh, including Democrats Louis "Hop" Kendrick, Michael Lam, Les Ludwid, Bob



This poster was unveiled to promote the Growing Greener Bond Issue question on the May 17 ballot.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

O'Connor, Bill Peduto and Danel Repovz. Republican Joe Weinroth sent a message of strong support, but was unable to attend the news conference due to personal and business commitments.

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

NewsClips: [Montco Urges Voters to Back Open Space Loan](#)
[Locals Predict Voters Will Give Bond Green Light](#)
[Editorial: Growing Greener Sorely Needed, Should be Approved](#)
[Locals predict voters will give \\$625 million bond the 'green'](#)
[Editorial | Growing Greener Bond](#)

Session Schedule

The House and Senate return to voting session May 2.

Budget Clock Ticking

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

Contents – On the Hill

- On the Senate and House Agenda for Action
- Action This Week in Senate and House
- House/Senate Mark Watershed Awareness Month in May

Other News

- PA Recycles Record 4.4 Million Tons in 2003
- Steel Recycling Hits 25-year High in the United States
- Waste Group Tells Great PA Cleanup Volunteers - 'Bring Us 10,000 Tons of Trash!'
- PA Soft Drink Association Partner in Nine Great PA Cleanup Events
- TreeVitalize to Teach Citizens How to Plant and Care for Trees
- Funding OK'd for Redevelopment of Strip Mined Area
- 300,000 acres+ Preserved at Farmland Preservation Board Meeting
- TMDL Plan Set for Skippack Creek Watershed, Montgomery County
- Tulpehocken & Quittapahilla Watersheds Have Grants Available
- Kodak American Greenways Grants Program
- Special “Green Makes Sense” and “Earth Day 2005” Publications Still Available
- EPA Employees Reduce Their ‘Environmental Footprint,’ You Can Too!
- Workshops Teach How to Save Energy in Manufacturing, Industrial Settings
- Six of Top 25 Green Power Purchasers in U.S. Do Business in PA
- DEP Invites Green Technology, Service Companies on China Trade Mission
- Schools Awarded PPL Environmental Education Grants
- Columbia Gas Awards Local NiSource Environmental Challenge Grants

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

- Falcon Eggs Should Hatch Soon, New Bat Cam Available on Web
- Game Commission Offers Advice – Don't Attract Bears
- Fish Commission Advises – Water Is Still Cold

Taking Positive Action

- Philadelphia Million Solar Roofs Partnership Recognized for Excellence
- Giant Eagle, King of Prussia Associates Win Recycling Awards
- PA Army National Guard Wins Award for Environmental Excellence
- Pfizer Inc. Recognized for Environmental Excellence
- Allegheny County Health Announces Enviro Star Award Winners
- Green Woods Charter School Wins EPA Award
- Students Receive Awards to Commemorate Earth Day 2005

Special Watershed Feature

- A Significant Milestone for the Lehigh River and Its Watershed, By [Tom Kerr](#), President, [Wildlands Conservancy](#)

Calendar of Events – Check out all the new items!

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

On the Hill

On the House and Senate Agenda for Action

The Senate and House will not be in voting session until May 2. The only activity scheduled for the week of April 25 is a House Commerce Committee meeting to consider [House Bill 218](#) (Reed-R-Indiana) amending the Downtown Relocation Law.

Action This Week in Senate and House

With the Senate the only chamber being in session, there was not much movement of environmental legislation this week. Here's a quick run down.

Watershed-wide Zoning: [Senate Bill 291](#) (Conti-R-Bucks) authorizing watershed-wide zoning by municipalities was referred to Senate Appropriations Committee.

Landfill Permitting: [Senate Bill 197](#) (Rafferty-R-Montgomery) providing DEP with additional authority to enforce landfill requirements and consider past violations in permit decisions remains on the Senate Calendar.

House/Senate Mark Watershed Awareness Month in May

Both the House and Senate passed resolutions marking May as Watershed Awareness Month to highlight the groups working hard all over the state to cleanup their watersheds and the need to do more to protect our valuable water resources.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

The House passed [House Resolution 234](#) (Adolph-R-Delaware, George-D-Clearfield) and the Senate passed [Senate Resolution 85](#) (M.White-R-Venango, Musto-D-Luzerne). The text of the nearly identical resolutions is below.

A RESOLUTION

Designating the month of May 2005 as "Watershed Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth's land, rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands and groundwater resources are interconnected to form a rich mosaic of watersheds; and

WHEREAS, These water resources provide citizens with clean drinking water and recreational and business opportunities; and

WHEREAS, This Commonwealth contains 83,000 miles of rivers and streams for all to enjoy and treasure; and

WHEREAS, There are eight distinct river basins in this Commonwealth, including Lake Erie, Ohio River, Genesee River (Lake Ontario), Susquehanna River, Delaware River, Potomac River, Elk River and Northeast/Gunpowder Rivers; and

WHEREAS, There are 104 watersheds, the basic building blocks of the natural environment, in this Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth invests enormous resources to restore and protect water, including remediating drainage from thousands of abandoned coal mines which contaminates more than 3,000 miles of streams and associated groundwaters and is the most extensive problem affecting Commonwealth water resources; and

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth is committed to a watershed approach to resource management where concerned community members come together as watershed guardians to address and resolve problems; and

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth empowers and assists local watershed organizations working in partnership as watershed guardians to help resolve or remediate current water quality and water quantity problems within watershed boundaries; and

WHEREAS, This watershed approach to environmental protection leads to cleaner rivers and streams, safer drinking water and greater protection of aquatic wildlife habitats; and

WHEREAS, There are more than 400 active watershed groups in this Commonwealth, and new watershed groups are forming continuously; and

WHEREAS, Educational forums connecting adults and children to their watersheds, including the land, water and people, ultimately provide long-term protection for these important and valuable water resources; and

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth recognizes and celebrates the efforts of hardworking volunteers within watershed groups who improve their communities today and for future generations; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate/House designate the month of May 2005 as "Watershed Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further RESOLVED, That the theme "Protect our Watersheds, Protect our Future" guide the many volunteer community organizations, educators and other groups conducting watershed education and awareness activities throughout the month.

Other News

PA Recycles Record 4.4 Million Tons in 2003

Pennsylvanians recycled a record 4.45 million tons of municipal waste in 2003, according to reports filed by Pennsylvania counties.

In addition to the environmental gains of diverting waste from landfills, the economic benefits of recycling are estimated at more than \$68 million.

The \$68 million figure comes from an analysis of commodity value of 1.4 million tons of Pennsylvania's 2003 recycling which totals more than \$50 million. If the remaining 3.3 million tons of other materials were valued at even half this amount, the total would be more than \$68 million.

This does not include the estimated value of avoided disposal, which can be calculated as more than \$240 million at the estimated statewide average disposal cost of \$54 per ton.

The Department of Environmental Protection made the latest recycling numbers available during a visit to the [Blue Mountain Recycling](#) in Philadelphia which uses a single-stream process that enables its recycling customers to easily combine all of their recyclables together in one container and then the company sorts it out.

