

-PA ——— Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

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[PA Environment Digest Video Blog](#)

Winners of Governor's Environmental Awards Honored by PEC – Video Blog

The nine winners of the [2008 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence](#) were honored at a gala dinner in Harrisburg organized by the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) on Earth Day, April 22.

Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen McGinty provided the keynote address for the event congratulating the winners and challenging others to follow their environmental leadership.

Video Blog: [Secretary McGinty's Remarks](#)

Kathleen Pvelko, President & CEO of WITF public television, presented the awards.

Paul King, Chairman of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council Board, also recognized the work done by [Brian Hill](#), President & CEO of PEC, who is moving on to a new position with the Richard King Mellon Foundation in Pittsburgh.

Video Blog: [Paul King Thanks Brian Hill for His Service](#)

The winners of the 2008 Governor's Environmental Award were:

Land Conservancy of Adams County Inc., Gettysburg – [The Land Conservancy](#) purchased conservation easements on 11 properties covering 1,011 acres to protect Gettysburg's public water supply. These properties border about 2.3 miles of Marsh Creek upstream from Gettysburg Municipal Authority's surface water intake, along with many miles of Marsh Creek tributaries. Protecting these properties allows the aquifers to continually recharge and helps to maintain the quality and quantity of water of the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay.

The success of this project has been recognized with a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region III Source Water Protection Award that credits the project as the first successful source water-based land preservation/best management practices conservation effort in Pennsylvania.



Conservation Consultants Inc., Pittsburgh – [CCI, Inc.](#) conducted a pilot program about renewable energy technologies in 10 schools in the 2006-07 school year. The renewable energy technologies program provides educators with a written curriculum reinforced with hands-on tools for demonstration purposes. Students see first-hand that renewable energy technologies are cleaner and safer alternatives to fossil fuel generation and viable solutions for western Pennsylvania. CCI developed the program after a survey of teachers showed a critical need for such curriculum.

Specific objectives for the renewable energy technologies program include students being able to: recognize various conventional and renewable energy generation options; measure the impact these technologies have on the environment; show that renewable technologies, especially solar power and wind power, are viable technologies for Western Pennsylvania; develop ways to implement renewable energy technologies in small ways today and stimulate creativity to find solutions for the future after graduation; suggest concrete personal actions everyone can adopt to reduce air pollution; and relate particulate and mercury pollution to health risks.

ESS Energy Products Inc., Paoli, Chester County -- [ESS Energy Products](#) developed Energy Guardian Kits to eliminate heating and cooling loss through attic entrances. More energy is lost through attics than any other area of the home. While newly constructed and most existing homes have insulated and reasonably air-sealed attics, it is the entrances to the attic that are most inevitably overlooked for air sealing, insulation or both. To date, more than 1,000 Pennsylvania homeowners have one or more of the kits installed. The projected savings from installation of an Energy Guardian Kit is about \$312 per year, assuming the current cost of electricity and heating fuel. These savings provide a complete payback of the kit's purchase price in a matter of months.

Kendall Auto Parts, Erie -- [Kendall Auto Parts](#) is an automotive and truck recycling facility that has made it its mission to reduce pollution to zero; to reduce, recycle and reuse everything; and to reduce and conserve energy and water.

In addition to being built on a brownfields site, Kendall's porous parking lots are made from recycled aggregate, the landscaping materials were retrieved from construction sites, steel fencing was salvaged from demolished sites, stormwater runoff is channeled into swales and held in a retention pond, and the loading dock leveler was removed from a building that was to be demolished and reinstalled in its current location.

Inside, the building's sub-base is made from recycled aggregate, floors have radiant heat with individual temperature controls, large windows in public spaces make use of natural light, Energy Star lighting is zone switchable, and floor drains are connected to an oil/water separator before discharging the sewer. Even the furnishings in the showroom, counter area and offices are recycled or were retrieved from other facilities that were to be demolished. The glass-top tables are made from aluminum wheels and tires from new cars that were in a train wreck.

Kendall's indoor automobile recycling operation practices zero discharge of all fluids, including engine oil, gasoline, antifreeze and air conditioning refrigerants. The oil is used as a source of supplementary heat. The antifreeze is recycled by a licensed waste/water treatment company. The tires are disposed of by a licensed waste tire company and the gas that is pumped from the vehicles' gas tanks is circulated through filters and used for the company's delivery trucks.

Borton-Lawson, Wilkes-Barre -- [Borton-Lawson](#) is an engineering and architectural firm that worked in partnership with the Housing Development Corp. of Northeastern Pennsylvania, government agencies, financial institutions and community groups to spearhead the Pine Street Neighborhood Revitalization project in a three-block area of downtown Hazleton.

The 24 single-homes have highly efficient heating, cooling, ventilation, lighting and appliances. Energy-efficient construction paired with these features can provide energy cost savings of about 30 percent over standard construction. The solar electric (photovoltaic) systems included on the southern-sloped roofs of the residences supplement the domestic hot water heater and enables residents to produce solar energy, thereby reducing utility costs.

Additionally, through net metering, residents have the ability to transfer any energy surplus to the local utility in return for reductions in their billable energy consumption level.

Pine Street homeowners can expect to spend about \$700 a year for energy costs verses more than \$1,100 a year for owners of a traditional home built to code. In addition, ventilation heat recovery systems recapture 70 percent of the heat.

Keystone Pallet & Recycling LLC., Milton, Northumberland County -- [Keystone Pallet & Recycling](#) is a small, wooden pallet manufacturing and recycling business employing seven people, but the company has prevented more than 836 tons of wood waste from being disposed of in local landfills since its debut in 2004.

Keystone has done this by collecting used and damaged wooden pallets and then repairing and reselling the refurbished products. Keystone Pallet saves energy and prevents air pollution emissions in the process.

A major challenge for recycling businesses is finding and maintaining a steady source of raw materials to recycle. While, traditionally, that has involved driving to collect the materials, increased fuel costs coupled with long travel distances, Keystone devised an innovative way to collect more used pallets. Rather than sending trucks to multiple business locations to pick up pallets, a mobile collection unit is installed, the used pallets are collected in the unit, and Keystone picks up the unit only when it is full.

Keystone received a 2006 Small Business Advantage Grant (for the third year in a row) that was used to purchase three 53-foot portable recycling collection units. In May, two more units were purchased and Keystone now collects all of the damaged wooden pallets at 14 of its collection sites in the portable recycling collection units. It was estimated that 367 tons of wood waste was going to local landfills per year from these businesses, adding about \$8,074 in disposal costs.

These pollution prevention measures at Keystone Pallet will save 2,624 gallons of diesel fuel, amounting to \$7,272 annually in fuel savings. Additionally, 330 tons of carbon dioxide, 209 tons of sulfur dioxide and 28 tons of nitrogen oxide will be eliminated.

Heron's Eye Communications LLC, Greeley, Pike County-- As producer of the public television documentary Nature's Keepers, [Heron's Eye Communications](#) spearheaded a fundraising campaign, coordinated interview subjects and locations, and handled publicity efforts for this inspiring story of the people of one of Pennsylvania's fastest growing counties –Pike– who are taking a leadership role in land stewardship and smart growth.

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The film presents Pike County as a model for other communities nationwide that struggle with similar challenges.

Often called the birthplace of the American conservation movement because it was home to the Pinchot family, the documentary highlights the county's 150-year-heritage of natural resource conservation and land stewardship and examines how this legacy continues today through citizen activism in response to development pressures that have made it one of the fastest growing areas in the northeast United States.

Iron Oxide Recovery Inc., Pittsburgh, Allegheny County; and the [Sewickley Creek Watershed Association](#), Sewickley Township, Westmoreland County-- [Iron Oxide Recovery](#) and the Sewickley Creek Watershed Association became partners in 1999 when company owner Robert Hedin approached the association about supporting iron oxide recovery experiments at the abandoned Marchand Mine site in Lowber, Westmoreland County. The mine has discharged thousands of gallons-per-minute of iron-polluted water to Sewickley Creek for decades.

The collaboration has resulted in the Lowber site becoming Pennsylvania's first and only commercially successful resource recovery project. So far, the project has resulted in:

- The recovery and recycling of 4,000 tons of wet iron sludge that would have otherwise been landfilled, avoiding at least \$150,000 in disposal costs;
- Successful treatment of 1,400-2,200 gallons per minute of mine water containing 70-85 milligrams per liter of iron;
- Retention of about 400 tons of iron solids that otherwise would have ended up in Sewickley Creek and the Youghiogeny River;
- Compliance of Sewickley Creek in Lowber (downstream of the system) with the DEP's in-stream iron limit of 1.5 milligrams per liter for the first time in at least 60 years; and
- Successful incorporation of a 1.6-acre wetland into the system and creation of 13 acres of open water and wetland habitat that has already been colonized by fish, amphibians and aquatic insects, and has become a refuge for water fowl.

This treatment system can be maintained through eight hours of labor per month. Iron Oxide Recovery has taken on that responsibility and has committed to maintaining the system in the future. The company will fund its long-term maintenance with revenue produced by sludge recovery.

NewsClip: [Growing Greener Grant Presented to Cleanup Sewickley Creek](#)

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Regional Household Hazardous Waste Program Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties -- [Household hazardous waste coordinators](#) from southeastern Pennsylvania first met in 1997.

The individual counties signed a three-year intergovernmental agreement allowing residents from one county to participate in another county's collection event. In 2006, this agreement was extended for an additional three years through 2009. As a result, in 2006-07, residents in the five-county region had 48 opportunities to responsibly dispose of hazardous waste.

Each county runs its own program as it pertains to billing. As such, a request for proposal was issued to contract with one household hazardous waste vendor guaranteeing 24 annual events to the winning vendor, giving the counties the benefit of a "volume discount." Improvements are made with each successive three-year program. Language has

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been added to allow local recyclers to arrive at the end of the day and to harvest such items as lead acid batteries and cardboard, which results in cost avoidance for the program.

In 2006, the Southeastern Regional Household Hazardous Waste Program held 24 collection events in separate locations within the five counties and 22,656 residents participated. Through these events, 981 tons (nearly 2 million pounds) were collected. The southeastern region is the first region in the state to try an intergovernmental agreement as a successful way of disposing household hazardous waste. Meeting monthly and sharing information, this program continues to improve while holding down costs.

Environmental Results: The [295 winners](#) of the Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards from 1997 to 2003 have saved over \$1.6 billion, eliminated 3.9 billion gallons of wastewater, 249 million tons of air pollution, 266 million tons of solid waste and saved 346 million kilowatt hours of electricity.

Past Winners: Past winners of the Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards are available online: [2007 Winners](#), (no 2006), [2005 Winners](#), [2004 Winners](#), [2004 Winners](#), [2003 Winners](#), [2002 Winners](#), [2001 Winners](#), [2000 Winners](#), [1999 Winners](#), [1998 Winners](#), [1997 Winners](#), and [1996 Winners](#).

You can also be inspired by the good work of the winners of the Governor's Watershed Stewardship Awards for [2002](#) and [2001](#).

