

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

May 1, 2006

Senate/House Unanimously Adopt Watershed Awareness Month Resolutions

[Senate Resolution 291](#) sponsored by Sen. Rhoades (R-Schuylkill), Sen. Musto (D-Luzerne), Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) and 30 other Senators and [House Resolution 711](#) sponsored by Rep. Adolph (R-Delaware) and Rep. George (D-Clearfield) and 87 other members passed both the Senate and House unanimously this week.

The text of the resolution follows.



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A RESOLUTION

Designating the month of May 2006 as "Watershed Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, There are more than 10,762 miles of streams and rivers in Pennsylvania that are so polluted they do not meet current water quality standards; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Since 1999 watershed groups have reclaimed more than 5,000 acres of abandoned mines, overplanted 1,000 miles of stream buffers and created or restored more than 3,000 acres of wetlands; and

WHEREAS, Local watershed groups are a cost-effective investment in environmental cleanup for the Commonwealth: for every \$1 invested by the State, watershed groups matched it with \$1.25 of their own, more than doubling the State's investment; and

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

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

RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of May 2006 as "Watershed Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the theme "The Power of Positive Action is Restoring our Watersheds" guide the many volunteer community organizations, educators and other groups conducting watershed education and awareness activities throughout the month.

Session Schedule

The Senate and House return to session May 1. Note, the House has eliminated May 22, 23, 24 as session days. The Senate is still scheduled to be in session those days.

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- Pittsburgh's Three Rivers Named DCNR's Rivers of the Year
- 5 Rivers and Streams Placed on PA Rivers Conservation Registry
- West Branch Susquehanna Task Force Announces Coalition
- Clarion River Cleanup Planned for May 6, 13 to Cover 51 Miles
- New Lancaster County Watershed Website Now Online
- DCNR Acts to Protect 1,800 Acre Birdsboro Reservoir from Development
- Workshop in Dauphin County to Help Business Owners Cut Energy Costs
- Model Ordinance, Wind Conference Scholarships to Help Local Governments
- Sustainable Energy Fund Launches College-Level Solar Energy Education Initiative
- Shades of Green Leadership Award Winners Selected
- Green Communities Offers Online Seminar at No Cost May 18
- Seven School Districts Receive Grants to Promote Green Building Construction
- Coca-Coke Bottler in Allentown Added to EPA Environmental Performance Track
- 2006 Phoenix Award Applications Now Being Accepted for Brownfield Projects
- Americans Recycling 28.5 Percent of Their Trash, But Still Throw Most Away
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- Lichvar and Anderson Confirmed for Fish & Boat Commission
- Help Wanted- Watershed Coordinator

See & Hear

- Students, Businesses, Homeowners, Learn About Energy Efficiency

[Go To the Watershed Awareness Month Events Section](#)

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

On the Hill

On the Senate, House Agenda/Bills Moving

Here's the rundown of what's on the calendars and in committees—

Calendars

The House will start with these bills of interest on its May 1 Calendar-- [House Bill 1588](#) providing for the fluoridation of public water; and [House Bill 2067](#) setting limits on state spending through a constitutional amendment.

The Senate has these environmental bills on its Calendar-- [Senate Bill 266](#) providing a Sales and Use Tax exemption on purchases of energy efficient appliances meeting the Energy Star standards.

Committees

In the House, the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee holds an informational meeting on the status of State Water Resources Planning; and the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee meets to consider [House Bill 243](#) to provide premium assistance for property owners eligible for federal flood insurance.

In the Senate, the Rules & Executive Nominations Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 723](#) providing for definitions and legislative report under the Agricultural Area Security law; and the Environmental Resources and Energy Committee holds a second hearing on reducing mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants.

There will be a joint Senate/House Agriculture Committees informational meeting to discuss conservation issues and the 2007 Federal Farm Bill this week.

Senate/House Bills Moving

The Senate and House were both in session this week and as a result bills and resolutions were flying around. Here's the rundown.

Senate

Downtown Relocation Law: [House Bill 218](#) (Reed-D-Indiana) redefines “downtown” in law requiring the Commonwealth to look at locating state offices in downtown areas passed the Senate and returns to the House for a concurrence vote.

Watershed Awareness Month: [Senate Resolution 291](#) sponsored by Sen. Rhoades (R-Schuylkill), Sen. Musto (D-Luzerne), Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango) designating May as “Watershed Awareness Month” was adopted unanimously by the Senate.

Drinking Water Month: [Senate Resolution 259](#) (sponsored by Sen. Musto-D-Luzerne, and Sen. Mary Jo White-R-Venango) designating May 7-13 as “Drinking Water Week” was reported from the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee.

Energy Efficient Appliances: [Senate Bill 266](#) (C.Williams-D-Montgomery) providing a Sales and Use Tax exemption on purchases of energy efficient appliances meeting the Energy Star standards was reported from Senate Rules and Nominations Committee and is on the Senate Calendar for action.

House

Agricultural Security Areas: [Senate Bill 723](#) (Wenger-R-Lancaster) providing for definitions and legislative report under the Agricultural Area Security law was passed by the House and now goes back to the Senate for a concurrence vote.

Spill Response: [House Bill 2169](#) (McGill-R-Montgomery) providing definitions for terms related to responding to accidents and spills on highways was referred to House Appropriations.

Fireworks: [House Bill 2349](#) (Scavello-R-Monroe) adding a definition of “consumer fireworks” to the Fireworks Law was referred to House Appropriations.

Clean Streams Penalties: [House Bill 2042](#) (Reichley-R-Berks) increasing penalties under the Clean Streams Law, was reported out of the House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee, after an amendment making corporate liability provisions consistent with commercial provisions, and was referred to House Appropriations.

Storage Tanks: [House Bill 1195](#) (Yudichak-D-Luzerne) that makes changes to the program to help underground tank owners upgrade tanks was reported out of the House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee.

In-Lieu of Tax Payments: [Senate Bill 868](#) (Scarnati-R-Warren) increasing the forest land in-lieu of tax payment, after an amendment making the provisions effective no later than July 1 was reported out of the House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee.

Lyme Disease: [House Resolution 661](#) (E.Z.Taylor-R-Chester) designating May as Lyme Disease Awareness Month was adopted by the House.