The [City of Philadelphia](#) is partnering with Blue Mountain and [RecycleBank](#) to pilot a [new curbside recycling program in the City](#) that uses the single-stream process and incentives to promote participation.

So far, participation rates in the pilot are up significantly over City averages and the amount of recycled material collected per household have exceeded expectations.

Steel Recycling Hits 25-year High in the United States

The Steel Recycling Institute (SRI) announced this week the recycling rate for steel remained at 70.7 percent in 2004. However, total tons of steel recycled increased by over 7.2 million tons.

This dramatic increase, driven by an expanding market for steel, continues to position steel as the leader when it comes to recycling.

"Over 76 million tons of scrap steel recycled in 2004 was the most scrap recycled in the United States in over 25 years," said Bill Heenan, president of the Steel Recycling Institute. "But, more importantly, the composition of the tons recycled in 2004 contained almost 35 percent more obsolete scrap than in 1980. That's because as the steel industry has become a more efficient user of raw materials, it has increased the demand for post-consumer scrap, and the scrap industry continues to deliver end-of-life steel-dominated products back to the steel mills to be reborn into new products. The industry is now one of the largest consumers of recycled materials in the world. Truly, the American steel industry is forging a sustainable path to the benefit of future generations."

Heenan pointed out that the increased demand for steel scrap is helping to keep America beautiful.

"An example of this beautification was personally seen in the removal of two end-of-life vehicles from a wetland area in Western Pennsylvania," Heenan noted. "These two vehicles had sat in a wetland for over three years and then one Sunday while driving this

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

rural road, I noticed that both of the vehicles had been removed. I have no doubt that the increased value of steel lead a recycler to remove these vehicles and make sure that they became part of the recycling stream rather than littering a beautiful natural habitat."

The Steel Recycling Institute is an industry association that promotes and sustains the recycling of all steel products. The SRI educates the solid waste industry, government, business and ultimately the consumer about the benefits of steel's infinite recycling cycle.

For more information, visit the [Steel Recycling Institute webpage](#).

Waste Industries Association, Soft Drink Association Support Great PA Cleanup!

'Bring Us 10,000 Tons of Trash!'



"Bring us 10,000 tons of trash!" That's the challenge issued to volunteers in the 2nd annual Great PA Cleanup by landfill operators who belong to the [Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association](#) (PWIA).

Participating PWIA members are providing free disposal for the litter and trash that volunteers collect from roadways, parks, riverbanks, and open spaces on April 23. The cleanup is a statewide effort held in conjunction with Earth Day.

PWIA President Tom McMonigle estimated the value of free landfill disposal of 10,000 tons of trash at half a million dollars.

PWIA represents private-sector waste haulers and landfill operators in Pennsylvania and is a major sponsor of the Great PA Cleanup.

McMonigle said it wouldn't be possible for all trash to be hauled to landfills the same day it's collected, so participating landfills will accept trash from the cleanup for up to and including April 29.

Volunteers planning to take trash to a landfill should make sure they can document that they're registered participants in the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup, which is necessary to qualify for free disposal.

In addition to supporting projects like the Great PA Cleanup, PWIA is also a charter member of the [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Business Council](#).

PA Soft Drink Association Partner in Nine Great PA Cleanup Events

The [Pennsylvania Soft Drink Association](#) is donating 120 cases of bottled water and other beverages to nine local groups around the state in support of roadside, park and watershed cleanups to support the Great PA Cleanup! on April 23.

"The Great PA Cleanup! is a wonderful opportunity to show how much people do care and to convince others littering is not only wrong, but illegal," said Crisci. "We are glad our member companies can make the volunteers efforts a little more comfortable by providing some refreshments along the way."

In 2004 over 100,000 people participated in roadside and streamside cleanups across Pennsylvania through The Great PA Cleanup! picking up over 233,000 bags of trash.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

“Beverage companies are pleased to join forces with public agencies, the waste industry, recycling groups, tourist organizations, farm and sportsmen groups from all over Pennsylvania to be part of this unique event,” said Crisci. “Specifically, we want to thank DEP Secretary Kathleen McGinty and Transportation Secretary Allen Biehler for putting together this initiative.”

Member companies are providing beverages to the following cleanups—

- Allegheny County: Hazelwood Greenway Cleanup
- Blair County: Canoe Creek State Park Cleanup
- Bucks County: Tamanend Park Cleanup in Southampton
- Crawford County: Downtown Meadville Cleanup
- Dauphin County: Elmerton Ave., North Cameron Street Cleanup
- Luzerne County: Abraham’s Creek Cleanup
- Lycoming County: Lycoming Creek Watershed Cleanup
- Montgomery County: Ft. Washington State Park Cleanup
- Schuylkill County: Schuylkill Keep It Pretty Cleanup in Pottsville

For more information on the Great PA Cleanup! visit www.KeepPaBeautiful.org .

The PA Soft Drink Association has supported the Great PA Cleanup! since it began in 2004 and is a founding member of [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](http://www.KeepPennsylvaniaBeautiful.org), a nonprofit group dedicated to anti-littering education and beautification projects and a state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful.

For more information, visit the [PA Soft Drink Association webpage](http://www.PASoftDrinkAssociation.org).

TreeVitalize to Teach Citizens How to Plant and Care for Trees

[TreeVitalize](http://www.TreeVitalize.org), a partnership to restore tree cover in the five-county region in Southeastern Pennsylvania, will be offering classes this spring to educate residents about planting and caring for trees starting as early as April 27.

The training course is designed for lay people and experts alike, and will offer nine or 12 hours of classroom and field training covering: tree biology; urban stresses; tree identification; pruning; root care; fundraising; media outreach; volunteer management and working with local governments.

The training was designed and is being taught by staff from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and Penn State Cooperative Extension. The first training dates are:

Bucks County: Silver Lake Nature Center, 1306 Bath Road, Bristol Township
Nine hour class: June 16, 23 and 30 6 - 9 p.m.

Montgomery County: Curtis Arboretum, Greenwood Ave., Wyncote, Cheltenham Township
Nine hour class: May 19, 26 and June 1 from 6 - 9 p.m.

Philadelphia: Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 100 N. 5th Street, 5th Floor
12 Hour Class: April 27, May 4, May 11 5:45 - 8:45 p.m., May 7 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

Students are expected to volunteer time to community tree planting projects in exchange for training. Groups also may qualify for free or discounted trees upon completing the program.

TreeVitalize aims to educate as many as 2,000 citizens in tree planting and care over the next three years. The \$8 million program also has a goal of planting more than 20,000 shade trees in neighborhoods in Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources oversees TreeVitalize and has partnered with: the state Department of Environmental Protection; Aqua Pennsylvania; Philadelphia Eagles; PECO, an Exelon Co.; U.S. Forest Service; Pennsylvania Horticultural Society; Morris Arboretum; William Penn Foundation; Pennsylvania Landscape and Nursery Association; and county and local governments.

Registration for all classes is required. Classes are open to all residents of the five county region.