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

Winners of the 2008 State Park, Forest Awards to be Honored at May 6 Dinner

The [Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation](#) announced the recipients of the 2008 State Park and Forest Awards this week which recognized seven groups, facilities and individuals for exemplary service, programs and work to protect and enhance the State Park and forest system.

The award winners will be honored at a dinner at the Harrisburg Country Club on May 6. Sen. Rob Wonderling (R-Montgomery) will emcee the event.

The top honor, the **Keystone Legacy Award**, sponsored by **Woolrich, Inc.**, will be presented to **Rose Chase**, who in 1979, helped to champion the protection of the [Goat Hill Serpentine Barrens](#), a 300-acre unique ecosystem home to rare plant and animal species in southeastern Chester County.

The Barrens were threatened by a proposed blasting quarry and under Rose's leadership, citizens rallied to protect the special habitat. With the help of The Nature Conservancy, the property was purchased and eventually transferred to the then Department of Environmental Resources.

"Rose to this day, refuses to take full credit for the success of the project," said Marci Mowery, President of the Foundation. "It was her energy, drive and charm that paved the way for others to rally in support of the Barrens and resulted in its ultimate protection."

Other award recipients include:

- **Government Award (sponsored by Mr. Joseph Ibberson)** - Jerry Walls, Retired (2007) Executive Director and CEO of the Lycoming Planning Commission, was given

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in recognition of his work to protect the natural and recreational assets of Lycoming County.

- **Park of the Year (sponsored by PPL Corporation)** - [Moraine State Park](#), Butler County, for their exemplary role in working with diverse user groups, park improvements, commitment to recreation, and volunteerism.
- **Forest of the Year (sponsored by Dominion)** - [Tioga State Forest](#), spanning Bradford and Tioga Counties, for its role in the development of the Pine Creek Rail Trail.
- **Friends Group Volunteerism Award (sponsored by Pa Parks and Recreation Society)** - Mountaineer Search and Rescue, Elk State Forest, for their outstanding work assisting in, or managing, search and rescue efforts in Elk State Forest and surrounding areas, as well as construction and maintenance of hiking trails.
- **Friends Group Improvement Award (sponsored by Lentz, Cantor & Massey, Ltd.)** - [Friends of the Delaware Canal](#), Delaware Canal State Park, Bucks County, for their outstanding restoration and stewardship work to maintain and improve the Delaware Canal and its surroundings.
- **Friends Group Education Award (sponsored by Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania)** - [Friends of Laurel Hill State Park](#), Somerset County, for their outstanding stewardship and educational efforts at Laurel Hill State Park.

The public is invited to attend the awards banquet which will be held on May 6 at the Harrisburg Country Club in Harrisburg, Pa. Tickets for the event are \$40 and may be purchased by calling the Foundation at 717-236-7644. Advance registration is required and must be received by April 30.

The banquet reception is sponsored by [INFOSPHERIX](#), now part of the Active Network.

The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation is a statewide non-profit organization that supports the 117 state parks and 2.1-million acres of forest through donations and volunteer coordination.

For more information, visit the [Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation website](#) or call 717-236-7644.

Filmmakers Honored at Fourth Annual High School Environmental Film Festival

The fourth annual [C.A.U.S.E. Challenge High School Film Festival](#) announced the winners of their environmental film awards in Pittsburgh this week.

"A Greener Cleaner Choice," a film by Hampton High School seniors Ben Kepner, Dylan Morris and Benjamin Swanson and freshman Andrew Benton, was awarded with the top honor -- the Grand Prize.

The Film Festival is sponsored by Bayer Corporation, Carnegie Science Center's SciTech Initiative and Pittsburgh Filmmakers. C.A.U.S.E. stands for Creating Awareness and Understanding of our Surrounding Environment.

Other winners announced at the C.A.U.S.E. Challenge Film Festival, hosted by the three partners at the Carnegie Science Center's Science Stage, hailed from Quaker Valley High School, St. Joseph High School and Mt. Lebanon High School. In addition, one student from Moon Area High School garnered two prizes.

As Grand Prize winners, Ben, Dylan, Benjamin and Andrew received a \$1,000 cash prize that they will share. In addition, each went home with a digital video camera and case, a Pittsburgh Filmmakers' class voucher, a director's chair, Carnegie Science Center

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passes and Three Rivers Film Festival tickets. And Hampton High School took home \$1,500 to support its science and media programs, as well as a trophy for its award display case.

The five additional awards presented included a new special award in honor of Pittsburgh's 250th anniversary, as well as Narrative, Documentary, Abstract and Communicating Science prizes. Winners of these awards included:

- **Pittsburgh 250 Award:** "Step by Step" by Patrick Tutka, senior, St. Joseph High School (\$300, a director's chair, Carnegie Science Center passes and Three Rivers Film Festival tickets; a trophy and a \$1,500 check for his school);
- **Narrative Award:** "Stop Waiting For The World To Change" by Austin Wright, senior, Mt. Lebanon High School (\$300, a director's chair, Carnegie Science Center passes and Three Rivers Film Festival tickets; a trophy and a \$1,500 check for his school);
- **Documentary Award:** "Living on the Riverfront" by Jessica Johnson, junior, Quaker Valley High School (\$300, a director's chair, Carnegie Science Center passes and Three Rivers Film festival tickets; a trophy and a \$1,500 check for her school);
- **Communicating Science Award:** "We Have The Sun" by David Korotky, sophomore, Moon Area High School (\$300, a director's chair, Carnegie Science Center passes and Three Rivers Film Festival tickets; a trophy and a \$1,500 check for his school); and
- **Abstract Award:** "Silent Cities" by David Korotky, sophomore, Moon Area High School (\$300, a director's chair, Carnegie Science Center passes and Three Rivers Film Festival tickets; a trophy and a \$1,500 check for his school)

"As an innovator company long committed to both sustainability and corporate social responsibility, Bayer believes a key part of its commitment lies in supporting environmental education projects like the C.A.U.S.E. Challenge Film Festival to help educate the next generation of environmental stewards about their role in securing a greener, more environmentally sound future," said Dr. Attila Molnar, President and CEO of Bayer Corporation. "In addition, it provides Pittsburgh area students with an introduction to their hometown's national leadership position in the development of leading edge green technologies, processes and products that are helping to reverse climate change."

"This competition allows students to explore science and technology through a unique arts-oriented experience. It complements the energy and mission of SciTech to promote understanding and awareness of wide-ranging opportunities in these fields," said Linda Ortenzo, Executive Director, Carnegie Science Center's SciTech Initiative. "SciTech provides diverse experiences where people of all ages and interests can explore the impact of cutting edge science and high technology in their everyday lives."

"We love participating in this project," said Andrew Swensen, Director, Pittsburgh Filmmakers. "It offers young filmmakers an opportunity to express themselves creatively, to cultivate their artistic visions in the cinematic form, and we are consistently impressed with how they apply their talents to commentary on and study of the pressing environmental issues facing our local and world communities."

The C.A.U.S.E. Challenge Film Festival invites high school students -- either individually or in teams of up to four -- to write, produce and edit a video or film (five-minute maximum length) on the theme "Mutual Impact: The Environment and You." The C.A.U.S.E. Challenge provides a platform for high school students who are not necessarily on a science track to become more scientifically and environmentally aware using the non-

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traditional, yet powerful tool of film or video. The filmmaking process also helps students develop their creative voice, master basic skills -- such as researching, reading, writing and speaking -- and build important science literacy skills like critical thinking, problem solving and team working.

Films were judged by an independent panel consisting of Kenneth T. Bowman, Regional Director, Department of Environmental Protection; Steve Seliy, an independent filmmaker and Associate Executive Director of the Consortium for Public Education; Margy Whitmer, Director of Video Production and Special Events, Family Communications; and, Davitt B. Woodwell, Vice President, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Western Pennsylvania.

They based their judging on a variety of criteria, including: the film's message, ability to deliver the message, connection to the Pittsburgh region, use of available technology, creativity and research.

For more information, go to the [C.A.U.S.E. Challenge High School Film Festival webpage](#).

Fish & Boat Commission Recognizes Accomplishments, Funds Trout In Classroom

The Fish and Boat Commission this week recognized significant accomplishments of conservationists in Pennsylvania and took action to approve grants, regulation changes, and property acquisitions.

[Barbara Yeaman](#) of Milanville in Wayne County, Pennsylvania, has been named the recipient of the [Ralph W. Abele Conservation Heritage Award](#) for 2007. The honor is the highest recognition the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission can confer on persons who distinguish themselves in the cause of conservation.

Yeaman earned recognition as the 2007 Abele Award winner through her work on the upper Delaware River. She believed in the preservation of such special lands, wildlife habitats, and prime scenic properties. Her major accomplishments include founding the [Delaware Highlands Conservancy](#), conserving thousands of acres of Pennsylvania land through conservation easements and securing millions of dollars in funds to protect property for species of special concern, endangered species, and their habitats.

Several Fish and Boat Commission staff and a McKean County partner received the Greiner Award at the Fish and Boat Commission meeting for their work on the Norfolk Southern legal case and settlement of \$3,675,000 for the disastrous environmental effects of a rail car derailment.

The accident spilled liquid sodium hydroxide into wetlands, Big Fill Run, Sinnemahoning-Portage Creek, and the Driftwood Branch of Sinnemahoning Creek in McKean County, contaminating soils, sediments, surface water, groundwater, and wetlands. It also killed or injured fish and other aquatic life and terrestrial plant and animal life.

The award is a memorial to Waterways Conservation Officer Gerald L. Greiner who effectively enforced pollution laws that brought many violators into compliance.

Recipients of the 2008 Greiner Award are Chief Counsel of the Fish and Boat Commission Laurie Shepler, Waterways Conservation Officer William Crisp, Waterways Conservation Officer Robert Mader, Chief of Aquatic Resources for the Fish and Boat Commission Mark Hartle, and McKean County District Attorney John Pavlock.

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

Boating-at-large Commissioner Steve Ketterer of Harrisburg received recognition from the National Water Safety Congress for his involvement in saving a person who fell through the ice on the Susquehanna River in March 2007. Commissioner Ketterer was recognized for this heroic action at the International Boating and Water Safety Summit held in San Diego, California, last week.

The Commission approved the [Boating Infrastructure Grant](#), administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in the amount of \$1.35 million to the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh.

The grant is for construction of a 525-foot tie-up facility for transient boaters and day dockage uses for up to seventeen 26-foot or larger non-trailerable boats. The main purpose of the project is to provide transient recreational boaters with access to the South Shore Riverfront Park and the SouthSide Works, a major mixed-use development, along with multiple sites of scenic, cultural and historic significance in Pittsburgh.

The Commissioners also approved a grant to Pennsylvania Trout, Inc. in the amount of \$10,000 per fiscal year for the next three fiscal years totaling \$30,000, for the purposes of expanding the national [Trout in the Classroom](#) program in Pennsylvania. TIC provides students with the opportunity to raise trout from eggs (or fry) to fingerlings and then release their fish in approved trout waters. Teachers use this experience to teach students about trout biology, ecology and water quality, and fish management.

More details of Commission actions [are available online](#).