Watershed Awareness Month: [House Resolution 711](#) (Adolph-R-Delaware, George-D-Clearfield) designating May as Watershed Awareness Month was adopted by the House.

Federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Funding: [House Resolution 719](#) (Markosek-D-Allegheny) urging Congress to reauthorize the federal abandoned mine reclamation fee was adopted by the House, the second resolution this year on this topic.

Whole Foods Market Day: [House Resolution 671](#) (Killion-R-Chester) designating April 19 as “Whole Foods Market Day” and was adopted by the House.

Bills Introduced

Gas Recovery: [House Bill 2494](#) (Tangretti-D-Westmoreland) regulating the terms and conditions of the removal of natural or other gas and further defining the rights of surface owners.

Whitewater Rafting: [House Bill 2606](#) (Bunt-R-Montgomery) further providing for whitewater rafting by DCNR by removing the bid requirements.

Historic Preservation Incentives: [House Bill 2607](#) (Hershey-R-Chester) providing tax incentives for historic preservation.

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Mine Families First: [House Bill 2619](#) (Bastian-R-Somerset) establishing a Mine Families First Program to provide assistance to families involved in mine rescue operations.

Diesel Retrofit Tax Credit: [House Bill 2620](#) (Gabig-R-Cumberland) providing a tax credit for diesel retrofits.

Weatherization Tax Credit: [House Bill 2623](#) (George-D-Clearfield) providing a tax credit for weatherization.

Whole Foods Market Day: [House Resolution 671](#) (Killion-R-Chester) designating April 19 as “Whole Foods Market Day” was adopted by the House.

Rachel Carson Day: [House Resolution 701](#) (Josephs-D-Philadelphia) designating May 27 as “Rachel Carson Day.”

Arbor Day: [House Resolution 706](#) (Marsico-D-Dauphin) designating April 28 as “Arbor Day.”

Drinking Water Week: [House Resolution 679](#) (Rubley-R-Chester) designating May 7 to 13 “Drinking Water Week” was adopted by the House.

Federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Funding: [House Resolution 719](#) (Markosek-D-Allegheny) urging Congress to reauthorized the federal abandoned mine reclamation fee was adopted by the House, the second resolution this year on this topic.

Electronics Recycling: [House Resolution 723](#) (Mann-D-Lehigh) encouraging DEP to support and expand electronics recycling programs.

House Committee Reports Bill Increasing Water Pollution Penalties

The House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee met this week and reported out these bills:

- [House Bill 2042](#) (Reichley-R-Berks) increasing penalties under the Clean Streams Law, after an amendment making corporate liability provisions consistent with commercial provisions, and was referred to House Appropriations;
- [House Bill 1195](#) (Yudichak-D-Luzerne) that makes changes to the program to help underground tank owners upgrade tanks; and
- [Senate Bill 868](#) (Scarnati-R-Warren) increasing the forest land in-lieu of tax payment, after an amendment making the provisions effective no later than July 1.

Rep. Bill Adolph (R-Delaware) is Majority Chair of the Committee and Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) is Minority Chair of the Committee.

Deer Management Meetings Shed Light on Growing Problem

Rep. Art Hershey (R-Chester), chairman of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, recently held two informational meetings on deer management in order to bring greater awareness to this growing problem.

“The deer population in Pennsylvania is continuing to expand as the number of deer hunters decreases and the majority of deer begin to move from traditional hunting grounds in the north to more suburban areas in the southeast part of the state,” said Hershey. “Deer herds have already greatly destroyed their feeding areas up north and are now encroaching on southern forestry and farms.”

Hershey said deer are eating field crops and tree saplings, which is causing millions of dollars of damage to important state industries. In fact, according to testifiers at the hearings, damage to crops amounts to estimated \$90 million per year, while damage to actively-managed forests is estimated at \$73 million per year.

“The state cannot continue to absorb the high cost of this damage,” said Hershey. “The economy, as well as thousands of jobs, depend greatly on these industries.” Testifiers at the informational hearings spoke about the need to step up practices to thin the herd, which is devastating the nursery industry in Pennsylvania and continuing to create problems for farmers.

In addition, testifiers also spoke about the increase in Lyme disease cases across the state, which is spread by the deer tick. One testifier said 70 percent of the families in her suburban southeast neighborhood have been inflected by Lyme disease.

“These are all serious issues, issues that most people fail to recognize as being a problem in the state,” said Hershey. “Our deer population needs to be brought in check in order to protect the state’s number one industry, which brings billions of dollars of revenue into the state each year, and ensure greater health protections for our citizens.”

Hershey said the informational meetings were successful in spotlighting this growing problem, and he looks forward to monitoring the Pennsylvania Game Commission’s deer management program over the next several years.

“Deer overpopulation is not an easy problem to solve,” said Hershey. “It will take time for deer management practices to start showing success, and in the meantime, we have to be patient and respectful of the role both humans and deer play in Pennsylvania.”

To see testimony and statements offered to the Committee, visit the [PA Landscape and Nursery Association website](#).

NewsClips: [It’s Time a New Group Decides Deer Issue](#)

Senate Committee Sets 2nd Day of Hearings on Cutting Mercury Emissions

On May 2 the Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee holds the second of two days of hearings on cutting mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants in Pennsylvania.

Witnesses scheduled to testify are: **Gene Barr**, PA Chamber of Business and Industry; **Eugene M. Trisko**, United Mine Workers of America/ International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; **George Ellis**, the Pennsylvania Coal Association; **Myron Arnowitt**, Clean Water Action; and **Dr. Jack Snyder** of the Annapolis Center for Science-Based Public Policy.

The Committee is chaired by Sen. Mary Jo White (R-Venango), Majority Chair, and Sen. Ray Musto (D-Luzerne), Minority Chair.

For more information, visit the [Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee webpage](#).

State Water Planning Subject of House Environmental Committee Meeting

The House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee will hold an informational meeting May 2 on the status of State Water Resources Planning.

Scheduled to testify are: **John Hines**, Department of Environmental Protection, who will give an over view of Statewide Water Planning under Act 220; **Carol Collier**, Delaware River Basin Commission and **Tom Beauduy**, Susquehanna River Basin Commission who will provide a river basin and regional perspective; and **Mark Gutshall**, LandStudies, Inc., who will outline how information developed through the planning process can be used locally to protect water resources.