For more information about the classes, contact Mindy Maslin at the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society at 215-988-8844 or register online at the [Pennsylvania Horticultural Society webpage](#).

Visit the [TreeVitalize webpage](#) for more information on this and other parts of the program.

Funding OK'd for Redevelopment of Strip Mined Area

The [Commonwealth Financing Authority](#) approved \$6.9 million for the expansion of the water and sewer system servicing more than 4,500 acres surrounding Pittsburgh International Airport in Allegheny County.

The Findlay Township has partnered with Imperial Land Corporation to reclaim and develop the former strip mine land surrounding the airport, which will allow for the development of three industrial sites.

The Clinton Industrial Park, a 100-acre site, will primarily focus on distribution and logistics of markets. The Route 30 Industrial Park, to be situated on 120-acres, will target a variety of industrial/flex buildings.

The Imperial Land Industrial Park, a 1,260-acre site, will target industrial, warehousing, flex, technology and some commercial use. The development is expected to leverage \$500 million in private investment and create 15,865 jobs between the three industrial parks. The Clinton site was previously awarded \$7.5 million in Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) funds and the Route 30 site was awarded \$4 million in RACP funds.

The Commonwealth Financing Authority is a seven-member board, created to administer and fund projects from programs that are part of the Economic Stimulus Package. In addition to PennWorks, the CFA oversees Business in Our Sites, the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Guarantee, First Industries Fund, New PA Venture Capital Investment, New Pennsylvania Venture Guarantee, Building PA, and the and Second Stage Loan programs.

For more information on economic stimulus programs that could benefit brownfields and greyfields redevelopment, visit the www.newPA.com website or call 1-866-GO-NEWPA (1-866-466-3972).

300,000 acres+ Preserved at Farmland Preservation Board Meeting

The Department of Agriculture this week announced that 53 additional farms, totaling 5,674 acres, were preserved during the state farmland preservation board meeting in Harrisburg. Pennsylvania now has more than 300,000 acres of farmland preserved.

The farms preserved during this week's meeting represent 23 counties including: Adams, Bedford, Berks, Butler, Clinton, Dauphin, Huntingdon, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Mifflin, Monroe, Northampton, Perry, Potter, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Tioga, Washington, Westmoreland, Wyoming and York.

Fifty-five of Pennsylvania's 67 counties are currently enrolled in the program.

Pennsylvania continues to lead the nation in the total number of farms and acreage preserved for agriculture. Currently, 2,618 farms and 301,120 acres have been protected through the state program.

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

TMDL Plan Set for Skippack Creek Watershed, Montgomery County

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Environmental Protection have finalized the Total Maximum Daily Loads Plan for the [Skippack Creek Watershed](#) in Montgomery County.

Skippack Creek is a 15.2 mile stream that begins in Souderton Borough and flows generally southwest where it meets the Perkiomen Creek. Major tributaries in the creek's 56-square mile basin include the West Branch of Skippack Creek, Towamencin Creek and Zacharias Creek.

Once the water body is impaired, a TMDL must be developed to set the maximum amount of a specific pollutants that an estuary, lake or river can receive. After that load amount is calculated, specified sources of that pollutant in the watershed are required to reduce their contributions of the contaminant to specified levels. EPA developed these TMDLs to meet the requirements under a court order to resolve a civil suit.

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

Tulpehocken & Quittapahilla Watersheds Have Grants Available

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission announced this week that \$49,961 is available for grants for stream restoration, habitat enhancement, and recreational enhancement activities on streams located in the Tulpehocken and Quittapahilla Creek watersheds.

Applications must be received by the PFBC no later than June 30.

This funding is available through a settlement agreement between the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission and AES Ironwood, L.L.C. related to the operation of an electric generation facility located in South Lebanon Township, Lebanon County, PA.

The grants can be used for stand-alone projects or to supplement other funding for larger projects that are designed to improve aquatic habitat, water quality, or recreational use. Examples of activities include fishery habitat restoration or enhancement; fish

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

stocking; fishing access; maintenance or creation of facilities to encourage, improve or expand recreational use of the fishery; or studies related to these issues.

The program will continue on an annual basis throughout the life of the AES Ironwood Power Plant.

For more information about applying for this grant program, please contact the PFBC at 814-359-5147.

Kodak American Greenways Grants Program

The [Kodak American Greenways Awards Program](#), a partnership project of the Eastman Kodak Company, the Conservation Fund, and the National Geographic Society, provides small grants to stimulate the planning and design of greenways in communities throughout America.

Applications may be submitted by June 1.

Greenways are corridors of protected public and private land established along rivers, stream valleys, ridges, abandoned railroad corridors, utility right-of-way, canals, scenic roads, or other linear features. In general, grants can be used for all appropriate expenses needed to complete a greenway project including planning, technical assistance, legal and other costs., annually.

For more information visit the [Kodak American Greenways Awards Program webpage](#). (*courtesy Watershed Weekly*)

Special “Green Makes \$ense” and “Earth Day 2005” Publications Still Available

Copies of two special publications from *PA Environment Digest* will continue to be available online-- [Earth Day 2005 – At Home, On the Farm, At School](#) and [Green Makes \\$ense – Save Money, Be Green](#) .

[Green Makes \\$ense – Save Money, Be Green](#) shows how you can join businesses and organizations that saved over \$1 billion in operating costs by turning to green technologies, becoming more energy efficient and reducing waste and water use.

[Earth Day 2005 – At Home, On the Farm, At School](#) shows you practical ways to save money around the home and on the farm by using less energy, water and recycling and composting your waste. It also includes resources for educators, parents and homeschoolers on how to teach valuable environmental lessons to students of all ages.

EPA Employees Reduce Their ‘Environmental Footprint,’ You Can Too!

Attention building managers and office employees - - Earth Day is the perfect time to start a program to protect the environment and save your company money. It’s called reducing your environmental footprint.

Across the country, people are creating environmentally friendly systems that protect the environment, provide cost savings and increase employee morale.

It is not as complicated as it sounds. The basic idea of an environmental management system is to prevent pollution before it happens. Whether your goal is to start a program to be a recognized as a certified environmental management system, or

just look for a few good ideas to reduce, reuse, and recycle materials, there is no time better to start than now.

At the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3 office in Philadelphia, employees are always looking for ways to prevent pollution. Recently, the focus has been on ways to reduce gasoline, electricity, and paper.

Since 2002, EPA's regional office and has reduced paper consumption by 30 percent, reduced annual electricity usage by 135,000 kilowatt-hours per year, and 93 percent of the employees take public transportation to work.

People who wish to reduce their environmental footprint must identify where changes could be made. Many businesses start by adding energy efficient lighting and equipment. Others start by recycling all the paper used in the office. Each employee, working as a part of a team, analyzes his or her own work environment to find ways to prevent pollution.

In 1982, the **School District of Philadelphia**, the fifth largest school district in the country, launched an energy savings campaign. The District consumes electricity, gas, oil, and steam at a total annual cost of \$27 million. By 2002, the energy saving campaign has saved the district \$150 million in utility bills.