Pictured in the photograph are: Commission Executive Director Doug Austen (left) and President William Sabatose (far right) with Greiner Awards winners (from left) Robert Mader, John Pavlock, Laurie Shepler, Mark Hartle and William Crisp



Dickinson College Among RecycleMania Winners in Mid-Atlantic Region



More than 70 colleges and universities competed in the [2008 RecycleMania](#) competition in North America, including Canada and Mexico.

This year's U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3 winners are the University of Delaware, Trinity Washington University in D.C., Loyola College (Md), Dickinson College (Pa), Virginia Military Institute and the University of Charleston (WV).

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

Region 3 RecycleMania schools recycled, 7.6 million pounds of material otherwise destined for landfills and/or incinerators and yielded a potential Greenhouse Gas reduction of 3,150 metric tons of carbon equivalents, equivalent to the annual emission of 2,117 vehicles or the electricity required to power 1,529 households for a year.

RecycleMania is supported by the [EPA WasteWise program](#). For more information on the amount of material students recycled, go to the [Region 3 RecycleMania webpage](#).

Drexel, Other College Students Recognized for Green Solutions to Protect the Planet

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the national winners of the annual [People, Prosperity and the Planet \(P3\) competition](#), including one Pennsylvania award winner.

The Pennsylvania winner was from Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pa, with a project title of A Novel Reactor Design for Efficient Production of Biodiesel from High Free-Fatty-Acid Oils. ([Online video of Drexel students](#))

This national competition, sponsored by EPA's Office of Research and Development, encourages college students to create sustainable solutions to environmental problems through technological innovation. These sustainable solutions must be environmentally friendly, efficiently use natural resources and be economically competitive.

Each P3 award winner receives funding up to \$75,000 to further develop their designs and implement them in the field or move them to the marketplace.

"EPA's National Sustainable Design Expo and People, Prosperity and the Planet competition provide a window into tomorrow," said Dr. George Gray, assistant administrator for the Office of Research and Development. "These innovative student teams not only show technologies for a greener future, but demonstrate the passion and innovative thinking that will lead us there."

The P3 Award competition was held at EPA's 4th Annual National Sustainable Design Expo on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., April 20-22. The Expo showcases innovative, cutting-edge technologies designed by the P3 teams along with sustainable policies and technologies developed and implemented by government and state agencies and nonprofit organizations.

Support for the competition includes more than 40 partners in the federal government, industry and scientific and professional societies. This year's Expo was co-sponsored by The Cloud Institute for Sustainability Education and The World Environment Center.

Video and photos of the P3 winners, exhibits and teams can be found at the [People, Prosperity and the Planet \(P3\) competition webpage](#).

Northeastern PA Environmental Partnership Award Nominations Accepted

The Northeast Environmental Partners are seeking nominations for the 18th Annual [Environmental Partnership Awards](#) and the 14th Annual Thomas P. Shelburne Environmental Leadership Award.

Nominations are due June 15.

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

The Environmental Partnership Awards are presented annually to recognize the achievements of individuals or organizations that, through partnerships, have achieved excellence in environmental protection or conservation in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

The Thomas P. Shelburne Environmental Leadership Award was established by the NEPA Environmental Partners to recognize an individual who stands out for his or her long-term commitment to environmental quality through inspirational leadership, dedication and commitment to partnering.

The awards are open to any group, individual, company, program or organization whose work has had a positive impact on the environment in Northeastern Pennsylvania's following counties; Bradford, Carbon, Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Schuylkill, Sullivan, Susquehanna Wayne and Wyoming.

Over the years, the program has honored individuals and groups involved in agriculture, forestry, business, industry, education, science, environmental awareness, community service and government, among others. ([2007 winners](#), [2006 winners](#), [2005 winners](#))

Nominations may be made by a person or persons involved in the activity, or by a third party.

The Northeast Environmental Partners include representatives of the Pennsylvania Environmental Council's Northeast Office, Wilkes University, Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance, PPL Inc., Procter & Gamble Paper Products Co., DEP and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

For more information, visit the [Environmental Partners Awards webpage](#) or contact the Pennsylvania Environmental Council at 570-718-6507 or send email to: avitkoski@pecpa.org .

Nominations Sought for EPA Region 3 Environmental Achievement Awards

Region 3 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is now accepting applications for its [2008 Environmental Achievement Awards](#).

Nominations are due June 30.

"Today, instead of having only 17,000 EPA employees working to protect the environment, we now have over 300 million Americans as environmental partners," said Donald S. Welsh, EPA's mid-Atlantic regional administrator. "We want to recognize Americans from all sectors of society -- communities, businesses and individuals -- that are embracing the fact that environmental responsibility is everyone's responsibility."

EPA's mid-Atlantic regional office is encouraging people to nominate individuals and groups who are making significant contributions to help public health and the environment in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia or in the District of Columbia.

An EPA panel will review nominations and select winners of the Awards and will hold an awards ceremony at its regional office in Philadelphia in September.

Individuals and organizations are eligible for environmental achievement awards in three categories: business and industry, non-profit or volunteer organization and state, local or other federal government agency.

For more information, visit the [2008 Environmental Achievement Awards webpage](#).

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. The Senate has cancelled voting session for the week of May 19.

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, [CANCELLED 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.

Committees

Senate: the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 1062](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) providing for the reimbursement of developers for redevelopment of brownfield sites, [Senate Bill 1330](#) (D.White-R-Indiana) providing for the

PA Environment Digest – Crisci Associates

resolution of coal bed methane rights disputes, [Senate Resolution 294](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango) affirming the consent of the Commonwealth to the acquisition of Allegheny National Forest Lands is conditioned on the preservation of state and private property rights (*a similar [House Resolution 693](#) passed the House*).

House: the **Finance Committee** holds a hearing on [House Bill 1676](#) (Levdansky-D-Allegheny) dedicating a portion of the Sales Tax to fund the Fish and Boat and Game Commissions; the **Tourism and Recreational Development Committee** holds a hearing on [House Bill 1908](#) (Rohrer-R-Berks) relating to liability for opening private lands to recreation; the **House Republican Policy Committee** holds a hearing on the cost of implementing the Chesapeake Bay Tributary Cleanup Strategy in Williamsport; the **State Government Committee** meets to consider [House Bill 771](#) (Hershey-R-Chester) officially designating the Hazleton soil series as the official soil of the Commonwealth.

Bills Introduced

These environmental bills of interest were introduced this week—

Electric Lines: [House Bill 2480](#) (DeWeese-D-Greene) adoption of the Mid-Atlantic Area National Corridor Compact to assert jurisdiction over the location of cross-border electric transmission lines.

Senate Committee Meets on Brownfields, Coal Bed Methane, Allegheny Forest Bills

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets April 29 to consider legislation encouraging the redevelopment of brownfield sites, setting up a board to resolve coal bed methane rights disputes and on the Allegheny National Forest.

The bills include: [Senate Bill 1062](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) providing for the reimbursement of developers for reuse of brownfield sites, [Senate Bill 1330](#) (D.White-R-Indiana) providing for the resolution of coal bed methane rights disputes, [Senate Resolution 294](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango) affirming the consent of the Commonwealth to the acquisition of Allegheny National Forest Lands is conditioned on the preservation of state and private property rights (*a similar [House Resolution 693](#) passed the House*).

Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) serves as Majority Chair of the Committee and Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) serves as Minority Chair.

House Finance Holds Hearing on Funding Game, Fish & Boat Commissions

The House Finance Committee will hold a hearing April 29 on legislation that would set aside a portion of the state Sales Tax to provide funding for the Game and Fish and Boat Commissions.

[House Bill 1676](#) (Levdansky-D-Allegheny) would set aside 0.00116 percent of the revenues collected for the Game Commission (about \$11 million) and 0.00058 percent for the Fish and Boat Commission (about \$5.5 million).

The Fish and Boat Commission has a budget of about \$64.5 million and the Game Commission budget is \$89.2 million, all presently from license sales, federal funds, mineral leases and Growing Greener II bond funds.

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The Committee is scheduled to hear testimony from Michael Schmit, Game Commission, Gary Moore, Fish and Boat Commission, Jan Jarrett, PennFuture, Ed Wentzler, United Bowhunters of PA and Melody Zullinger, PA Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs.

Rep. David Levdansky (D-Allegheny) serves as Majority Chair of the Committee and Rep. Steven Nickol (R-York) serves as Minority Chair.

Environmental Synopsis Features National Park Week

The [April issue](#) of the *Environmental Synopsis*, published by the [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution and Conservation Committee](#), highlights National Park Week.

Also included in this issue are articles on: switchgrass, green marketing, Chesapeake Bay nutrient reduction deadlines, green cities and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Green Infrastructure Plan.

Rep. Scott Hutchinson (R-Venango) services as Chair of the Committee and Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne) serves as Vice-Chair.

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. Look here for special Earth Day NewsClips--

Earth Day Clips: [Faith in Earth's Stewardship Ties Religion to Environmentalism](#)
[Penn State Students Pitch in for Cleanup](#)
[Campaign Encourages Energy Reduction During Earth Week](#)
[Earth Day Is The Day We Vote](#)
[Spring Cleaning in Renovo](#)
[Editorial: Breathe Easier: Plant a Tree](#)
[Volunteers Help Spruce Up Region](#)
[Locals Spread Out to Clean Up Wilkes-Barre](#)
[Letter: Earth Day Renewing Our Commitment](#)
[Children Get Attention During Earth Day in Reading](#)
[Earth Day Volunteers Clean Up Antietam Creek](#)
[Schuylkill Students Compete in Earth Science Fair](#)
[Church Kids Step Up to Clean Up Wilson](#)
[Pittsburgh Wrapping Up Earth Week With Initiatives](#)
[Celebrate Earth Day the Wall Street Way](#)
[Hospital Fair Offers Energy Tips](#)
[McSherrystown Resident Thanked for Cleanup Effort](#)
[Earth Day Everyday for Wildlife Habitat](#)
[Crowds Flock to Earth Day](#)
[Volunteers to Clean Their Little Corner of the Earth](#)
[Eco-Friendly Jobs In High Demand](#)
[Cleaning Up Butts Costly for Communities](#)
[Honesdale Volunteers Clean River Bank](#)
[Businesses Growing Green](#)

[DEP Secretary Applauds Keep Harrisburg Beautiful's Certification](#)
[DEP Secretary Kicks Off Great PA Cleanup in Lancaster](#)
[May 20 Leads Green Charge for Penn State](#)
[Positive Results Help Extend Spring Cleanup in Wilkes-Barre](#)
[Camp Hill Man's Design Wins Rutters Recycling Bin Contest](#)
[Op-Ed: Preserving PA's Natural Heritage](#)
[Editorial: Slovenly Lazy People Scar Land With Litter](#)
[Editorial: Earth Day Message Rings in Voters' Ears](#)
[Editorial: Think Before Chucking Trash](#)
[Editorial: Earth Day Reminds Us to Take Action](#)
[Editorial: Going a Little More Greener](#)
[Editorial: Offering Hope By Working Together](#)
[Editorial: Earth Day 2008, Clearing the Air](#)

Coca-Cola, National Recycling Coalition Support 75 Community Recycling Programs

Recycling programs in 75 cities and towns will get a boost this Earth Day with the addition of new recycling bins, including four communities in Pennsylvania.