Rep. Bill Adolph (R-Delaware) is Majority Chair of the Committee and Rep. Bud George (D-Clearfield) is Minority Chair of the Committee.

Environmental Funding News: State Runs \$588 Million Surplus Through April

The Department of Revenue reported with April's tax collections, revenue is running \$588 million more than estimates at this point in the fiscal year, however, they pointed out \$364 million are already included in the Governor's proposed budget.

The state collected \$3.2 billion in General Fund revenue in April, \$83 million, or 2.7 percent, more than anticipated. Fiscal year-to-date General Fund collections total \$21.6 billion, which is \$588.4 million, or 2.8 percent, above estimate.

The Governor's original 2006-07 budget proposal in February 2006 anticipated that 2005-06 revenues would exceed the July 2005 official estimate by \$364 million. That money has already been allocated in the Governor's proposed budget.

Higher than expected revenue collections in recent months have, therefore, generated \$224 million in new revenue that may be available for appropriation during the upcoming 2006-07 budget negotiations.

Environmental Synopsis Features New Uses for Coal Waste to Reclaim Mines

The April issue of the [Environmental Synopsis](#) published by the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee is now online.

Articles in this month's issue feature a discussion of using coal combustion wastes to reclaim strip mines, ranking U.S. environmental performance in the world, defining urban water infrastructure needs, the greening of garbage trucks and getting the lead out of drinking water.

[The April issue is available online.](#)

In Other News

United Mine Workers Support Legislation Reducing Mercury Emissions by 86%

International President of the United Mine Workers of America Cecil E. Roberts wrote to Gov. Rendell last Friday expressing his support for state legislation reducing mercury emissions from power plants, and in opposition to a mercury rule proposed by the Department of Environmental Protection.

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The UMWA has joined with the [International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers](#), the Pennsylvania Coal Association and [a coalition of business groups](#) to support [Senate Bill 1201](#) and [House Bill 2610](#) that will reduce mercury emissions from power plants by 86 percent.

[The text of the letter follows.](#)

April 21, 2006

Honorable Edward G. Rendell
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Governor Rendell:

I am writing to explain the UMWA's opposition to DEP's proposed rule to control mercury emissions from powerplants in the Commonwealth. As you know, the UMWA has joined with the IBEW in support of legislation before the General Assembly (SB 1201, HB 2610) that seeks to require Pennsylvania's participation in EPA's national mercury control program.

EPA's rule requires a 64% reduction of mercury emissions from Pennsylvania generating units by 2010, and an 86% reduction from 1999 emission levels by 2018. This level of control is equivalent to a 94% reduction of mercury contained in the coals burned by Pennsylvania generating units.

The UMWA participated in stakeholder meetings convened by the Pennsylvania DEP to explore a potential Pennsylvania mercury rule more stringent than the EPA rule. In the process, we expressed our support for implementation of the EPA mercury rule, including its national trading program, and our opposition to a more stringent state rule that would prohibit trading.

Our concerns with the DEP's proposed rule relate mainly to its prohibitions on trading, as these would penalize utilities that invest in pollution controls able to exceed regulatory limits. Utilities that over-control their emissions should be able to sell the excess emission allowances resulting from their pollution control investments, as a means to encourage these investments.

We also are concerned that the rule's system of preferences and priorities for plants burning 100% bituminous coal may be vulnerable to legal challenges. While we appreciate DEP's intention to provide a degree of compliance assurance for bituminous coals, we also know from hard experience in the acid rain program that state laws intended to benefit local coal production can be challenged successfully under the Commerce Clause of the Constitution. We thus cannot rule out the possibility that DEP's rule could fall victim to such a challenge, leaving a regulation that commands 90% controls on a plant-specific basis, with no opportunity for emissions trading.

Meeting a 90 percent mercury reduction requirement on a plant-by-plant basis can be done in two ways: by installing an expensive scrubber and selective catalytic reduction system at a plant burning bituminous coal, or by using relatively low-cost activated carbon injection technology with western subbituminous coals. In the restructured Pennsylvania utility environment, we are frankly concerned that the DEP rule could backfire in practice,

and promote fuel-switching away from Pennsylvania bituminous coals at plants that would use activated carbon injection with subbituminous coals.

In 2004, the UMWA joined the Pennsylvania Coal Association in support of DEP's position opposing EPA's generous allocation of mercury allowances to subbituminous and lignite coals. We viewed EPA's method for allocating additional mercury allowances to these coals as unfair, because they discriminated against Pennsylvania and other bituminous coals. We have maintained this opposition by filing suit against EPA, in litigation pending before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit. If successful, our action would provide Pennsylvania with additional mercury allowances, lessening the burden of the EPA rule on Pennsylvania consumers.

We remain of the view, however, that the mercury allowance trading program offers one of the most effective means to "level the playing field" among different coals, and to prevent the premature shutdown of smaller and older powerplants that may not be economical to retrofit with scrubbers.

Based on U.S. EPA's mercury deposition modeling studies, we are not able to determine any material environmental benefit from a state mercury rule that prohibits trading. We understand that DEP has not performed any modeling of its own to support its proposed rule.

For these reasons, the UMWA hopes that you will take appropriate action to ensure that Pennsylvania coal miners do not suffer at the expense of a well-intentioned, but potentially counterproductive state mercury rule.

Fraternally,

Cecil E. Roberts

The Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee this week held the first of two hearings on the issue of mercury emissions reduction from coal-fired power plants. A second hearing is set for May 2.

Testimony from the hearing is [available on the Committee webpage](#).

Links: [UMWA – DEP Statements “Outrageous, Misleading and Offensive”](#)
[Pennsylvania Coal Association sets record straight; Calls DEP Testimony Untrue](#)

Rendell Asks EPA to Waive Clean Gasoline Requirements for Southeast

Prompted by gasoline supply shortages in the five-county Philadelphia area (Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties), Gov. Rendell this week requested that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issue a temporary waiver that would allow gasoline suppliers to sell fuel that does not meet federal Clean Air Act reformulated gasoline guidelines.