The **Rubenstein Company of Philadelphia**, a building management company, has realized energy cost savings of 40 percent without sacrificing comfort or tenant satisfaction in its four buildings. These reductions are equivalent to planting 1,344 acres of trees annually, or powering 654 American homes annually.

For additional energy savings examples and associated cost savings visit the [Mid-Atlantic Energy Star Program website](#).

Also visit EPA Region 3's website designed to [help businesses reduce their Environmental Footprint](#)

A complete fact sheet on [EPA Region 3 environmental management system accomplishments](#) is also available online.

Workshops Teach How to Save Energy in Manufacturing, Industrial Settings

Pennsylvania's Industries of the Future Program, trade groups, the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Industrial Technology Program and DEP's Office of Energy & Technology Development have scheduled a series of workshops across the state in May and June to help companies identify potential energy savings in a manufacturing and industrial settings.

Operating energy-intensive equipment and systems including large motors, fan and pumping systems, air compressors, boiler and steam systems, and process heating equipment significantly increases energy costs.

The workshops will outline industry's best management practices to help improve industrial competitiveness by lowering production costs.

Energy-saving workshops currently scheduled include:

- May 4 - Steam System Assessment, Spirax Sarco, Inc., Center Valley, Lehigh County.

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- May 18 - Process Heating Assessment, Osram Sylvania, Towanda, Bradford County
- June 16 - Compressed Air Systems, DRAW Services, Upper Darby, Philadelphia
- Sept. 13 - Steam System Assessment, ETAC, McKeesport, Allegheny County
- Sept. 19 - Process Heating Assessment, Assoc. of Iron & Steel, Warrendale, Allegheny County

Taught by DOE-qualified instructors, these full-day events provide the latest energy-saving techniques and software tools available to assess and optimize process performance and equipment operation.

Although aimed primarily at industrial operations, commercial operations, institutions, schools, colleges, and hospitals are also welcome to participate.

For more details and registration information, visit the [Best Practices' workshops webpage](#) on the Pennsylvania Industries of the Future website or contact Richard Illig, DEP Program Specialist at 717-772-5834, or by e-mail to rillig@state.pa.us

Six of Top 25 Green Power Purchasers in U.S. Do Business in PA

Six of the top 25 purchasers of green power in the United States do business or are located in Pennsylvania, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

The group includes (in order of amounts purchased)—Johnson & Johnson (#2), Staples (#11), University of Pennsylvania (#12), Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (#15), FedEx Kinkos (#16) and Pennsylvania State University (#24).

The top 25 green power purchasers are buying enough energy to run more than 150,000 homes a year, purchasing more than 1.6 million MWh (megawatt hours) of green power annually.

Green power is electricity from environmentally-preferable renewable resources such as solar, wind, or geothermal power. Green power currently accounts for about two percent of America's electricity supply, but voluntary purchasing of renewable energy is accelerating renewable energy development.

The complete list of [Top 25 EPA Green Power Partners](#) is available online.

The [Green Power Partnership](#) is an EPA voluntary program working to standardize green power procurement as part of best practice environmental management. Partners in the program pledge to switch to green power for a portion of their electricity needs in return for EPA technical assistance and recognition.

The Green Power Partnership currently includes more than 550 Partners, including Fortune 500 companies, states, federal agencies, trade associations and universities.

DEP Invites Green Technology, Service Companies on China Trade Mission

Speaking at the PA Chamber's Environmental Law and Regulation Conference this week, Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen McGinty invited companies with green technologies and services to contact the agency if they are interested in being part of an upcoming trade mission to China.

The mission is being organized by the Department of Community and Economic Development.

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

DEP's contact for the effort is Eugene DePasquale, DEP's Deputy for Community Revitalization and Local Government Support. His phone is 717-783-1566 or send email to: edepasqual@state.pa.us.

Schools Awarded PPL Environmental Education Grants

Seven schools are receiving more than \$10,000 to support their earth science programs as part of [PPL's Project Earth Environmental Education Grants program](#).

Students across the state are monitoring the ecology of streams, planting gardens to study the life cycle of plants and the insects they attract and working with conservation organizations and government officials to restore outdoor areas with the help of PPL grants.

Through [PPL's Project Earth](#) Environmental Education Grants program, teachers can receive up to \$1,500 in funding for school projects that focus on issues such as watersheds and wetlands, air quality, renewable resources, energy conservation and the greening of schools.

The projects enhance established classroom curricula and academic standards, or support extracurricular activities of school organizations and clubs. A team of teachers and PPL employees choose the winning projects.

Awarded grants in Pennsylvania are:

- Muhlenberg Elementary School, Allentown.
- Allentown Central Catholic High School, Allentown.
- East Hills Middle School, Bethlehem.
- Fawn Area Elementary School, Fawn Grove.
- Lemoyne Middle School, Lemoyne.
- Pen Argyl Area High School, Pen Argyl.
- Paradise Elementary School, Thomasville.

PPL sponsors the Environmental Education Grant program as part of PPL Project Earth, an initiative to educate the public about energy resources and the environment.

Columbia Gas Awards Local NiSource Environmental Challenge Grants

To commemorate Earth Day 2005, Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, a wholly owned subsidiary of NiSource Inc., awarded 14 grants totaling \$34,000 through the [NiSource Environmental Challenge Fund](#).

Organizations and the projects receiving funding this year are:

- National Pike Trail Council (Claysville, Pa.) - Streambank Stabilization and Environmental Cleanup - \$3,500;
- Centre County Solid Waste Authority (Bellefonte, Pa.) - Centre County Household Hazardous Waste Collection - \$2,500;
- Education Innovations (Pittsburgh, Pa.) - NatureLAB Community - \$3,500;
- Pennsylvania Environmental Council (Franklin, Pa.) - Stream Bank Revitalization Demonstration - \$5,000;
- Township of Upper St. Clair (Pittsburgh, Pa.) - McLaughlin Run Streambank Planting - \$1,000;

PA Environment Digest – Holston & Crisci

- Township of Upper St. Clair (Pittsburgh, Pa.) - Bluebird Project - \$500;
- Conservation Society of York County (Brogue, Pa.) - Bonham-Wake-Robin Wildlife Sanctuary Wildlife Floodplot - \$3,000;
- Municipality of Mt. Lebanon (Pittsburgh, Pa.) - Bird Park Streambank Stabilization Demonstration - \$3,500;
- Ten Mile Valley National Wild Turkey Federation (Washington, Pa.) - Western Pennsylvania Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project - \$3,500;
- McDonald Sportsman's Club (Midway, Pa.) - Venture Crew 1390 Small Bird Habitat Restoration - \$2,000;
- Independence Marsh Foundation (Aliquippa, Pa.) - Kennedy Hill Restoration - \$2,500;
- Student Conservation Association (Pittsburgh, Pa.) - Native Plant Restoration Partnership - \$2,500;
- Washington County Watershed Alliance (Washington, Pa.) - Cross Creek Stream Assessment and Study - \$500;
- Gettysburg Battlefield Preservation Association (Gettysburg, Pa.) - Wildlife Nesting and Wetlands Access Project - \$500.