The National Recycling Coalition and The Coca-Cola Company this week announced the recipients of their Spring [2008 Recycling Bin Grant program](#). Chosen from 1,100 applications submitted, the 75 grant recipients represent a cross section of community groups, local governments, colleges and non profit organizations across the country.

In Pennsylvania, the Town of Bloomsburg, Bloomsburg, Delaware Valley College, Doylestown, Spotlight Performing Arts Academy, Pittsburgh and the Centre County Solid Waste Authority, Bellefonte all received bin grants.

A new round of applications will be accepted for the Fall 2008 grant application period, which will begin on September 22 and extend through October 24.

Grants were awarded to a diverse selection of applicants from 40 states and the District of Columbia, including 23 colleges and universities, 21 municipalities and other local government entities, 5 K-12 schools, 10 non-profit organizations and additional community groups and Native American tribes.

Recipients were chosen by NRC based on a number of criteria, including where bins are likely to have the most impact on recovering beverage containers from the waste stream, ability of recipients to sustain their program in the future, and intention to support collection programs with recycling education and promotion.

"The Bin Grant program is designed to help communities and organizations jump-start or expand their recycling programs and to further promote recycling of used bottles and cans," said Scott Vitters, director of sustainable packaging, The Coca-Cola Company. "Bottles and cans are valuable recyclables and can be reused to make new products as well as new bottles and cans. By making more recycling bins available, we hope to encourage people make recycling a habit in their daily lives."

"The response to this grant program has been phenomenal. The extent and diversity of applications solidly demonstrates how citizens across the nation are addressing recycling on a community level," said Kate Krebs, executive director of the National Recycling Coalition. "It's a privilege for NRC to partner with Coca-Cola to provide

recycling collection bins that will build, expand and strengthen recycling programs at school, work and play."

The Bin Grant Program provides recycling bins directly to recipients and leverages the purchasing power and expertise of the NRC. Grants are offered twice a year in the fall and spring through an online application process.

A full list of the Spring 2008 Bin Grant recipients [is available online](#) as well as application materials for the Fall grant period.

NewsClip: [Camp Hill Man's Design Wins Rutters Recycling Bin Contest](#)

Plastic Bag Makers Launch New National Symbol to Promote Bag Recycling



The [Progressive Bag Affiliates](#), a group of top plastic bag producers and recyclers and part of the American Chemistry Council, launched a major initiative to promote bag recycling throughout the nation.

Several of the country's biggest bag manufacturers will begin printing a clear message on their bags to encourage customers to recycle bags at participating stores.

The PBA also unveiled a new comprehensive at-store recycling toolkit designed to make it easy for stores to recycle plastic bags.

API Corporation, Hilex Poly Co. Inc., Intoplast and Superbag Corporation, bag manufacturers which together represent over 90 percent of the domestic plastic bag production, will all incorporate the new logo and message as a standard feature on their bags.

These companies will be offering the new logo for customers that participate in a bag recycling program. Consumers can expect to see the logo on bags throughout the country in the many areas where plastic bag recycling programs are available.

"The goal of the PBA is to gather the leaders of the plastic bag industry together with major recyclers to effect meaningful change in plastic bag recycling," said Steve Russell, managing director for American Chemistry Council's Plastics Division. "This unified awareness campaign, with a clear message printed on millions of bags across the nation, will be one of the most widely distributed environmental messages ever created."

Plastic bag recycling is a growing trend in communities around the nation. Coast to coast, from the state of California to New York City, more stores are providing bag recycling than ever before and the impact has been substantial.

An estimated 812,010,000 pounds of post-consumer film (including plastic bags) was recovered in 2006, representing a 24 percent increase from 652,477,000 pounds recovered in 2005. Bag manufacturers are helping to drive that trend by working in cooperation with community leaders, elected officials, retailers and environmental groups to illustrate the value of plastic bag recycling.

The new at-store recycling toolkit that has been developed by the ACC will also feature the new logo in a suite of tools that make it easier than ever for stores to begin plastic bag recycling. The toolkit offers bins and signage for store entrances and exits, checkout signage and pins to raise awareness, and municipal bins to be used at curbside.

Ordering information for the toolkit will be available at the [Plastic Bag Recycling website](#).

Volunteers Clean-Up, Preserve Audubon Hawk Watch at Waggoner's Gap

This week the [Central Pennsylvania Conservancy](#), in partnership with [PA CleanWays](#) of Cumberland County, did a clean-up on land in and around [Audubon Hawk Watch at Waggoner's Gap](#) for Earth Day.

Volunteers from all over the region picked up trash along Rt. 74 on both the Cumberland and Perry side of the ridge. In addition to beautifying this area on Earth Day, CPC is currently in the process of purchasing and permanently preserving a 106 acre stretch of undeveloped forested land at Waggoner's Gap, on the south side of the Kittatinny Ridge, in Cumberland County.

This area is a globally important migration point for over 150 species of birds and hawks annually and serves as critical habitat for the Allegheny Woodrat, a Pennsylvania Species of Concern. It is a cherished spot for many in our community and is frequented by countless visitors for birding as well as thousands of area college students to study the geologic rock outcroppings that make our area unique.

This parcel is of critical significance because it serves as the link on the south side of the ridge between the Pennsylvania Audubon's Hawk Watch Area and the 3,000 acre Reineman Wildlife Sanctuary, creating a contiguous habitat corridor.

"I commend the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy and its partners for preserving such an important asset of our community" said Attorney John Broujos, chairperson of the CPC development committee to protect Waggoner's Gap. "This property has touched the lives of countless citizens who continue to visit the area to take in the breathtaking view, study the unique geology, and appreciate the diverse wildlife. Community support is critical to successfully protect this area for future generations."

This parcel of land at Waggoner's Gap is one of the last undeveloped gaps on the [Kittatinny Ridge](#). The Ridge is one of Pennsylvania's most prominent natural features that serves as a critical flyway for thousands of hawks, eagles, and millions of songbirds. Areas like Waggoner's Gap provide crucial food, shelter, and resting space for these species.

The 185-mile Ridge has been officially designated by the Audubon Society as the state's largest and highest priority "Important Bird Area," and is a vital component of the "green" infrastructure of Pennsylvania. CPC's acquisition of this property represents a multi-organizational initiative to pursue a larger conservation landscape vision that may extend to other lands along the ridge.

It is CPC's intent to manage the property until it is conveyed to the Pennsylvania Audubon Society for permanent stewardship. Prior to conveyance, CPC will place an easement on the tract to ensure its protection and public accessibility.

The purchase of the property will require the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy to raise a minimum of \$440,000 from public and private sources. This total includes the purchase of the land as well as the funds required to buy, protect, convey, and open the property to the public.

The Partnership to Protect Waggoner's Gap Development Committee has been formed to address the needs concerning this property acquisition. Attorney John Broujos, former member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives and retired USMCR Colonel, is leading the committee.

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has led the partnership efforts with a pledge of \$190,000 in matching grant funds. To match this grant, Cumberland County has granted \$50,000 towards the purchase of this property and the

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Kline and Degenstein Foundations have contributed \$25,000 and \$10,000 respectively. Dickinson College and the Blue Mountain Chapter of Safari Club International have each contributed \$10,000. The Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation has donated \$2,000 towards this effort. In addition, the Appalachian Audubon Society has raised \$10,400 through a membership match challenge with all proceeds going towards the protection of this critical area.

For more information contact the [Central Pennsylvania Conservancy](http://www.centralpaconservancy.org) at 717-233-0221 or send email to: info@centralpaconservancy.org .

7th Graders Celebrate Earth Day at the Springside School, Chestnut Hill Academy

“Earth Day is every day” was the thought behind [Springside School](http://www.springsideschool.org) and [Chestnut Hill Academy](http://www.chestnuthillacademy.org) joining forces for a 7th grade service day devoted to environmental work at various sites.

Some of the students worked in the Wissahickon Woods behind the school removing a silt fence and completing other work with Fairmount Park’s Volunteer Coordinator David Bower and Volunteer Coordinator Kevin Groves from Friends of the Wissahickon. Other students headed to projects at Weaver’s Way Farm and Mill Creek Urban Farm.



Pictured from left in the Wissahickon Woods are Dillon Halloran, Peter Ferraro, Emily Miller, Taylor Wrubel, Jimmy Jansen, and Lawson Sanford.

For more information contact Gretchen Harrison, Springside School, 215-247-7200 ext. 7131 or send email to: gharrison@springside.org .

Hundredfold Farm Earth Day Celebration May 10 in Adams County

On May 10 from noon to 5 p.m., [Hundredfold Farm](http://www.hundredfoldfarm.com) will host its first annual Earth Day Celebration.

This free event will feature speakers on food security; climate change, solar, wind and water energy; water, land and soil issues, green building, plus green vendors, a children’s program, and tours of the community’s solar homes and greenhouse wastewater treatment plant.

Hundredfold Farm is an eco-community of solar/passive solar homes that is being developed just west of Gettysburg at 1668 Old Route 30, Orrtanna, Pa.

Please visit the [Hundredfold Farm website](http://www.hundredfoldfarm.com) or contact Leonard Mazza, event coordinator, at 717-334-7471 for more information.

Earth Day Spotlight

Top Ten Tips for Making Sustainability Efforts Stick in the Workplace

By

Cathy A. Rusinko, Ph.D.

Associate professor of Management

School of Business Administration, Philadelphia University

Your organization started a sustainability initiative with the best of intentions, but old habits die hard. Less than a week after Earth Day, the "paper only" containers were filled with trash.

But, with the price of oil climbing ever higher and competition for virgin resources from developing nations such as China and India growing quickly, companies will continue to come under pressure to save resources and energy costs.

So, how can managers and supervisors increase the probability that sustainable practices will stick in the office -- long after the luster fades from the recycling bins?

Taking a few lessons from research on organization change, there are ways to encourage employees to commit to sustainable practices. So, here are the top ten ways to promote green initiatives that will have staying power in your organization.

1. **Start at the top:** This is the most important rule for successful organizational change - employees are much more likely to take any change seriously if it comes from top management. Ideally, top managers should roll out the general concept of sustainability, which can then be interpreted more specifically in each part of the organization.

2. **Involve everyone:** Involvement leads to buy-in in the workplace. Encourage different parts of the organization to interpret sustainability in a way that is tailored to that function; for instance, engineering can focus on design, while purchasing can switch to environmentally friendly supplies. Encourage suggestions from everyone.

3. **Communicate the importance:** Sustainable behaviors are good for the environment, but they yield other benefits, such as helping to cut costs, attract new customers and improve competitiveness. The U.S. commercial carpet industry saved at least \$4 million in 2006 by diverting 261 million pounds of used carpet from landfills. Employees are more likely to go along with sustainability efforts if they are made aware of all the benefits.

4. **Set goals and report progress:** We all know that what's important gets measured and reported. Whether it's in the cafeteria, on the factory floor or in the cubicle, be sure to set sustainability goals (for instance, recycling glass, paper and aluminum) and report progress to all stakeholders (the volume of recyclables collected, impact on virgin resources and cost savings).