“We have information indicating that a major gasoline supplier in the Philadelphia area is reporting more than 160 ‘delivery-needed’ alarms, and many more fuel outlets reporting that supplies are nearly exhausted,” Gov. Rendell wrote in a letter to EPA Administrator Steven L. Johnson. “In light of the circumstances, the requested [waiver] is clearly necessary to serve the public interest.”

The gasoline shortages apparently have been caused by problems associated with terminals making the switch between “winterblend” gasoline and reformulated blends that help curb summertime ground-level ozone pollution. In addition, refiners have precipitously stopped using the octane enhancer methyl-tertiary-butyl-ether (MTBE) exacerbating fuel shortage problems since MTBE had constituted about 10 percent of gasoline.

“A short waiver will protect the public without meaningfully polluting the air. We need the federal government to act to help get us through what otherwise will be a very difficult situation,” said Governor Rendell.

Three major petroleum refineries in the Philadelphia area refine almost 700,000 barrels of crude oil daily into gasoline, diesel fuel, and home heating oil, not only for the commonwealth, but also for the entire East Coast.

The 1990 federal Clean Air Act amendments created the federal reformulated gasoline program in order to improve air quality in the nation’s worst ozone nonattainment areas. The federal program requires specially formulated gasoline blends that ensure significant reductions of ground-level ozone forming pollution when it is used in our vehicles.

In Pennsylvania, the reformulated gasoline program is federally mandated in the city of Philadelphia and in Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery and counties. These counties were originally designated as a “severe” nonattainment area for the old one-hour ozone national ambient air quality standard and are currently in “moderate” nonattainment for the new eight-hour ozone standard.

NewsClip: [Rendell Wants Federal Tax on Windfall Profits](#)

Additional Ozone Pollution Control Measures Subject of DEP Public Meetings

The Department of Environmental Protection has [scheduled three public meetings](#) to discuss regional ozone pollution control measures now under consideration by the Ozone Transport Commission for adoption.

Comments are due May 30. The meetings will be held:

- May 22 - Rachel Carson State Office Building Room 105, Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17105
- May 23 – [DEP Southwest Regional Office](#), Waterfront A & B, 400 Waterfront Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15222
- May 25 – DEP Southeast Regional Office, Library, 2nd Floor 2 East Main Street Norristown, PA 19401

Among the actions to be discussed are: urging U.S. EPA adoption of a rule regulating emissions from small engines, develop changes to the rule regulating consumer products, changes to the architectural and industrial maintenance coatings model rule and developing a model rule that requires the correction of the “defeat device” option on certain heavy-duty diesel engines. ([See Control Strategies Meeting links](#))

In addition, the Commission has directed its staff to work on [regional air pollution control modeling](#) to include sixteen different control strategies affecting: AIM coatings, asphalt paving and production plants, auto refinishing, consumer products, diesel truck chip reflash, electric generating units, EGU peaking units, glass furnaces, lime kilns,

cement plants, industrial and commercial boilers, municipal waste combustors, refineries, reformulated gas options and distillate fuel sulfur content.

Written comments should be sent by May 30 to J. Wick Havens, Chief, Division of Air Resource Management, Bureau of Air Quality, P. O. Box 8468, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8468, jhavens@state.pa.us.

The Department will review and consider all written comments prior to voting on any mechanism that would commit the Commonwealth to adopt and implement these control strategies.

New Report Outlines Needs, Funding Shortfalls In 2007 Federal Farm Bill



(L to R) Wil Baker, CBF, Leon Ressler, Lancaster County Extension, Rep. Pete Daley, Bob Ruth, Country View Family Farms, Matt Ehrhart, PA-CBF, Rep. Art Hershey, Marel Raub for Sen. Waugh/ Chesapeake Bay Commission, and Mike Brubaker

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation and its partners this week released "[Voices of Agriculture](#)," a new report that identifies the alarming state and federal funding shortfalls for Pennsylvania farmers, and summarizes the comments of a cross-section of the agricultural community on the potential solutions.

There to receive the report were Rep. Arthur Hershey (R-Chester), Majority Chair of the House Agriculture Committee, Rep. Peter Daley (D-Washington), Minority Chair of the

House Agriculture Committee and a representative of Sen. Mike Waugh (R-York), Majority Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee and Chair of the Pennsylvania Delegation to the Chesapeake Bay Commission.

The report reflects testimony given by farmers and other agricultural professionals who took part in more than 14 public agricultural

listening sessions held throughout the region. Michael Brubaker, of The Brubaker Corp., Inc., facilitated the meetings from September through November 2005.

Hundreds of participants attended the sessions, with hundreds more participating by calling through a dedicated telephone message line. The phone line generated a total of 3,112 individual comments.

Full transcripts of [comments and testimony are available online](#).

"The listening sessions offered an open forum for anyone interested in farming or land preservation to air their concerns and opinions," said CBF President William C. Baker. "The results of the listening session are clear; in order to remain economically viable and increase conservation practice implementation, Pennsylvania farmers need additional funding from both the state and federal governments and they need it now."

Although both state and federal funding programs exist, most are under-funded, restrictive, and inadequate to serve Pennsylvania farmers. Data from the federal Natural Resources Conservation Service shows that two out of every three farmers who apply for funding to implement conservation practices are turned away due to lack of funding.

Pennsylvania farmers currently receive less than one-third the national average of support from the federal Farm Bill. “Voices of Agriculture” makes clear that Pennsylvania farmers want to see a Farm Bill in 2007 that levels the playing field and addresses critical problems facing agriculture here in Pennsylvania. It also describes additional state initiatives and funding that are needed for agriculture to thrive in a time of high land costs, increasing environmental demands, and stagnant commodity prices.

“Providing sufficient federal and state funding for the every-day operations of farmers is integral to improving water quality in local streams, rivers, and the Chesapeake Bay,” said CBF Pennsylvania Executive Director Matt Ehrhart. “Farmers have demonstrated that they are willing, if given the tools, to implement practices that reduce pollution and protect valuable soils. It’s time for equitable funding resources to help farmers do the right thing.”