The [Environmental Challenge Fund](#), a not-for-profit corporation, offers an annual grant competition that supports local natural resource and wildlife enhancement projects and related educational efforts in communities across NiSource's market area in 19 states.

Within Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania's communities, a local Environmental Challenge Fund Advisory Board reviewed and selected the winning proposals from 35 grant requests submitted earlier this year.

In total, NiSource operating companies are awarding about \$208,000 in grants to not-for-profit organizations in conjunction with Earth Day 2005.

Falcon Eggs Should Hatch Soon, New Bat Cam Available on Web

The eggs in two Peregrine Falcon nests—one in Pittsburgh and one in Harrisburg—should be hatching over the next few weeks.

You can watch live video of the [nest online](#) in Harrisburg at the Rachel Carson State Office Building and constantly updated still photos of the [nest at the Gulf Tower nest in Pittsburgh](#), courtesy of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

Now you can also look in on one of the largest bat colonies in Pennsylvania located in an abandoned church in Canoe Creek State Park in Blair County.

The new [Bat Cam](#) is a joint effort with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Pennsylvania Game Commission and PennFuture.

Two camera views are available in the attic – one trained on the entrance, and another on a baffle inside the attic where bats like to roost.

In addition to the live feed, the website also features information on the endangered Indiana bat and the conservation efforts being undertaken to protect it; education on how bats navigate in the dark; what other bats live in Pennsylvania; and how to build a home for bats in your backyard.

Visitors to the website can also see the Bat Gallery, with photos taken last year during the batcam's testing phase.

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Funding from the Wild Resource Conservation Fund helped to buy the church and protect the bat colony.

Remember that bats are nocturnal, so there isn't much going on during the day!

Game Commission Offers Advice – Don't Attract Bears

Among the wildlife becoming more visible as the weather gets warmer in Pennsylvania are roughly 15,000 black bears, all of which will be looking for food.

Food for bears is typically scarce in the spring until vegetation begins to green-up, but bears emerging from dens need to find food after fasting for several months.

Therefore sightings and, in some cases, conflicts increase as bears look for food, including in backyards.

Food placed outside for any reason - whether it is food for wildlife or pets or unsecured garbage -- is food available for bears. Homeowners should begin now to remove food sources or make them unavailable to bears

The Pennsylvania Game Commission suggests:

Do not feed wildlife. Food placed outside for wildlife, such as corn for squirrels, may attract bears. Even bird feeders can become "bear magnets." If you do chose to feed songbirds during the summer, Pennsylvania Audubon offers some tips, including: avoid foods that are particularly attractive for bears, such as sunflower seeds, hummingbird nectar mixes or suet; bring feeders inside at night; or suspend feeders from high crosswires so they are at least 10 feet above the ground and four feet away from anything a bear can climb, including overhead limbs.

Keep it clean. Don't put out garbage until pick-up day; don't throw table scraps out back; don't add fruit or vegetable wastes to your compost pile; and clean your barbecue grill regularly. If you have pets and feed them outdoors, consider placing food dishes inside overnight. Encourage your neighbors to do the same.

Keep your distance. If a bear shows up in your backyard, stay calm. Shout at it like you would to chase an unwanted dog. Don't approach it. If the bear won't leave, call the nearest Game Commission regional office or local police department for assistance.

Eliminate temptation. Bears that visit your area are often drawn there. Neighbors need to work together to reduce an area's appeal to bears. Promptly report road-killed deer to ensure their quick removal. Ask area businesses to keep dumpsters closed and bear-proofed (chained or locked shut).

Check please! If your dog is barking, or cat is clawing at the door to get in, try to determine what has alarmed your pet. But do it cautiously, using outside lights to full advantage and from a safe position, such as a porch or an upstairs window. All unrecognizable outside noises and disturbances should be checked, but don't do it on foot with a flashlight. Black bears blend in too well with nighttime surroundings providing the chance for a close encounter.

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Get Back. If you have surprised a bear, slowly back away while talking softly. Face the bear, but avoid direct eye contact. Do not turn and run; rapid movement may be perceived as danger to a bear that is already feeling threatened. Avoid blocking the bear's only escape route and try to move away from any cubs you see or hear. Do not attempt to climb a tree. A mother bear may falsely interpret this as an attempt to get at her cubs, even though the cubs may be in a different tree.

Pay Attention. If a bear is displaying signs of nervousness with your presence, such as pacing, swinging its head, or popping its jaws, leave the area. Some bears may bluff charge to within a few feet. If this occurs, stand your ground, wave your arms wildly, and shout at the bear. Turning and running could elicit a chase and you cannot outrun a bear. **Fight Back.** If a bear attacks, fight back as you continue to leave the area. Bears have been driven away with rocks, sticks, binoculars, car keys, or even bare hands.

To report nuisance bears, contact the Game Commission Region Office nearest you. The toll-free numbers are: Northwest Region Office in Franklin, 1-877-877-0299; Southwest Region Office in Ligonier, 1-877-877-7137; Northcentral Region Office in Jersey Shore, 1-877-877-7674; Southcentral Region Office in Huntingdon, 1-877-877-9107; Northeast Region Office in Dallas, 1-877-877-9357; and Southeast Region Office in Reading, 1-877-877-9470.

For more information, visit the [Black Bears webpage](#) on the Game Commission website.

Fish Commission Advises – Water Is Still Cold

While air temperatures are on the rise, water remains dangerously cold. Anyone boating, fishing or recreating in and around streams and lakes should keep that in mind, according to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission.

Boating fatalities over the last 10 years show that of the 112 boaters who died in accidents, 38 died during March, April and May, many from simple accidents like capsized boats.

A simple stumble in a trout stream could turn serious quickly when cold water comes into the equation. Sudden immersion into cold water delivers a brutal shock to the body's system, triggering a spontaneous inhalation reflex. The involuntary gasping often results in the victim's lungs filling with water. Disoriented and without oxygen, victims can drown within seconds. The shock to sudden immersion in cold water can cause cardiac arrest.

If the victim is fortunate to survive the immediate reactions, hypothermia - the lowering of the body's core temperature - starts to take its toll. Cold water robs the body's heat a minimum of 25 times faster than air of the same temperature. Hypothermia begins with shivering and a loss of feeling in the extremities. Cold, blue skin, decreased mental skills, and slurred speech are common symptoms, all of which make it difficult - if not impossible - for a victim to perform self-rescue. Eventually, unconsciousness and/or death settles in. More often, if the person is still in the water, he will drown.

The PFBC offers a few, common sense tips for dealing with cold water:

- Wear a life jacket. It will save you when you can't save yourself.