5. **Start small:** Don't try to make your organization sustainable overnight. Start with small goals, such as using real plates and compostable, potato-based containers called SpudWare in the cafeteria. Move from there to larger projects, such as making your product more sustainable or making your process more sustainable - for instance, by using electronic communications to save resources such as paper and fossil fuels. By doing this, you can learn as you implement measures and build a steady progression of successes.

6. **Celebrate small victories:** We often underestimate the power of appreciation in the workplace. Be sure to recognize any progress toward sustainability. This can be communicated in many ways, such as sending an e-mail, posting an announcement or recognizing employee successes at a meeting.

7. **Set increasingly challenging goals:** According to research, effective goals are both achievable and challenging. When sustainability goals are achieved, be sure to replace them with more challenging goals, so that you can advance your progress. Think about developing short-term (under one year) and longer term sustainability goals. Revisit these goals frequently and revise when appropriate.

8. **Keep visibility high:** Keep the sustainability message in front of employees: use bright-colored recycling containers and signs, print t-shirts and bumper stickers and other eye-catching visual cues. Some companies have passed out reusable water bottles and real cups for coffee.

9. **Find the champions:** Employees who are truly invested in sustainable practices can set the pace for everyone else. In one carpet company, I saw an employee gently remind a colleague to recycle his beverage container. That employee later became a strong advocate for recycling and encouraged others to do so. Another benefit: champions typically are willing to head-up sustainability initiatives and programs.

10. **Reinforce and reward positive behavior:** For any organizational change to stick, it has to be reinforced and rewarded over time. Marriott International designates green ambassadors who reinforce the importance of such steps as turning off lights, shutting down computers and printing on both sides of paper. Friendly competitions between departments - say, who can recycle the most waste or generate new sustainability ideas - and rewards can also keep interest and momentum strong.

Dr. Rusinko's areas of expertise include sustainability in organizations, innovation and technology management and organizational change. She is the author of a recent study on sustainability in the U.S. carpet industry. She can be contacted by sending email to: RusinkoC@PhilaU.edu .

Earth Day Opinion

Volunteers Make Difference in Great PA Cleanup

By

Kathleen A. McGinty, Secretary

Department of Environmental Protection

and

David McCorkle, President and CEO

PA Food Merchants Association and PA Convenience Store Council

Co-Chairs

[Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Alliance](#)

Thousands of volunteers help make Pennsylvania a cleaner, greener place each year by participating in the [Great Pennsylvania Cleanup](#). We need your help again this year.

The Great Pennsylvania Cleanup is an ambitious statewide effort to remove litter and trash from the state's roadways, parks, neighborhoods and open spaces. Throughout April, cleanup events will take place in cities and towns across Pennsylvania. Many of these events will occur on Saturday, giving citizens the opportunity to improve the quality of life in their community and to celebrate Earth Day.

We believe the best way to celebrate Earth Day is to roll up our sleeves and volunteer to keep our state beautiful, and we hope you will grab a trash bag and join us. The Great Pennsylvania Cleanup has been a resounding success over the past four years because of dedicated community leaders and organizations that have taken the initiative to organize thousands of cleanup events across the state.

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Volunteers make the difference. During the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup's four-year history, more than 500,000 Pennsylvanians have collected 24.6 million pounds of trash. Last year alone, nearly 140,000 volunteers from every county in Pennsylvania picked up 7.4 million pounds of trash from an unprecedented 4,100 communities between March and May. In addition, volunteers planted 13,000 trees, bulbs and plants to make Pennsylvania a better place to live, work and play.

These dedicated volunteers have transformed communities by removing litter and garbage from roadways, neighborhood parks and vacant lots.

When you take part in the Great Pennsylvania Cleanup, the Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful alliance -- which is comprised of state and local governments, nonprofits and business organizations -- will give you free work gloves, safety vests and trash bags. Organizing a cleanup is easy! If you're part of a service organization, scout troop or you just want to get your friends together to make your neighborhood a little cleaner, everything you need to get started can be found at www.GreatPaCleanup.org.

If you aren't able to organize an event this year, the Web site can show you when a cleanup is taking place in your community.

With your help, this year's cleanup will be even bigger and better than ever. So grab some friends and get going -- "Let's Pick It Up, PA!"

Other News

Grants Available For Water Quality Improvement Projects Along Wissahickon

Applications are now being accepted to fund project to improve water quality and habitat along the Wissahickon Creek as a result of a \$1.2 million penalty settlement with Merck & Company.

The deadline for applications is June 15.

The Wissahickon Creek, which flows 23 miles from Lansdale Borough to Philadelphia, is in the Schuylkill River watershed.

Merck is accepting applications for any projects dealing with stream restoration, sediment reduction, habitat restoration or wetlands restoration. Only projects that can be completed by December 31, 2011 will be accepted.

Joel Abrams, a civil engineer and professor emeritus at the University of Pittsburgh, will review and rank each proposal in order of importance and impact. Projects will be approved after officials from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approve Abrams' analysis.

The proposals should be submitted to Constance Wickersham, Merck's director of public affairs, at 770 Sumneytown Pike, P.O. Box 4, WP 97A-131, West Point, PA 19486.

Applications and instructions can be obtained by contacting Constance Wickersham, Merck & Company, by sending email to:

Constance.Wickersham@Merck.com.

June 4 Source Water Protection Solutions Workshop in Fogelsville

The [Water Resources Education Network](#), and its partners, are sponsoring a [Source Water Protection Solutions Workshop](#) on June 4 in Fogelsville.

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The workshop will help public drinking water suppliers, municipal officials, planners, watershed groups and residents learn the steps that can be taken to safeguard raw sources of water that supply drinking water systems.

Learn how Pennsylvania's [Source Water Protection Technical Assistance Program](#) can help your community with the best game plan to protect your water supplies.

For more information and to register, visit the [Water Resources Education Network website](#).

Wildlife For Everyone Improves Stream In Huntingdon County

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in partnership with the [Wildlife For Everyone Endowment Foundation](#), has completed the restoration of over 900 feet of stream channel on Crooked Creek, near McConnellstown, Huntingdon County.

This major restoration includes construction of bank full bench on both sides of the stream to narrow the channel to its proper width; construction of eight sets of paired rock vanes to stabilize the stream banks; and the installation of muddsill, which will further stabilize the stream bank. By returning the creek to a more natural condition, valuable fish habitat has been enhanced, as well as riparian habitat for birds and mammals.

In 1961 the PennDOT relocated a portion of Crooked Creek and a part of a bridge replacement project. In the process, the stream channel in the area of the bridge widened to increase the hydraulic flood flow capacity.

This over wide channel created numerous problems. Sediment would accumulate near the bridge which placed stress on the aquatic community and limited the reproductive capacity of the fish population. It also created bank erosion that affected birds and mammals.

DEP Invites Comments on Proposed Watershed TMDL Plans

The Department of Environmental Protection is asking the public to comment on proposed Total Maximum Daily Load Plans for three watersheds in Allegheny, Armstrong, Indiana, and Westmoreland counties. They include:

Craig Run Watershed, Armstrong and Indiana Counties: DEP will hold a public meeting May 28 at 2:00 in the Greensburg District Office to accept comments on the plan. Contact: Scott Bradley 724-925-5519 or send email to: scbradley@state.pa.us .

Fallen Timber Run Watershed, Allegheny County: DEP will hold a public meeting May 28 at 1:00 in the Greensburg District Office to accept comments on the plan. Contact: Scott Bradley 724-925-5519 or send email to: scbradley@state.pa.us .

Harbridge Run Watershed, Westmoreland County: DEP will hold a public meeting May 28 at 11:00 in the Greensburg District Office to accept comments on the plan. Contact: Tom Kovalchuk 724-925-5520 or send email to: tkovalchuk@state.pa.us .

To see a copy of these TMDLs and for more information, visit DEP's [TMDL webpage](#)

\$1 Million Awarded in Innovative Technologies to Improve Water Quality

The Department of Environmental Protection this week awarded \$1 million in [Growing Greener Innovative Technology Grants](#) to four municipalities in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

“These four municipalities are to be commended for thinking outside of the box on how to improve the water quality in their communities,” said Gov. Rendell. “Rather than falling back on the same old approach, these innovators looked at the challenges facing their systems and wondered what could be done differently and to the advantage of those who depend on their services.

“The result was four improved wastewater treatment systems that were upgraded in a way that offers additional value to the community; one will better protect against bacteria, another will remove a greater amount of nutrients from the water, and two will produce their own electricity to help power operations.

“Supporting these projects is important to protecting the public health and ensuring the economic vitality of our communities,” said the Governor. “Without a dependable supply of drinking water, or reliable wastewater treatment services, a community’s quality of life and ability to attract new economic development will suffer. Without these essential services, a community cannot grow.”

The grants announced this week include:

- **Centre County, Millheim Borough** -- \$167,065 to upgrade the Millheim Borough sewage treatment plant with a membrane bioreactor wastewater treatment system, which is superior to conventional systems in that it guarantees fecal coliform is removed from the effluent while also being more cost effective.
- **Dauphin County: Wiconisco Township** -- \$82,935 to install wind-driven aerators at the township’s wastewater treatment plant. The existing aerators are in need of replacement, as the current system is prone to breakdowns and the original manufacturer is out of business. The new aerators will allow the township sufficiently to remove nutrients from the wastewater to meet National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit requirements.
- **Mercer County: Hermitage Municipal Authority** -- \$375,000 to rehabilitate two existing anaerobic digesters and construct additional digester that, together, will provide the authority with the excess capacity to treat alternative feedstocks such as restaurant, grocery and grease trap waste.
- **Northumberland County: Milton Regional Sewer Authority** -- \$375,000 to upgrade the authority’s wastewater treatment plant so it generates renewable energy and is independent of the grid.

Over \$1 billion is needed to upgrade wastewater treatment plants to meet Chesapeake Bay nutrient reduction requirements and another \$593 million to install conservation measurers on farms. (See [Fair Share for Clean Water Funding Plan](#))

National Assn. of Water Companies Sustainable Water Infrastructure Meeting May 7

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Association of Water Companies will hold a Sustainable Water Infrastructure meeting and awards luncheon in Harrisburg on May 7.

The agenda for the meeting includes a welcome by Wendell F. Holland, Chairman of the Public Utility Commission.

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Two panel sessions will include presentations by Cathleen Curran Myers, DEP Deputy Secretary for Water Management (on the Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force), Lee E. Murphy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (on EPA’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Initiative), Paul Marchetti, Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (on infrastructure financing), Lori Mohr, Water Planning Office-DEP (an update on the State Water Plan), Jeffrey Hines, President & CEO of York Water Company (on better management), Kathy Pape, President & CEO Pennsylvania American Water (on full cost pricing), John Hollenback, Manager & Vice President United Water Pennsylvania (on water efficiency) and David Lewis, General Manager, Columbia Water Company (on the watershed approach).

The program will be held in Hearing Room 1, Keystone Building starting at 8:30. There will be an exhibit area in the atrium of the building.

For more information contact Erik Ross by sending email to: eross@deltaone.com.