Public listening sessions were held from September to November, 2005 in Harrisburg, York, Gettysburg, Lancaster, Bloomsburg, Lebanon, Chambersburg, Bedford, Quarryville, Lewisburg, Towanda, Mill Hall, West Middlesex, and Doylestown. Partners in the listening sessions included Ag Choice Farm Credit, Country View Family Farms, Delaware Valley College, Green Oil Company, Hatfield Quality Meats, Mid-Atlantic Farm Credit, Morrissey Insurance, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Penn State University, the Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania, Regional Economic Development District Initiatives of South-Central Pennsylvania (REDDI), and the State Grange of Pennsylvania.

Other supporters included the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay, Audubon Pennsylvania, the Bank of Lancaster County, Binkley and Hurst Brothers, Inc., the Center for Dairy Excellence, the Elizabethtown Grange, Farm Progress Companies, Honeywell, the Lancaster Chamber of Commerce, Martin Limestone, Inc., Pennsylvania Dairy Stakeholders, PennAg Industries, Pennfield Feeds, Pennsylvania Dairy Stakeholders, the Pennsylvania Milk Marketing Board, Rep. Gordon Denlinger (R-Lancaster), the State Conservation Commission, TeamAg, Triple H Construction, U.S. Senator Rick Santorum, the USDA Risk Management Association, Worley and Obetz, and 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania.

[The “Voices of Agriculture” report is available online.](#)

For more information visit the [Pennsylvania Farmers At Risk webpage.](#)

USDA, Sen. Santorum Honor Pennsylvania’s No-Till Farming Efforts

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns and U.S. Senator Rick Santorum visited Hershey farm in Elizabethtown this week to honor the cooperative efforts of the Pennsylvania no-till partnership to conserve natural resources by increasing the use of no-till systems.

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service hosted the morning ceremony which included messages about conservation, no-till farming, and the Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance.

A \$1 Million check was presented, representing the financial contributions made to date from public no-till partners NRCS, Penn State University, Department of Environmental Protection, State Conservation Commission, and Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

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“Some of the best environmental protections result when farmers, communities, and organizations all work together and the Pennsylvania no-till partnership is a fine example,” said Craig Derickson, State Conservationist. “NRCS is pleased to be one of the many partners that are helping farmers improve our environment while increasing their productivity.”

Because of the cooperative support of public partners, no-till farmers, and private organizations (such as Capital Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) Council, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, PennAg Industries Association, Lancaster County Conservation District, and Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts), several milestones have been made over the past year.

The Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance was formed to serve as a network for farmers interested in no-till practices and to provide the most recent resources available regarding no-till research, technology and funding.

A new Pennsylvania No-Till Alliance Coordinator position has been created to coordinate no-till activities state-wide among the agencies, institutions, and associations with existing and aspiring no-till farmers.

A no-till Best Management Practice has been adopted by the Chesapeake Bay Commission officially recognizing major and significant reductions of phosphorus and sediment into tributaries of the Bay when farmers adopt no-till management of their crops.

And, a “Park The Plow” initiative was funded with grants that provide technical assistance to farmers who want to transition to no-till.

No-till systems aim to keep soil covered and reduce soil disturbance. This environmentally-friendly practice can lead to dramatically reduced erosion, increased soil quality, and improved water quality. Farmers with large and small operations are adopting no-till to increase their efficiency and profitability and to improve their environmental stewardship.

For more information, visit the [USDA PA No-Till webpage](#).

Links: [Attendance Nearly Doubles for the Second PA No-Till Alliance Conference](#)
[No-Till Economics Can Brighten Bottom Line](#)
[Growing No-Till Farming in PA Through the No-Till Alliance](#)

Applications Now Being Accepted for Innovative Water, Wastewater Projects

The Department of Environmental Protection [announced this week](#) it is accepting applications for its innovative water and wastewater project program through June 30.

Grants of up to \$500,000 will be available. Preference will be given to these kinds of projects:

- Cost-effective treatment of groundwater under the influence of surface water;
- Holistic approaches to treatment of drinking water for arsenic;
- Water reuse and water conservation technologies; and
- Nutrient reduction technologies.

A copy of the [application and instructions are available online](#).

Visit the [Professional Services Directory](#) and [Events Calendar](#)

DEP Adds Two More Public Meetings on Tributary Strategy

The Department of Environmental Protection will hold two additional meetings to discuss and obtain feedback on implementation issues related to the [Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy](#), as well as the related permitting procedures.

The goal of the meetings is to share ideas to improve predictability and assure that compliance obligations do not upset development plans and schedules. Additionally, DEP hopes to obtain feedback on the efforts.

The additional upcoming meetings are scheduled for:

- **May 1** -- 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Susquehanna Room A, North East Regional Office Building, 2 Public Square, Wilkes-Barre; and
- **May 18** -- 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., Four Points by Sheraton York, 1650 Toronita Street, York.

To confirm your attendance or if you have any questions please contact Ann Smith of the Water Planning Office by email to annsmith@state.pa.us or by phone at 717-772-4785.

Public Meetings Set on Revised Stormwater Practices Manual

The Department of Environmental Protection [has scheduled four public meetings](#) to gather comments on a revised Stormwater Management Practices Manual.

The meetings will be held:

- **May 2 - Allegheny County**, [Ross Township Municipal Building](#), 1000 Ross Municipal Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15237. The 1 p.m.--4 p.m. meeting will be held in the gymnasium. The 6 p.m.--9 p.m. meeting will be held in the Commissioner's meeting room.
- **May 4 - Dauphin County**, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA 17105. Both the 1 p.m.--4 p.m. and 6 p.m.--9 p.m. meetings will be held in the second floor auditorium. Driving directions can be found on the Department's website,
- **May 8 - Lehigh County**, [Lehigh Carbon Community College](#), Schnecksville Campus (Main Campus), 4525 Education Park Drive, Schnecksville, PA 18078. Both the 1 p.m.--4 p.m. and 6 p.m.--9 p.m. meetings will be held in Room 8113/8115 of the Administration Building.
- **June 1 - Montgomery County**, [DEP Southeast Regional Office](#), 2 East Main Street, Norristown, PA 19401. Both the 1 p.m.--4 p.m. and 6 p.m.--9 p.m. meetings will be held in the Delaware River conference room.

A copy of the revised Stormwater Manual is available on DEP's [Stormwater Program Announcements webpage](#).