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- Eat high-energy foods like carbohydrates, candy, fruit, etc. This will keep your fire "stoked" and will help prevent hypothermia.
- Let others know your plans and if possible, don't go alone. Self-rescue is extremely difficult in cold water. Your odds of survival go up if there are other members of your party nearby to lend aid.
- Wear appropriate clothing. Layered clothing can help prevent hypothermia. Cotton clothing should be avoided because it doesn't provide insulation when wet.
- If you find yourself falling into cold water, cover your mouth and nose with your hands. The shock of sudden immersion into cold water causes you to take a sharp breath in. Covering your airway lessens the likelihood of inhaling water.
- If you are boating and find yourself in the water, attempt to get back into your boat. If it has capsized, climb on top of the boat.
- If you are wading and fall in moving water, tuck your knees to your chest. This traps air in your waders, which helps keep you buoyant. Keep your feet up to avoid entanglement. Only attempt to stand when you are in shallow, slower moving water.
- If you can't get out of the water and shore is too far, get into the "HELP" position (Heat Escape Lessening Posture). Bring your knees to your chest and wrap your arms across your chest to slow the loss of body heat.
- Once on dry land, do not remove your clothing. Even wet, it provides some insulation.
- Get to warmth quickly. Recognize the signs of hypothermia and respond accordingly. Seek medical assistance if need be.

Taking Positive Action

Follow the Leaders- Students, Companies, Non-Profits, Government

Here are seven stories of environmental leadership from across Pennsylvania where students, companies, non-profit groups and government organizations have been recognized for their activities to improve the environment or educate others on stewardship.

Philadelphia Million Solar Roofs Partnership Recognized for Excellence

The [Philadelphia Million Solar Roofs Community Partnership](#) (PMSR) was recognized this week as one of 11 winners of the [2004 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence](#) for its Norris Square Solar Project.

The Norris Square Solar Project involved the installation of 1.2-kilowatt PV systems on eight Los Balcones row homes constructed in 1993 at 128-142 Norris Street. The systems, which are expected to lower each resident's electric bill by 15 to 25 percent, began operating in November 2004.

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This was the first photovoltaic (PV) installation to benefit the residents of affordable housing in Philadelphia, and the largest solar photovoltaic installation in Philadelphia to date.

The overall goal of PMSR, administered by the Energy Coordinating Agency of Philadelphia, is to make affordable housing even more so by reducing low-income residents' utility bills.

NewsClip: [Million Solar Roofs Partnership Recognized](#)

Giant Eagle, King of Prussia Associates Win Recycling Awards

[Giant Eagle Inc.](#) of Pittsburgh and King of Prussia Associates of Montgomery County, were among the winners of the 2004 [America's Marketplace Recycles!](#) Awards presented by the International Council of Shopping Centers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The awards recognize outstanding efforts and achievements by ICSC members to conserve resources, recycle and purchase recycled content products at shopping centers across the country. U.S. shopping centers generate a wide variety of materials that are prime candidates for recycling, including: corrugated cardboard, mixed paper, glass, plastic, metals, food waste, landscape trimmings and shipping pallets.

Giant Eagle was named winner of the Outstanding Retailer award. Giant Eagle maintains an extensive plastic bag recycling and waste reduction program. In 2004, over 322 tons of plastic was recycled system-wide. At the store level, cashiers credit customers with 5 cents for each bag reused. Giant Eagle is a national leader in conservation efforts and has been an EPA certified Energy Star Leader for two consecutive years.

King of Prussia Associates was named Outstanding Shopping Center Owner/Developer. The group has instituted a comprehensive recycling program, including: food court waste, plastics and paper - throughout its three properties. In recent years there has been a steady increase in both the volume of materials recycled and the percentage of total waste that is recycled rather than landfilled.

NewsClip: [PA Companies Recognized with Recycling Awards](#)

PA Army National Guard Wins Award for Environmental Excellence

The Department of Environmental Protection this week recognized the Pennsylvania Army National Guard as one of 11 winners of the [2004 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence](#) for reducing air pollutants in the organization's routine paint and coating operations by more than two tons annually.

The Pennsylvania Army National Guard Combined Support Maintenance Shop East facility, located in Lebanon County, replaced its solvent-borne coating with the new water-dispersible chemical agent resistant coatings (CARC) for routine surface coating operations.

The water dispersible coating emits virtually no hazardous air pollutants, and the content of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), precursors to smog, is lower than the standard solvent-based coating used throughout the Army --- 1.8 pounds per gallon compared to 35 pounds per gallon.

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By changing the process to water-dispersible CARC, the facility will reduce VOC emissions by 2.6 tons in the first year. Twenty fewer pounds of lead and chromate will be emitted. A similar reduction will be seen in particulate emissions, since silicates have been removed from the formulation as well. The paint provides 10 times the durability, offering even greater pollution prevention return in the future, as equipment will not have to be re-painted as frequently.

NewsClip: [Pa Army National Guard Wins Environmental Excellence Award](#)

Pfizer Inc. Recognized for Environmental Excellence

The Department of Environmental Protection this week recognized Pfizer Inc. as one of 11 winners of the [2004 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence](#) for its work on the New Street Ecological Park in Lititz, Lancaster County. Pfizer is the world's largest research-based pharmaceutical company.

Pfizer provided funding to reshape a portion of the Santo Domingo Creek, a tributary of the Conestoga River that runs through New Street Park. The restoration returned this section of creek to its historic elevation and removed silt that built up in and around the stream. This project was later designated as the pilot project for Pennsylvania's fledgling Conestoga River Watershed Nutrient Trading Project.

The project represents a breakthrough on several fronts in Pennsylvania's ongoing efforts to stem the tide of sediment and nutrient pollution being carried downstream to the Chesapeake Bay. Among those breakthroughs: a partnership among private and public entities, a pilot project for nutrient trading and an example of underemployed methods to reduce sediment and nutrient pollution in waterways.

This is the second consecutive year Pfizer won the award. The company was recognized in 2003 for a four percent reduction in energy use in 2002 --- a decrease of more than 2 million kilowatt hours, the equivalent of the annual energy use of roughly 100 single-family homes.

NewsClip: [Pfizer Recognized by Environmental Excellence Award](#)

Allegheny County Health Announces Enviro Star Award Winners

The Allegheny County Health Department is honoring 23 local businesses, institutions and individuals with Enviro Star awards for implementing voluntary pollution prevention programs.

The awards were presented to the following businesses, institutions and individuals:

- Southwest Pennsylvania Household Hazardous Waste Task Force, for sponsoring household hazardous waste collection programs.
- Pittsburgh School District, for making a commitment to reduce energy consumption.
- Gateway School District, for an environmental science class project that monitors water quality.
- Alcoa, for its Energy Efficiency Network which has helped the company become more energy efficient.
- Carnegie Mellon University, for building a "green" and energy efficient residence hall.