Susquehanna Basin Commission Releases 2008 Water Resource Needs

The Susquehanna River Basin Commission issued its [2008 Water Resources Program](#), an annual plan cataloging 12 identified water resources needs for the Susquehanna basin and the programs and projects intended to address those needs.

The identified water resources needs relate to coordination, flood damage reduction, water quality improvement, drought mitigation, adequate water supplies, economic development, aquatic ecosystem restoration and protection, migratory fish restoration, recreation enhancement and other important needs.

“This 2008 plan is not only a good example of planning on a watershed scale, it also represents government working at its best to serve the public,” said SRBC Executive Director Paul Swartz. “The Commission worked with numerous governmental agencies, as well as some non-governmental organizations, to catalogue activities they have planned to properly manage a wide range of water resource issues throughout the Susquehanna watershed in New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland.”

The 2008 Water Resources Program incorporates input from SRBC; 11 federal agencies; 10 state agencies; 7 regional, county and local agencies, including the Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board in New York; and 7 non-governmental organizations, including the Upper Susquehanna Coalition – a non-profit organization representing Southern Tier New York and portions of Northern Tier Pennsylvania.

The 60-page 2008 Water Resources Program is available on [SRBC’s website](#)

Experts to Host Public Discussion on Climate Change May 6 in Philadelphia

The [Partnership for the Delaware Estuary](#), together with [The Academy of Natural Sciences](#) of Philadelphia, will host a large public forum on May 6, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., where a panel of scientists will discuss “[Global Warming in the Delaware Valley](#).”

This town hall-style meeting is one of many installments in the Academy’s “Town Square” series, which is taking place at the museum’s headquarters near Logan Square on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

“The goal of this program is to discuss what we now know about climate change in our region, and what we need to know going forward,” said Dr. Danielle Kreeger, science

director at the Partnership for the Delaware Estuary. “As scientists, we really want to hear what people believe our course of action should be once enlightened with the latest information.”

Prior to the evening’s discussion, scientists will be joined by policy makers and resource managers, among others, for a day-long technical workshop. The goal of this earlier gathering is to compare data on climate change in a way that allows professionals to move forward in a concerted, regional approach to natural resource restoration and protection. The results of the workshop will be presented during the evening’s Town Square meeting in an effort to gather public input.

“This is a much needed information exchange and discussion for scientists, resource managers and the public on a very important topic,” said Dr. David Velinsky, an environmental biogeochemist and vice president of the Patrick Center for Environmental Research at the Academy. “The outcomes of this forum will be used to advise environmental leaders regarding the ways they can adapt to the local aspects of climate change we expect to see in the next 10 to 30 years.”

“Town Square” is made possible thanks to the financial assistance of the Claneil Foundation and the Environmental Associates of The Academy of Natural Sciences.

For more information, please visit the [Global Warming in the Delaware Valley event webpage](#).

Delaware Gap Welcome Center Earns Green Building Certification

The [Delaware Water Gap Welcome Center](#) has earned a silver-level certification for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, from the U.S. Green Building Council.

The 12,700-square-foot welcome center at Exit 310 of westbound I-80, just inside the border with New Jersey, opened on Memorial Day weekend in 2006.

Operated by PennDOT, the facility was built in partnership with the Department of General Services, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, the Department of Community and Economic Development and the Pocono Mountains Vacation Bureau, Inc. Maria C. Romanach Architects of Philadelphia designed the building.

DGS managed construction of the \$9.9 million building, which included several energy-saving design features, such as geothermal heating and cooling. The architect employed a philosophy of integrated design of architectural; heating, ventilation and air conditioning; plumbing; and electrical systems using intensive energy modeling, daylight studies and other green technologies.

The center is expected to use 30 percent less energy compared to more traditional designs. A living roof garden covers 50 percent of the structure while the rest of the roof is designed for picnicking. An eye-catching fabric tensile structure “umbrella” provides shade for the picnic area.

NewsClip: [Welcome Center Wins Green Building Certification](#)

TreeVitalize Pittsburgh Forms to Grow Region’s Tree Cover

[TreeVitalize](#) Pittsburgh, a new partnership dedicated to making a significant improvement in the Pittsburgh region’s tree cover, announced its formation recently at a kick-off event in Lawrenceville.

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At the same time at the other end of the state, TreeVitalize southeast celebrated the [planting of the 20,000th tree](#).

Officials planted one of 250 trees that will go in the ground this Spring in celebration of Pittsburgh's 250th anniversary.

A partnership of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, TreeVitalize Pittsburgh intends to plant thousands of trees in the region during the next several years.

DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis announced a \$250,000 Community Conservation Partnerships Program grant from Keystone funds to the City of Pittsburgh as the first investment in the program. Keystone is a DCNR fund generated from a portion of the realty transfer tax. TreeVitalize Pittsburgh also is supported by the Heinz Endowments.

“With only one street tree for every 11 people, Pittsburgh's tree-per-capita ratio falls behind other major U.S. cities,” Secretary DiBerardinis said at the kick off event. “TreeVitalize is meant to improve that ratio as a way to revitalize our communities, improve air and water quality and enhance the quality of life for our citizens.”

Also speaking at the event and assisting in the tree-planting were City of Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato, and Western Pennsylvania Conservancy President and CEO Tom Saunders.

“This is more than just putting trees in the ground,” said Mayor Ravenstahl. “Our goal is to educate citizens, build regional collaboration and capacity to promote stewardship of our natural resources.”

This April, with the support of community groups and local nonprofit organizations, 250 trees are being planted in Pittsburgh neighborhoods, city and county parks and riverfronts. The ceremonial tree planted is an American hornbeam, native to the eastern United States. It is one of 15 new trees planted on Fisk Street in April by more than 40 tree tenders and neighborhood volunteers, as well as Friends of the Pittsburgh Urban Forest and TreeVitalize.

Neighbors and tree tenders have committed to caring for the trees for the first two to three years after planting by watering, mulching and pruning them. After the trees become too large for volunteer stewardship, the City of Pittsburgh will assume responsibility for their management.

“If properly maintained, trees return environmental, economic and social benefits to a community far in excess of the costs of maintaining them,” said Onorato.

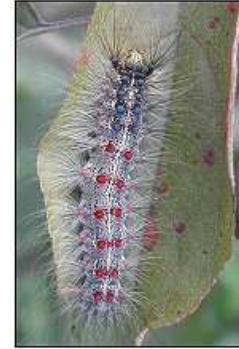
TreeVitalize Pittsburgh is modeled after the award-winning TreeVitalize of southeastern Pennsylvania, which has planted more than 20,000 trees in that region since its launch in 2004. In southwestern Pennsylvania, the program will be coordinated on behalf of the partners by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, through its Pittsburgh office.

Trees deliver more than aesthetic benefits. They improve the environment by producing oxygen, reducing pollution, capturing rainwater, and providing shelter for animals. They reduce greenhouse gases by using carbon dioxide. Trees also generate economic benefits by increasing property values, reducing heating and cooling costs, and improving quality of life.

For more information about how to plant and care for trees, visit the [Treevitalize website](#).

DCNR, Game Commission Spraying Woodlands to Combat Gypsy Moth Damage

Bracing for a Spring that could be marked by increased [gypsy moth infestations](#) and heavy defoliation in some areas of the state, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the Game Commission announced plans this week to expand their aerial spraying efforts to suppress the woodland insect pest.



Game Commission officials announced they have scheduled gypsy moth spraying for a total of 42,731 acres of its more than 1.4 million acre State Game Lands system. Spraying will cover 38 different SGLs, and will occur in late April to early May, as soon as leaves pop out and gypsy moth egg masses hatch.

After a virtual collapse of gypsy moth populations in recent years across most of Pennsylvania, insect numbers have increased to the point where spraying will be necessary on 221,831 acres in 27 counties, the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources said.

"As we anticipate more gypsy moths, it's very important to remember spraying is designed to protect trees in forested landscapes from moderate to severe defoliation," DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis said. "We can't eradicate an insect that's well established in Pennsylvania and is here to stay."

A total of 64,900 acres of private, state and federal woodlands were sprayed in 19 counties in spring 2007; gypsy moth caterpillars defoliated 681,000 acres. This year, 21 counties enrolled 95,305 private acres in the program; up from the 11 counties that requested 35,900 acres be sprayed in 2007.

"In this voluntary program, counties and cooperating agencies share the costs of private land treatment," Secretary DiBerardinis said. "This acreage, as well as state lands to be sprayed, is concentrated in the northeast and north- and south-central regions of the state where there have been three consecutive years of oak defoliation by gypsy moth larvae.

"These state lands are selected based on the number and concentration of gypsy moth egg masses, previous defoliation, and ecological, historic, or economic significance."

Nine helicopters and five fixed-wing aircraft will begin the spray program in early May and end shortly after Memorial Day. Spraying is dependent on weather, foliage development and caterpillar development.

"Thanks largely to the gypsy moth's natural enemy — *Entomophaga maimaiga* — moth numbers had been way down for several years in most areas of the state, and spraying was not necessary," said State Forester Daniel Devlin. "Spraying helps contain the widespread gypsy moth damage we have seen in the past, but the major controlling factor is, and will continue to be, the prevalence of this fungus in our woodlands."

Counties enrolled in 2008 and private acres to be sprayed are: Adams, 370; Bedford, 1,196; Berks, 862; Blair, 582; Centre, 13,371; Chester, 200; Clearfield, 300; Cumberland, 14,443; Dauphin, 11,366; Franklin, 5,115; Fulton, 4,582; Lackawanna, 507; Lebanon, 7,991; Luzerne, 7,761; Mifflin, 435; Monroe, 1,666; Perry, 4,308; Pike, 11,236; Snyder, 1,178; Union, 1,186; and York, 6,650.

In addition, state parks and forestlands, state game lands and other woodlands will be sprayed in Carbon, Clinton, Huntingdon, Lancaster, Juniata and Somerset counties.

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Gypsy moth populations dropped sharply between 2000 and 2006, when 700,000 acres of woodlands were defoliated as DCNR treated 82,000 acres in eight counties.

Following a 76-percent reduction in defoliation during spring 2002, DCNR opted not to conduct aerial spraying in 2003, 2004 and 2005, when gypsy moth populations sharply declined due to *Entomophaga maimaiga*.

"Those participating in spring gobbler seasons may encounter helicopters or other aircraft spraying State Game Lands or other forested areas," said William Capouillez, Game Commission Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management director. "We want those hunters to rest assured that the spray being used is not harmful to humans, and only will impact gypsy moth caterpillars when they ingest the spray."

The Game Commission will pay \$1,349,993.58 out of agency's Growing Greener II funding to the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, which oversees the Statewide Cooperative Spray Program for gypsy moths.

"In the summer of 2007, a statewide inventory of gypsy moth impacts on SGLs identified defoliation on more than 93,000 acres," Capouillez said. "To prioritize and focus spraying efforts, we looked at a series of factors, including: the importance of oaks on a particular SGL; socio-political impacts of each SGL; whether there were existing [Important Bird Areas](#), [Important Mammal Areas](#) or critical/unique habitats on the SGL; past gypsy moth impacts and resulting forest habitat conditions; and financial values of timber stands."