Visit the [Professional Services Directory](#) and [Events Calendar](#)

Pittsburgh's Three Rivers Named DCNR's Rivers of the Year

Pittsburgh's three rivers – the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio – have been named the Commonwealth's "2006 Rivers of the Year" by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources because of their role in spurring economic growth, shaping the city's urban renewal, and providing more water-based recreation.



"The resurgence of these waterways has pumped new life and economic opportunities into the communities surrounding them," said DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis. "These rivers once served as a lifeline to world-famous steel production, now they usher in a growing tourist and entertainment industry that lures diners and shoppers, boaters and anglers, and a host of other visitors."

The annual "River of the Year" honors local residents, governments, non-profit and conservation organizations working to improve waterways and the quality of life in their watersheds across the state. Although it usually recognizes one river, DCNR elected to honor the three rivers given their interrelationship and their confluence at Pittsburgh.

"A national audience saw the many rewards of these waterways when the prestigious Bassmaster Classic came to town last July," said DiBerardinis. "Viewers across the country learned that clean water can lead to excellent fishing and help a city be a vibrant place."

With this year's designation, the three rivers will be the subject of a Rivers Month poster that will be issued in June and an annual River Sojourn Aug. 10-12. A sojourn is a water-based journey designed to raise awareness of the environmental, recreational, tourism and heritage values of rivers.

The Three Rivers Sojourn will feature three separate river activities to highlight each river. Tentative plans call for a canoe trip August 10, on the Allegheny River from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission launch ramp in Hamar Township downriver to Pittsburgh; a canoe trip August 11, on the Monongahela River from McKeesport to Homestead; and a riverboat cruise on the Pittsburgh Voyager, August 12, in Pittsburgh.

All three sojourn activities are being coordinated by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Venture Outdoors, Pennsylvania Organizations for Watersheds & Rivers and DCNR.

For more information, visit [DCNR's Pennsylvania Rivers webpage](#) and [POWR's Pennsylvania River Sojourns webpage](#).

NewsClips: [Three Rivers DCNR Rivers of the Year](#)

5 Rivers and Streams Placed on PA Rivers Conservation Registry

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources this week announced the addition of five rivers and streams on the Pennsylvania Rivers Conservation Registry. They include:

- [Allegheny River segment](#) in Allegheny, Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Venango and Westmoreland counties;
 - [Crum Creek Watershed](#) in Chester and Delaware counties;
 - [Paunacussing Creek Watershed](#) in Chester and Delaware counties;
 - [Sawkill Creek and Vandermark Creek Watersheds](#) in Pike County; and
 - [Shenango River Watershed](#) in Crawford, Mercer and Lawrence counties.
- For more information, visit the DCNR [Rivers Conservation webpage](#).

West Branch Susquehanna Task Force Announces Coalition

The West Branch Susquehanna Task Force, organized through the efforts of groups like DEP, DCNR, Trout Unlimited, PA Fish and Boat Commission, Susquehanna River Basin Commission, and many more, has announced the formation of the West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Coalition.



The WBSRC is comprised of members of watershed associations within the West Branch Susquehanna drainage boundaries who have come together with a vision to restore water quality, as well as protect and preserve this immense natural resource for future generations to enjoy.

During colonial times, the West Branch Susquehanna River was an important water route to the Ohio River valley. It became a significant industrial resource with the lumber industry and discovery of vast coal reserves in the eighteenth century. Although coal mining operations in the region gave strength to America's Industrial Revolution, it also polluted the streams and, ultimately, the West Branch Susquehanna River.

The goal of the WBSRC is for individual watershed groups to come together to share ideas and educate the public about local cleanup projects in their area. By doing this, we can all enjoy improved opportunities to utilize this beautiful and scenic watershed both recreationally and economically.

To find out more about the WBSRC, your local watershed association activities, or how you or your environmental group can join in the effort to realize the vision for this watershed, plan to attend the second annual [West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium](#) hosted by the West Branch Susquehanna Task Force on May 12 at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel in State College.

Contact Amy Wolfe of Trout Unlimited with any questions at 570-726-3118 or e-mail awolfe@tu.org.

Link: [Heartland Coalition Works to Heal Middle/Upper Susquehanna Watershed Mine Water Could Help Provide Make Up Water in Susquehanna Basin Drought](#)

Visit the [Professional Services Directory](#) and [Events Calendar](#)

Clarion River Cleanup Planned for May 6, 13 to Cover 51 Miles

Don't think people care about their watersheds, or in this case, their river? Just read this passionate announcement of the ambitious cleanup of more than 51 miles along the Clarion River.

In the Heart of the Pennsylvania Wilds where bald eagles are seen flying high and wildlife abounds in the wilderness surrounding this valley, runs a river where riffles and rock outcrops provide constantly changing scenery as the Clarion River flowing through narrow serpentine valleys and hardwood forests running approximately 110 mi long, in west central Pennsylvania draining a mountainous area of the Allegheny Plateau down into the Allegheny River, in the Ohio River watershed.

An area where today sightings of whitetail deer, wild turkey, squirrels, black bear, bald eagles, osprey and blue herons are common. Even catching a glimpse of a river otter is not out of the question.

The Clarion has become popular for family canoeing, as well as for trophy brown and brook trout, smallmouth bass, bluegills, bullhead, perch and walleye fishing. Outstanding features include a nationally recognized area of virgin white pine and hemlock.

Historical sites, wild animals and some of the most beautiful scenery in the state. Where the quality of life is high and recreation opportunities are abundant.

The Clarion River is in need of our help as more than 1.5 millions visitors coming to the "wilds" area each year is taking a toll. As many are canoeing and picnicking they forget the "Leave No Trace" outdoor ethics by not picking up their trash when they leave the area. Fishermen leaving lines, bobbers, and bait packages and many who drive past throw trash from their vehicles.

There are areas where people have remodeled camps or homes and thrown the trash by the edge of the water. Roofing shingles, boards and even a toilet can be found along the river. Anyone who spends time in this area can tell you there are many sites in desperate need of cleaning.

It's because of a small number of those visitors and locals that we have to have cleanups like the ones scheduled in May. Some people find it is just too hard to pick up the things from their lunch and put it back in the bag to take with them.