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- Interfaith Power and Light, for promoting energy efficiency in local churches.
- Eric Beckman of the University of Pittsburgh, for developing and licensing a process for turning carbon dioxide into a powerful yet environmentally benign solvent with commercial applications.
- U.S. Steel Mon Valley Works, for reducing hazardous waste.
- Giant Eagle, for making its stores more energy efficient.
- Wesley Center AME Zion Church, for making its church more energy efficient.
- General Electric Consumer Products Bridgeville Glass Plant, for reducing hazardous waste.
- Pittsburgh Brewery, for reducing energy and water consumption.
- Kazansky's Deli, for reducing waste generation as well as energy and water consumption
- Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ, for installing energy-efficient light and heating.
- Group Against Smog and Pollution, for an anti-idling education campaign.
- Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, for an in-vessel composting system.
- Carnegie Library - Hill District, for increasing energy efficiency
- Emory United Methodist Church, for reducing energy consumption.
- Overflow Connection, for encouraging citizen action to prevent sewer overflows.
- Homewood-Brushton Athletic Association, for recycling used athletic shoes into a basketball floor.
- Giant Eagle East Liberty Supermarket, for a new "green" building with an energy-efficient design.
- U.S. Steel Clairton Works, for reductions in air emissions and water discharges.
- Valspar Coating, for reducing hazardous wastes, air emissions and energy consumption.

NewsClip: [Allegheny Health Dept. Announces Enviro Star Awards](#)

Green Woods Charter School Wins EPA Award

Green Woods Charter School in Philadelphia was recently given the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's [Schuylkill Action Network](#) Sector Source Water Protection Award for 2005 for the work 4th grade students are doing to protect their local watershed.

This year, the fourth grade students are learning how streams are related to their watershed and during their research, they soon discovered how the people in the Philadelphia region depend on their watershed for drinking water, commerce, recreation, and as a buffer for stormwater. These 4th graders also participate in the Student Water Monitoring Network and continually monitor the water quality in their local streams.

In addition, they participate in other stewardship projects on behalf of their adopted stream, such as creating brush habitat for the small animals that come to the stream, and helping to build barricades to prevent walkers from taking a short-cut across the stream.

NewsClip: [Green Woods Charter School Wins EPA Award](#)

Students Receive Awards to Commemorate Earth Day 2005

Twelve students are winners in a [middle school environmental poster contest](#) sponsored by the Allegheny County Health Department in commemoration of Earth Day 2005, April 22.

The theme of the contest was "SOS-Energy" or "Save Our Supply of Energy," with an emphasis on energy conservation and efficiency.

The winners, who represent 12 schools that participated in the poster contest, are:

- Joshua Smith, grand prize winner, a 7th grader at St. Cyril Of Alexandra in Brighton Heights.
- Theresa Nee, a 6th grader at St. Gabriel School in Whitehall.
- Kenny Mason, an 8th grader at St. Colman School in Turtle Creek.
- Emma Fraser, a 6th grader at Linton Middle School in Penn Hills.
- Kaelyn Conley, a 7th grader at Moon Area Middle School
- Sarah D'Allessandro, a 7th grader at S.S. Peter and Paul School in Beaver.
- Nena Bell, a 6th grader at South Allegheny Elementary School.
- Brad Sevener, a 6th grader at Ingomar Middle School in McCandless
- Emily Fisher, a 6th grader at St. Bernadette School in Monroeville.
- Katie Welsh, a 6th grader at St. Joan of Arc School in South Park.
- Ben Hammel, a 7th grader at St. Irenaeus School in Oakmont.
- Brady Hunzeker, a 6th grader at Verner Elementary School in Verona.

The grand prize-winning poster and the school-winning posters are displayed on the [Allegheny County Health Department's website](#).

Special Watershed Feature

A Significant Milestone for the Lehigh River and Its Watershed

By *Tom Kerr*, President, [Wildlands Conservancy](#)

On 5 February 2005, the Lehigh River was placed on the [Pennsylvania Rivers Conservation Registry](#). Surely one of the river's most significant milestones, this achievement has great implications for its future.

The process began with three years of intensive and detailed research and analysis to create a comprehensive, 600-page guidebook entitled the [Lehigh River Watershed Conservation Management Plan](#).

Wildlands Conservancy completed the study, and then petitioned the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to place the river on the state's registry of rivers.

The purpose of the Lehigh River Watershed Conservation Management Plan is to: identify the cultural, natural, biological, historical, and recreational resources of the watershed; identify problems; seek solutions; and list recommendations for the preservation, protection, and enhancement of the Lehigh River and its watershed.



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The listing of the entire 1,345-square-mile watershed on the state's registry makes improvement, acquisition, and planning projects enumerated in the management plan eligible for funding from the state.

Of course, many more dollars than the state alone can provide will be needed to complete these projects. When the state invests in its resources, the decision makers like to do so in a planful manner, and it's often done on a watershed basis.

The management plan creates a watershed-based course of action. As such, it is the lens through which the state and others look when making funding decisions. The completion of the plan and the placement of the river on the registry proclaim the Lehigh Rivers' readiness for engagement.

The Lehigh River Watershed Conservation Management Plan lists eight broad goals:

- Protect and preserve cultural and historical resources;
- Improve water quality in the watershed;
- Protect significant and valuable land components;
- Protect biological resources;
- Increase and enhance watershed recreational opportunities;
- Promote municipal watershed stewardship;
- Promote environmental awareness, knowledge, skills, support, and stewardship commitment; and
- Monitor and update watershed resource information on a continuing basis.

Wildlands Conservancy is also ready for engagement. Following the progression from planning to action, Wildlands Conservancy's board of directors recently adopted a five-year strategic plan that includes these seven general goals.

In addition to these goals, the organization will continue its existing programs, as well as be selectively responsive to ideas and energies that emerge from whatever source.

- Shelter 7,750 acres of high-priority lands within the Lehigh Valley, Lehigh River watershed, and beyond.
- Reduce abandoned mine drainage impacts to the Lehigh River by 50 percent.
- Restore, preserve, and enhance five miles of stream corridors on the Monocacy, Little Lehigh, and Jordan creeks, as well as other high-priority watersheds.
- Make environmental-education opportunities available to every K-12 student in the Lehigh Valley and the Lehigh River watershed. Engage 75,000 students in our education programming over the next five years.
- Implement ten projects utilizing Best Management Practices (BMPs), native plants, and educational signage that promote environmental stewardship on the Conservancy's sanctuaries and preserves.
- Expand the recreational open spaces in the region by establishing two linking trails, one greenway, four river accesses, and multiple programs.
- Work to inform the residents of the region about the organization's mission, its breadth of programs, and the services it can provide to the community. Motivate them to support the organization and to utilize those services.

The Conservancy has already begun and/or completed a number of "early-implementation" projects listed in the management plan and our strategic plan. Below are just a few of our most recent projects. There are many more in process.