From this point, the Game Commission identified the 42,731 acres in most critical need of treatment to prevent similar defoliation or loss due to the expected gypsy moth hatch this year. Based on the present data, all spraying will occur in the Northcentral (5,970 acres), Southcentral (27,818 acres), Northeast (1,116 acres) and Southeast (7,827 acres) regions. The Northwest and Southwest regions, which suffered little to no gypsy moth defoliation, are not slated for spraying at this time.

A list of those areas to be sprayed by the Game Commission [is available online](#).

All areas will be treated this year with the biological insecticide, *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt), comprised of naturally occurring *Bacillus* spores. No chemical insecticides are used.

Gypsy moths are one of the most destructive forest pests in Pennsylvania. Feeding while in the larval — or caterpillar — stage, the insect hatches and begins feeding from mid- to late April in southern Pennsylvania, and in early- to mid-May in the northern part of the state. Oak, sugar maple, beech and aspen trees are affected the most by the forest pest.

When populations peak, the insects may strip trees of foliage, leaving them weakened and susceptible to disease, drought, and attack by other insects. A tree begins to suffer when 30 percent or more of its leaf surface is lost.

Forest insect spray programs are a cooperative effort among DCNR's Bureau of Forestry, county and municipal governments, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service's Forest Health Protection Unit.

The gypsy moth was introduced to North America in 1869 at Medford, Mass., where it was used in a silk-production experiment. The gypsy moth first reached Pennsylvania in Luzerne County in 1932, and since then has infested every county.

Homeowners and other private property owners can learn more about the gypsy moth, the damage it causes, and small-scale efforts to combat it by visiting the [Frequently Asked Questions webpage](#).

For information on the progress of gypsy moth spraying activities, visit the [Spray Progress Report webpage](#).

Game Commissioners Approve Land Acquisition, Mineral Rights Leases

The [Game Commission](#) this week approved a series of land acquisitions, land exchanges and mineral leases at its Board of Directors meeting. A listing of those actions follows--

Migratory Bird Protection in Mercer, Erie Counties: A land exchange/purchase will preserve more than 90 acres of land adjoining State Game Land 314 that provides an important stopover for migratory birds passing over Lake Erie.

In the deal, a land exchange involving three quarters of an acre of abandoned railroad grade on SGL 284 in Springfield Township, Mercer County. In the exchange for the land, Larry and Linda Bruno, of Hermitage, have agreed to provide \$4,500 toward the acquisition of 91.5 acres adjacent to SGL 314 in Springfield Township, Erie County.

The Game Commission will pay for the remaining acreage - at \$400 per acre - with Game Fund monies. This exchange also must be sanctioned by the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and the National Park Service, because the land sought by the Brunos was acquired in part with Land and Water Conservation Fund Act funding.

"This acquisition was advanced initially by the Lake Erie Regional Conservancy, which had planned to acquire the tract with federal and state grants," explained Game Commission Executive Director Carl G. Roe. "However, the Conservancy's grant application to the National Scenic Byways Program was not selected. The Conservancy, undeterred, continued to identify conservation partners to help cover funding and approached the Game Commission for assistance in protecting this land.

"The goal is to safeguard this important, but sensitive wildlife habitat. It is already designated as a state Important Bird Area and surely will remain important to wild birds and other fauna long into the future."

Surface Coal Mining in Clearfield County: The Board approved a surface mining coal lease with P&N Coal Company Inc., of Punxsutawney, for 121 acres of SGL 77 in Sandy Township, Clearfield County.

Mining is expected to yield about 79,450 tons of coal. The reclamation work will reclaim about 7,000 linear feet of abandoned high wall, and 28.2 acres of abandoned mine spoil. Work also aims to remedy acid mine discharges into Slab Run, and includes construction of a wetland, and reconstruction of a stream that currently flows through the abandoned strip mine. P&N also will pay for all timber impacted within the reclamation/mining site.

In exchange for the lease, P&N will pay the Game Commission a royalty rate of \$2.75 or 12 percent of the current FOB pit price, whichever is greater, for each marketable ton of coal removed from the lease area. P&N also has agreed to provide the Game Commission an advance coal royalty payment of \$100,000 upon final execution of the lease and issuance of a mining permit. This money will be used to buy more State Game Lands. The lease has a potential coal royalty value of \$218,500.

Oil/Gas Lease, Greene County: An oil/gas lease with Atlas America LLC, of Moon Township, was approved to tap reserves from beneath SGL 223 in Dunkard and Greene townships, Greene County, in exchange for 139 acres of land adjacent to SGL 265, royalties and free natural gas.

The tract to be leased is 2,031 acres. Atlas America controls severed oil and gas rights under about 840 acres on SGL 223, which contains 7,394 acres. The company has already obtained permits to drill several wells on their privately-leased acreage, which when drilled could potentially withdraw some of the Game Commission's oil/gas reserve. Agency staff subsequently negotiated with Atlas America to guarantee its reserve holdings benefited the agency - and ultimately Pennsylvania wildlife - to their fullest potential.

In exchange for the lease, Atlas has agreed to transfer a 139-acre parcel adjacent to SGL 265 in Henry Clay Township, Fayette County. Valued at \$900 per acre, the parcel will augment the 380 acres that currently comprise SGL 265. The land will provide public access to the State Game Land from Route 40.

Atlas America will pay the Game Commission \$125 per acre of leased land within 60 days after the lease is executed, and a royalty rate of 17 percent per mcf (1,000 cubic feet) of the wellhead price of all gas produced and sold from the lease premises. Atlas America also will unitize three existing wells located within 500 feet of the agency's oil/gas boundary -whether or not on state game lands - and will pay the Game Commission a royalty rate of 17 percent per mcf (1,000 cubic feet) of the wellhead price for all gas produced and sold from the unitized wells. Atlas America also has agreed to provide 400,000 cubic feet of free gas annually to two Food and Cover Corps buildings on SGL 223, as well as necessary equipment.

Land Options in Indiana, Wyoming Counties: The Board approved the acquisition of a 27.56-acre indenture into SGL 153 in Wheatfield Township, Indiana County, for \$16,200 from the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. The property is covered by early successional, mixed hardwood forest and is flanked on three sides by SGL 153, which totals 2,926 acres. Oil, gas and mineral rights to the land have been reserved by a prior reservation held by the Garfield Refractories Company. Acquisition of this tract will lead to a reduction in boundary maintenance.

The Board also accepted the donation of an administrative right-of-way through a property in Forkston Township, Wyoming County, owned by Ron and Janis Hollenbeck of Montrose. The right-of-way will improve agency access to SGL 57's sprawling 44,641 acres. The Hollenbecks have provided this access to improve wildlife habitat on that portion of SGL 57 that abuts their property.

"Through their generosity, the Hollenbecks increased the Game Commission's ability to properly care for SGL 57," said William Capouillez, Bureau of Wildlife Habitat Management director. Their efforts will further wildlife conservation greatly on this game lands in the future."

Game Commission OKs Limiting Deer Hunt in Several WMUs, Wild Boar Hunting

The Game Commissioners this week gave final approval to changes in the deer hunting season for several Wildlife Management Units.



The Game Commission Board also directed the Executive Director to use his regulatory authority to remove protection of wild boars, and provide exceptions to allow protection in townships and/or counties where trap-and-removal efforts are underway.

On December 27, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that wild boars are protected mammals under the Game and Wildlife Code. As a result, the agency must take regulatory action to remove protection from wild boars. By doing so, the Game Commission is seeking to avoid confusion that feral swine, also referred to as wild boars, are a game species, and clearly delivers the message that the agency's goal is the eradication of this invasive species.

The only way to effectively eradicate feral swine is through trap-and-removal efforts, not by hunting them, according to wildlife experts based on experience in other states. (See [Audubon PA Urges Eradication of Feral Swine](#))

Deer Season Changes

The substantial change for the deer hunting seasons is a five-day, antlered deer only season in Wildlife Management Units 2D, 2G, 3C and 4B starting the Monday after Thanksgiving (December 1-5), followed immediately by seven days of concurrent, antlered and antlerless deer hunting (December 6-13). The approved package retains the two-week (Dec. 1-13) concurrent, antlered and antlerless season in the remaining 18 WMUs.

A number of environmental and sportsmen's groups opposed the change in the deer season. (See [Audubon Urges Taking of More Deer, Not Less – Video Blog](#))

"The goals of the deer management plan have not changed," said Carl G. Roe, Game Commission executive director. "The changes to these four WMUs will allow us to investigate the relationship between antlerless allocations and season length as we move forward with our deer management plan."

Roe noted that the four WMUs were chosen because: WMUs 2G and 4B have ongoing deer research in them; WMU 2D is an area where antler restrictions are set at four points on one side, and is where the agency previously had deer research conducted; and WMU 3C is an area where antler restrictions are set at three points on one side, and is a physiographic area of the state where no extensive deer research has been conducted.

"Antlerless deer harvest versus number of days of opportunity, or the overall season length, will be evaluated over the next four years of five days of antlered deer and seven days of concurrent seasons," Roe said. "Also, we will conduct annual surveys of hunters to address other aspects of the program."

"In the future, stakeholders may be able to provide input by sharing whether they'd like more opportunity via time, such as two weeks or more, or more people involved through perhaps more tags and shorter seasons."

Game Commission staff, per Board direction in January, is preparing a four-year study to determine the impact and effectiveness of the proposed five-day antlered/seven-day concurrent season before additional WMUs may be considered for this season configuration.

The Deer Management Assistance Program that addresses landowner deer management objectives within WMUs remains in place. And, noting that the focus of DMAP is to allow landowners to direct additional hunting pressure on specific areas to meet that landowner's objectives, the Board gave preliminary approval to a measure to allow DMAP antlerless deer permit holders to hunt for antlerless deer in WMUs 2D, 2G, 3C and 4D for the full two-weeks of the firearms deer season, Dec. 1-13, similar to all

other 18 WMUs. The Board must approve this measure in June before it takes effect for the upcoming 2008-09 deer hunting seasons.

The Board also gave preliminary approval to a regulatory change to allow hunters in special regulation areas counties (Allegheny, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia) to harvest more than one deer at a time without first lawfully tagging previous harvest, provided all deer harvested are lawfully tagged immediately thereafter.

This change is part of the agency's continuing efforts to find solutions to the high deer-human conflicts in these urban counties. For all other areas, hunters must continue to tag the first deer harvested before attempting to harvest a second.

A complete summary of actions taken on season and bag limits [is available online](#).
NewsClip: [Shorter Deer Season Approved](#)

Spotlight

Fair Share Funding for Clean Water – A Builder's Perspective

On April 9 a unique group of organizations came together to propose the [PA Fair Share for Clean Water Funding Plan](#) to help wastewater plant ratepayers and farmers with the cost of meeting Chesapeake Bay Watershed and statewide water quality improvement mandates.

The coalition includes the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Pennsylvania Builders Association, Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs and the Pennsylvania Realtors Association.

These groups all strongly support cleaning up Pennsylvania's rivers and streams, but want state government to be a partner in that effort.