In response to a recognition that our area streams and rivers were in need of cleaning due to the careless disposal of trash and other debris, we are trying to raise the public's awareness of the magnitude of trash accumulating in our area waterways by organizing a cleanup of the waterways, river banks and roadways along the Clarion River from Ridgway in Elk County to Millcreek, Clarion County by working with area groups, concerned citizens and other agencies.

This cleanup spanning four counties and running through ten townships for 51.7 miles, this cleanup will be the biggest ever tried in our area.

The planned cleanup dates are May 6 and 13, with May 20 as a rain date.

We are meeting at Pale Whale Canoe Rental in Cook Forest State Park, Cooksburg at 9 a.m. for registration, a safety talk, and to distribute equipment/supplies. A parental release form MUST be signed for anyone under age 18. No one under age 12 will be permitted in the canoes but there are areas for ALL ages to help clean along the banks,

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roadways and in the parks. Please dress appropriately to be in the grass and weeds. Lunch will be served back at Pale Whale.

This cleanup is registered as part of the Great PA Cleanup and the National River Sweep to raise awareness of the need to take care of a treasure we have in our own back yard, one that we want to be able to share with our kids and grandkids for many years to come.

So are you willing to do your part to help us restore the natural beauty of this area, one not marred by trash and litter?

PA CleanWays – Jefferson, Clarion and Clearfield Counties is the coordinator of this event. Funding for this project is provided through the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation, Community Conservation Partnerships Program, business and private donations.

Any question please call 814-856-3291 or contact Robin Orris by sending email to: rorris@pacleanways.org.

New Lancaster County Watershed Website Now Online

After several months of planning the new [Lancaster County Watershed website](#) is now up and running!

Checkout this site and provide feedback. The site has some great information on the watershed groups in the county, watershed stewardship and educational information, upcoming events, and a message forum.

DCNR Acts to Protect 1,800 Acre Birdsboro Reservoir from Development

The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has partnered with the [Natural Lands Trust](#) to permanently protect Birdsboro Reservoir - a 1,800-acre, forested track in Berks County - from development.

The Trust will receive a \$750,000 Growing Greener II grant.

The funds will be used to purchase conservation easements to preserve the land from development, although the Birdsboro Water Authority will retain ownership of the property.

The purchase of the easements is also supported by a \$500,000 grant from the federal Forest Legacy program and the William Penn Foundation.

Molly Morrison, president of Natural Lands Trust, said preserving the Birdsboro Waters property has been a top priority for her organization and [The Berks County Conservancy](#), a partner organization.

Birdsboro Waters is also a major part of the largest unprotected woodland in southeastern Pennsylvania. Totaling more than 73,000 acres, the Hopewell Big Woods landscape covers large portions of northern Chester and southern Berks counties, and includes the French Creek State Park and other protected open spaces.

DCNR has partnered with dozens of conservation organizations, local and county officials, and state and federal forestry agencies to encourage preservation of thousands more acres in the Hopewell Big Woods landscape.

The east end of the Birdsboro Waters property links with French Creek State Park. A planned Hay Creek Trail along the former Route 82 would join

this area to the French Creek and Thun trails in the park.

For more information on land preservation grant opportunities, visit the DCNR [Recreation and Conservation webpage](#).

NewsClip: [Birdsboro Reservoir Land to be Protected](#)

Workshop in Dauphin County to Help Business Owners Cut Energy Costs

The Department of Environmental Protection will hold a half-day workshop in Dauphin County on May 2 to help owners of small and medium-sized businesses reduce energy costs and increase profits.

The meeting will be held from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at DEP's Southcentral Regional Office, 909 Elmerton Ave., Harrisburg.

DEP's [Office of the Small Business Ombudsman](#) is partnering with the [Electrotechnology Application Center](#) at Northampton Community College's Center for Business and Industry to provide the energy management workshop.

The workshop will offer business owners information on energy supply options, illustrate how to identify energy cost-saving opportunities and explain how to initiate an energy management program. Particular emphasis will be given to easily implemented, cost-effective changes for small commercial and industrial facilities.

Registration for the workshop is free, and the session is open to the general public. Local government officials also are encouraged to attend.

Model Ordinance, Wind Conference Scholarships to Help Local Governments

The Department of Environmental Protection this week unveiled a model ordinance that will help Pennsylvania's local governments decide how to direct the location and development of wind turbines within municipal borders.

DEP will also partner with the American Wind Energy Association to provide 50 scholarships so local government officials can attend the 2006 WINDPOWER Conference & Exhibition, June 4-7, in Pittsburgh.

The model ordinance represents the collaborative efforts of state and local governments with the private sector. Participants included PSATS, the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities and wind energy development companies Community Energy, FPL Energy, PPM Energy and Gamesa Corp.

Stakeholders began meeting last fall to craft the model ordinance. The ordinance is designed as a template that local governments can adjust to their specific needs. Issues addressed in the model ordinance include visual appearance of wind turbines and related infrastructure, sound levels, shadow flicker, minimum property setbacks, interference with communications devices, protection of public roads, liability insurance, decommissioning and dispute resolution.

Public comment and involvement are intended to be part of the local implementation of the ordinance.

Not only do wind farms produce clean electricity, but they also can significantly reduce the tax burden on residents living in host communities. Wind energy also adds a promising dimension to farming and offers an economic boost to agricultural communities.

A wind farm can provide stable income to farmers through reduced utility bills or land rentals. Landowners can receive up to \$4,000 annually per turbine and still have more than 95 percent of their land available for farming.

Pennsylvania currently is a leader among eastern states with almost 153 megawatts of wind energy installed. The state's new Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard promises to build substantially on this accomplishment. The portfolio standard will make between 3,000 and 4,000 megawatts of wind energy available to Commonwealth energy users.

"PSATS applauds the Governor's willingness to find alternative energy sources and bring them to Pennsylvania," PSATS Assistant Executive Director Elam Herr said. "Because this issue goes beyond energy independence, PSATS felt it was imperative to be at the table to discuss related concerns that might impact its 1,456 member townships. It was our goal to have a viable model wind ordinance that townships and other municipalities could use to pattern their own ordinances after. The model ordinance is not to be looked at as a final document, but as one that addresses specific areas of concern when siting a wind farm facility."