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- [Produced the State of the Lehigh River Report](#) – Functioning largely as the “executive summary” of the much larger [Lehigh River Watershed Conservation Management Plan](#), this attractive and highly readable report summarizes the findings and recommendations of the larger plan. It has been distributed freely throughout the region.
- Established the [Lehigh River Water Trail](#) – Twenty officially designated access points along 72 miles of the Lehigh River from White Haven to Easton were identified, mapped, photographed, and marked with signs. With the help of the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, two physical maps were created depicting the river. The maps are tied to an interactive website that reveals substantial detail about access points, directions, dams, rapids, restrooms, and much more.
- Completed the [Lausanne Tunnel Abandoned Mine Drainage Remediation Project](#) – Last summer, we completed the construction of a special wetland at the mouth of the 24,000-foot Lausanne Tunnel on the Nesquehoning Creek near Jim Thorpe. The 1½-acre wetland consists of two ponds that passively treat about 4,000 gallons per minute of contaminated mine water emanating from the tunnel before it flows into the Lehigh River. When the process is fully functional (it needs another growing season for the plants to mature), it will substantially reduce the effect of a daily load of approximately 300 pounds of aluminum, 300 pounds of manganese, 40,000 pounds of sulfate, and 500 pounds of iron.
- Opened the Lehigh River Watershed Exhibit Center – Housed in the Conservancy’s Trexler Environmental Education Center at the [Pool Wildlife Sanctuary in Emmaus](#), this state-of-the-art exhibit is comprised of a dozen displays and hands-on activities depicting and demonstrating the diversity of the Lehigh River watershed. The focus of the exhibits is to foster knowledge about the properties of water and the importance of sound watershed-management practices.
- Sheltered 829 acres of [natural areas in the watershed](#) – Nearly 780 acres located in Nesquehoning Township, Carbon County lies next to other land protected through the Carbon County Agricultural Land Preservation Program. It is also in close proximity to the Lehigh River, State Gamelands #141, Glen Onoko Falls, Lehigh Gorge State Park, Carbon County’s Mauch Chunk Lake Park, and Nesquehoning Mountain. Another tract is comprised of four contiguous parcels totaling nearly 49 acres, which includes several hundred feet of Lehigh River shoreline. Both parcels have high conservation values.

For most of its 32 years, Wildlands Conservancy has been seen as the principal environmental organization of the Lehigh Valley. The organization’s proactive and progressive agenda has spawned significant accomplishments. The Conservancy and its many collaborative partners have a clear understanding of what is needed to protect the quality of place in the Lehigh Valley and the Lehigh River watershed. The Conservancy will continue to work with others in the state and in the nation in the preservation, protection, and enhancement of our land, water, ecological, and recreation resources.

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Here are a few of the Lehigh River's most significant milestones:

- the transfer of ownership and control of the river to the Lehigh Coal & Navigation Company by the state in 1827 in exchange for the company's agreement to build the famous navigation system along the river's shoreline;
- the destruction of the Upper Grand Section of the Lehigh Navigation in the Flood of 1862;
- the construction, in 1961, of the Francis E. Walter Dam to prevent flooding in the Lehigh Valley;
- the return of the river to public ownership in 1966 advanced in the Pennsylvania Legislature by Representative Samuel W. Frank of Allentown;
- the creation of Lehigh Gorge State Park in 1980;
- the designation of a 64-mile section of the upper river as a Pennsylvania State Scenic River in 1982;
- the establishment, in 1988, of the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor; and
- placement of the river on the Pennsylvania Rivers Conservation Registry in 2005.

[Tom Kerr](#) is President of the [Wildlands Conservancy](#).

Quick Clips

[Editorial: Our Home](#)

[State Prison Inmates Help to Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#)

[Schuylkill County Tops in State With Recycling Program](#)

[Windmills Generate over \\$347,000 in Taxes](#)

[Hershey Recycling Now Mulch Ado About Something](#)

[Pike Seeks Grant for Growth Model](#)

[Editorial: Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful](#)

[Op-Ed: Susquehanna River](#)

[Editorial: Earth Day – Think of Your River And Work](#)

[Ecologists Study Area's Endangered Species](#)

[RIDC Sees Homes on Former Steel Site](#)

[Ex-Rendering Site to Make Biodiesel Fuel](#)

[Extra Water Releases Worth \\$34 M to Local Economy](#)

[PECO Wind Energy Program Needs Your Help to Work](#)

[Region Bids Adieu to Whale](#)

[Da Vinci Center Gets OK for Wind Turbine](#)

[Panel Urged to Extend Farmland Preservation](#)

[Growing Greener Little by Little](#)

[Editorial: Coal to Fuel](#)

[Underground Construction Saves Energy](#)

[Op-Ed – Oink if You Love Litter, Join Us If You Don't](#)

[Aerial Survey Finds Deer Straining Some Areas](#)

[Science and Politics Drive Deer Policy in PA](#)

[Hunters Miss Deer In Deep Woods](#)

Watershed NewsClips

[Spring Creek's Monitoring Project – Volunteer Driven](#)

[Along Solomon Creek, the Color of Trouble](#)

[DEP Chief Promotes Mine Cleanup in Visit](#)

[Taking Out Dams Improving Conditions Along Ridley Creek](#)

[Schuylkill River Heritage Area/Philly Water Create Interactive Gateway Center](#)

[Stream management project under way](#)

[EPA: River must be swimmable](#)

[River study needed to stop flooding, commissioners say](#)

[Governor coming to Uniontown](#)

[Lebanon County plans to collect old tires](#)

Regulations

The Environmental Quality Board took action on its agenda this week, the PA Fish and Boat Commission is proposing additions to the endangered species list and the State Board of Landscape Architects is changing application requirements.

The Environmental Quality Board [met April 19 and approved](#) three rulemaking petitions—two stream redesignations in Chester and Monroe counties and a proposal to add military airports to the definition of airport in regulations governing waste transfer stations, a final rule on bonding and mine subsidence control and made [changes to a final-omitted rulemaking on explosives](#) disapproved by the Independent Regulatory Review Commission. The explosive regulations will now be resubmitted to the IRRC and the House and Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee for reconsideration.

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission is proposing a [rule to add the eastern spadefoot toad and eastern pearlshell to the list of endangered species](#). Comments due May 23.

The State Board of Landscape Architects published [changes to its application and other requirements](#) for comment. Comments due May 23.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – April 23, 2005](#)

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

[Copies of Proposed Regulations](#)

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

No new policies were published this week.

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

- **April 26** – House Commerce Committee meeting to consider [House Bill 218](#) (Reed-R-Indiana) amending the Downtown Relocation Law.
- **May 3** – House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee information meeting on the Act 54 report on damage and water loss caused by underground mining.
- **May 5-6** – [PA Greenway and Trail Summit](#). Mechanicsburg.
- **May 9** – [Joint Legislative Air & Water Pollution Control & Conservation Committee](#) Environmental Issues Forum to discuss greenhouse gas action plans.
- **May 6-7** - West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium - Location: Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel, State College, PA Contact: Amy Wolfe at 570-726-3118 or awolfe@tu.org
- **May 12** - [Joint Legislative Air & Water Pollution Control & Conservation Committee](#) tour of Reliant Energy's Seward Power Plant.
- **May 12-13** – [PA Association of Environmental Professionals Annual Conference](#). Scranton.

Other Specialized Calendar links --

[Watershed Events](#)

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

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

Helpful Web Links

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

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

Contributions Invited

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

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