Here are the comments presented by [Robert J. Fisher](#) on behalf of the Pennsylvania Builders Association supporting the Fair Share Plan--

Good morning. My name is Robert J. Fisher, and I am president of [R. J. Fisher & Associates](#), a New Cumberland-based planning, surveying and engineering firm. I serve as chairman of the Pennsylvania Builders Association's Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy Task Force, and I am also a member of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy Act 537 Plan Committee.

For more than two years, Pennsylvania's housing industry has been actively involved in efforts to help the state Department of Environmental Protection develop a Chesapeake Bay compliance plan that can achieve two important goals: improving the water quality of the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed and ensuring that economic growth and development can continue to take place in the affected portion of Pennsylvania.

Nevertheless, despite the good-faith efforts of numerous organizations, including those represented here today, needed changes have not been implemented to the Department's strategy. Pennsylvania now faces a situation under which sewage ratepayers may be forced to spend \$1 billion on capital upgrades that will reduce only a small fraction of the pollution that the state sends to the Bay.

At the same time, due to the fact that the Department's plan makes no allowance for new nutrient discharges, economic development in large portions of Pennsylvania will be choked off for a lack of future sewage capacity for new growth.

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To avert these environmental and economic calamities, a new approach is needed—and that is why we have joined today with other organizations that also recognize the need for policy changes that target funding resources to the areas of greatest environmental benefit to the Bay and provide a mechanism that accommodates future economic development.

The Department's strategy provides for such a mechanism in the form of a nutrient credit trading program, under which credits would be generated, primarily through the installation of agricultural best management practices (BMPs), to offset nutrient discharges that exceed mandated limits.

However, due to a number of flaws with the current structure and implementation of the trading program, it has not been viewed as a viable option either by potential credit users or generators.

A concept that would help to improve the workability of the trading program would be to create a nutrient credit trading bank that would guarantee the availability of credits over a 20 or 30-year time period at a fixed cost.

At the same time, a much better nutrient reduction strategy would be to concentrate funding efforts to install BMPs to clean up the primary sources of nutrient pollution, mainly farmlands in south-central Pennsylvania. The credits generated by these farms could be subsidized and used to meet the needs of treatment plants and builders throughout the bay drainage area at a cost potentially lower than that needed for capital upgrades.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge and express PBA's gratitude for the efforts of Rep. Scott Perry, who has provided outstanding leadership on this issue and worked with many of the organizations represented here today, along with legislative staff, to craft a bill that incorporates many of the concepts we have spoken of this morning.

We look forward to supporting his bill upon its introduction and urge our coalition partners to do the same. We also appreciate the work of Sen. Patricia Vance, Rep. Jerry Nailor, and other state legislators who understand the implications of this issue for Pennsylvania and have worked diligently to address the problems with the Chesapeake Bay and its cleanup. Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak today.

Fair Share Plan: 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 conservation tax credits and \$15 million in cost-share funding); \$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.

For more information on the Pennsylvania Fair Share Plan for Clean Water, visit the [Fair Share for Clean Water webpage](#).

NewsClips: [Editorial: Key Groups in Sewage Dispute Make Progress Over Funding Official Says Bay Cleanup Has A Long Way to Go](#)
[Valley Sewer Authority: Contact State Officials About Sewer Funding](#)

Video Blog: [Remarks By Coalition Partners on the Fair Share Clean Water Plan](#)

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

[16,000 Miles of Polluted Streams Add Urgency to Call for Clean Water Funding](#)

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—

- **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 15**—**NEW**. [Merck Wissahickon Creek Water Quality Improvement Grants](#)
- **June 15**—**NEW**. [EPA Region 3 Environmental Achievement Awards](#)
- **June 15**—**NEW**. [Northeast Environmental Partners Environmental Awards](#)
- **June 16**— [Rachel Carson Sense of Wonder Contest](#)
- **June 20**— DEP [Section 902 Recycling Development Grants](#)
- **June 20**—[DEP PA Energy Harvest Grants](#)
- **June 20**— [DEP Biofuels Subsidy Grants](#)
- **June 20**—[PEDA Innovative, Advanced Renewable Energy Grants](#)
- **June 20**—[PEDA Duquesne Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy Grants](#)
- [RC&D Grants for Improving Livestock Operations](#)
- **September 20**— [Fish & Boat Commission Boating Facilities Grants](#)
- **September 24**—**NEW**. [Coca-Cola, NRC Recycling Bin Grants](#)
- **October 15**—[PPL Project Earth Environmental Education Grants](#)
- **October 31**—[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

[Op-Ed: Time is Short on Energy, Climate-Change Legislation](#)

[Op-Ed: Energy Efficiency Will Benefit PA's Economy, Sen. Erickson, Nathan Willcox](#)

[Op-Ed: Energy Conservation Bills Crucial](#)

[Op-Ed: Put Stimulus Cash Into Global Green](#)

[Editorial: We Must Face Global Warming](#)

[Editorial: No Quick Or Easy Energy Answers](#)

[Emmaus Students Are a Natural at Envirothon](#)

[Ecological Footprints Take Softer Steps in Right Direction](#)

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[Single-Stream Recycling to Expand in Philadelphia](#)
[Breaking Down Composting](#)
[Health Agencies Not Ready for Climate Change Effects](#)
[Editorial: Just Switching Light Bulbs Can Save Energy, Reduce Global Warming](#)
[Hope Builds for Greener Skyline](#)
[Green Building Right on Target](#)
[Changing Market Has Builder Going Green](#)
[Feds Deliver \\$1.75 Million for Brownfields Cleanup](#)
[Delaware County Forms Board to Advise on Environment, Energy](#)
[Williamsport Businesses, Industry Adopt Environmentally Friendly Practices](#)
[Harrisburg's Allison Hill is Going Green](#)
[Green Hotel to Open in State College](#)
[Fryer Oil Fuels Lancaster Pizza Delivery Cars](#)
[\\$30 Million Plant to Make Ethanol in New Way](#)
[Penn State Students Teach Energy Efficiency](#)
[Editorial: PPL Customers Need State to Show Leadership](#)
[Opening Pockets for Open Space](#)
[Open Space Funds OK'd By Buckingham Voters](#)
[Game Land Drilling Adds to State Coffers](#)
[Gas Leasing Tips Offered By Attorney General](#)
[Gas Lease Concerns Packed School](#)
[Getting on Track with Rail-Trail](#)
[Festival to Showcase Park's Bird Species](#)
[Radon Study Earns Praise](#)
[Editorial: Some Progress Better Than None on Mine Safety](#)
[Mine Subsidence Closes Luzerne County Highway](#)
[Subsidence a Terrible Situation](#)
[Environmental Law Task Force Formed in Western PA](#)
[Wildfire Warning: Dry Weather, Low Humidity Increase Risk](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Editorial: Key Groups in Sewage Dispute Make Progress Over Funding](#)
[Lycoming County Taking Next Step in Chesapeake Bay Strategy](#)
[Official Says Bay Cleanup Has A Long Way to Go](#)
[Valley Sewer Authority: Contact State Officials About Sewer Funding](#)
[Kettle Creek Watershed Assn. Celebrating 10 Years of Conservation](#)
[Students Groom East Lampeter Township Creek](#)
[Stewards of their Own Backyard](#)
[Soaking Up Rain](#)
[Rain Barrels Save Water](#)
[Upper Pottsgrove Action on Water Protection Example to Follow](#)
[Oil City to Join Source Water Protection Program](#)
[Something's Fishy About Their Project in Easton](#)
[Editorial: Environmental Consciousness Rises to the Top](#)

[Cooperative Trout Nurseries Satisfying throng of Anglers](#)
[Editorial: Good Stewards, Anglers Would Ease Landowners' Concerns](#)
[Editorial: Flood of Good Sense in Delaware](#)
[On Lehigh River, Shad and Dams Don't Mix](#)
[A Shad for Dad, and One for His Daughter](#)
[Merck Pays Settlement With Wissahickon Creek Improvements](#)
[Oil City Nets State Grant for Study on Area Waterways](#)
[EPA Putting Squeeze on Municipalities in Southeast](#)
[Presque Isle to Host First Festival of the Birds](#)
[Mining Company Seeks to Reclassify Stream for Coal Plant](#)
[DEP Reminds Pool Owners to Handle Waste Water Safely](#)

Regulations

The Independent Regulator Review Commission [published comments](#) on proposed regulations to limit diesel idling.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – April 26, 2008](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Fish and Boat Commission published a [proposed statement of policy](#) on wind power projects.

[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 29—NEW.** Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 1062](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) providing for the reimbursement of developers for redevelopment of brownfield sites, [Senate Bill 1330](#) (D.White-R-Indiana) providing for the resolution of coal bed methane rights disputes, [Senate Resolution 294](#) (MJ.White-R-Venango) affirming the consent of the Commonwealth to the acquisition of Allegheny National Forest Lands is conditioned

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on the preservation of state and private property rights (*a similar [House Resolution 693](#) passed the House*). Senate Majority Caucus Room. 10:30.

- **April 29**—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 29**—**NEW**. House State Government Committee meets to consider [House Bill 771](#) (Hershey-R-Chester) officially designating the Hazleton soil series as the official soil of the Commonwealth. Room G-50 Irvis Building. 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 1**—**NEW**. [DEP Solar Work Group meeting](#). Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00. Contact: Libby Dodson, 717-772-8907 or send email to: ldodson@state.pa.us.
- **May 7**—**NEW**. Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Association of Water Companies will hold a Sustainable Water Infrastructure meeting and awards luncheon. Hearing Room 1, Keystone Building, Harrisburg. Contact: Erik Ross, eross@deltaone.com.
- **May 8**—[Governor’s Sustainable Water Infrastructure Task Force](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 9:30.
- **May 10**—**NEW**. [Hundredfold Farm Earth Day Celebration](#). Orrtanna, Adams County. 12:00-5:00.
- **May 12**—**NEW**. Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee holds a hearing on energy efficiency and demand side response programs. Room 461. 10:00.
- **May 12**—**NEW**. Environmental Issues Forum, hosted by the [Joint Air and Water Pollution and Conservation Committee](#), presents a program on the [Environmental Management Assistance Program](#) provided by the PA Small Business Development Centers. Room 205 Ryan Building. Noon.
- **May 13-15**—[PA Water/Wastewater Association](#) annual conference. Valley Forge.
- **May 14**—**NEW**. House Agriculture and Rural Affairs meets to consider [Senate Bill 1020](#) (Wonderling-R-Montgomery) updating the county conservation district law. Room 205 Ryan Building. 10:00.
- **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 21**—**NEW**. [Capital Region Water Board](#) meeting and plant tour. Lebanon Authority Office, 2311 Ridgeview Road, Lebanon. 11:00. Contact: Cindy Rock, Cindy.L.Rock@comcast.net.
- **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.

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- **May 28**— [Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards Program](#). Pittsburgh.
- **June 9**—**NEW**. Joint State Government Commission Task Force meeting on the Kilbuck Township Landslide pursuant to [House Resolution 897](#). Room 108 Finance Building. 12:00.
- **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.
- **June 16**—**NEW**. Environmental Issues Forum, hosted by the [Joint Air and Water Pollution and Conservation Committee](#), presents a program on the services provided by the [Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program](#) (PennTAP). Room 205 Ryan Building. Noon.

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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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