"The Governor's leadership on energy once again puts Pennsylvania in the lead in expanding an exciting source of clean energy -- wind generation -- in a way that works for everyone," Community Energy President Brent Alderfer said. "The model wind ordinance gives communities the standards they need to ensure that wind generation with all of its impressive energy and environmental advantages doesn't disadvantage its neighbors. We were pleased to be part of the effort."

Sponsored by the American Wind Energy Association, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Energy, this WINDPOWER conference is expected to bring together more than 4,500 energy professionals and 250 exhibiting companies.

Each of the scholarships, valued at \$365, covers the cost of attendance at the "Fundamentals of Wind Energy" pre-conference seminar and the conference's opening reception, plus access to the exhibition hall.

For information on the WINDPOWER Conference, [download the Secretary's Letter of Invitation](#).

For more information, visit DEP's [Wind Energy webpage](#).

Sustainable Energy Fund Launches College-Level Solar Energy Education Initiative

The [Sustainable Energy Fund of Central-Eastern Pennsylvania](#) has partnered with six Pennsylvania colleges and universities to launch Solar Scholars—an innovative solar-energy education program for university-level students that aims to cultivate the "solar energy leaders, policy-makers and entrepreneurs of tomorrow."

The first and only program of its kind in the nation, Solar Scholars offers undergraduate and graduate students a unique opportunity for in-depth, hands-on study, training and research in the application of photovoltaic (PV) solar technology, as part of an overall academic curriculum in renewable and sustainable energy.

Following a competitive application process, The SEF – a non-profit, private organization dedicated to renewable energy, clean energy technologies, energy conservation and education – is proud to announce the following six schools selected for the Solar Scholars pilot program:

- Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Union County;

- Clarion University, Clarion, Clarion County;
- Mercyhurst College, Erie, Erie County;
- Messiah College, Grantham, Cumberland County;
- The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Centre County; and
- Villanova University, Villanova, Delaware County.

Solar Scholars offers funding and incentives to enable students to design, build, operate and maintain a solar system of significant impact on their campus, for which they would receive academic credit. Each partner school receives a state-of-the-art, Internet-based academic curriculum on solar power and other clean energy methods. Selected students also will receive financial sponsorship to attend an intensive training and certification workshop on applied photovoltaics – the use of solar cells to directly convert sunlight into electricity.

The SEF created Solar Scholars to develop solutions for meeting Pennsylvania's Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard, set forth by Act 213. Act 213 mandates that a certain percentage of electric energy in Pennsylvania be derived from clean, renewable sources, and sets ambitious goals for solar energy, in particular.

The Solar Scholars program is a way “to begin building critical thought leadership and the foundation for sustainable market for PV technology right here in Pennsylvania,” explains Dr. Rex A. D’Agostino, President & Executive Director of The SEF.

“We’re in the midst of a global energy crisis and will all be faced with some very important and perhaps difficult decisions about our energy choices,” D’Agostino says. “It’s important that those decisions are informed by science, and business- and technology-based. That’s why Solar Scholars is targeting college students – they are in the best position to make an immediate impact and will drive those important energy policy and technology decisions upon entering the workforce.”

The Solar Scholars mission is to partner with academia to develop long-term, practical solutions, as well as innovative applications of PV technology, for both academic and commercial purposes.

The program aims to expand to include all Pennsylvania colleges and universities. Its goal is to have a PV solar installation on each of the Commonwealth’s 152 campuses by 2008.

For more information and how to apply, visit the [Solar Scholars webpage](#).

NewsClip: [Program Hopes to Further Solar Use](#)

Shades of Green Leadership Award Winners Selected

The [Shades of Green Leadership Awards](#), presented by the [Green Building Alliance](#), were awarded recently to highlight the efforts of distinctive persons in Western Pennsylvania who have contributed to the region’s environmental transformation through green leadership within the built environment.

The four winners of this year’s Awards are:

- Business – Jim Lampl, director of conservation, Giant Eagle
- Government – William Peduto, Pittsburgh City Councilman
- Nonprofit – Richard Piacentini, executive director, Phipps Conservatory and Jane Werner, executive director, Pittsburgh’s Children’s Museum

The awards are not for individual “brick and mortar” projects, but for the people driving programs, policies, initiatives and/or efforts that are leading our region toward a “greener” economy.

It is understood that no one person brings about this kind of change on their own, but rather that it is the result of many combined efforts throughout our community. By recognizing some of those who have inspired the actions of others, however, we hope many more local green leaders will evolve.

When the nonprofit category came down to two very worthy individuals, **Jane Werner and Richard Piacentini**, it was nearly impossible for the jurors to choose one clear winner. Both of their projects, the Children’s Museum expansion and the new welcome center at Phipps Conservancy, clearly exhibited the strong dedication of their leaders to green building practices. Such extremely visible projects also “set the bar at a high level,” said Mr. Bates, and greatly influence their respective industries and peers nationwide. Subsequently, all of this activity adds to Pittsburgh’s growing reputation as a green building leader, with impacts far beyond our own region.

Giant Eagle’s Jim Lampl has many notable environmental achievements. He has overseen the Energy Star energy efficiency certifications of over 100 of the corporation’s stores and spearheaded the effort to make the Brunswick Giant Eagle location the first supermarket in the country to be certified by the LEED green building rating system. “Jim has been charging forward in the green building arena for quite some time and is definitely not a newcomer,” commented Mr. Bates. “Within the typically inflexible confines of a corporate context, he has demonstrated durability and stamina for the principles to which he adheres.”

Josh Knauer, another jury member and the director of advanced development for MAYA Design, has nothing but praise for Councilman Bill Peduto, the winner in the government category. “The Councilman has been a huge proponent of environmental concerns in the community and green building specifically. I feel he is a champion among our elected officials and well deserving of the Shades of Green award.”

For more information, visit the [Shades of Green Leadership Awards webpage](#).

Green Communities Offers Online Seminar at No Cost May 18

Green Communities is hosting an online seminar on [Greening Single-Family Home Rehabilitation](#) on May 18 at 2:00 p.m.

Participants will learn how to apply Green Communities Criteria to single-family home rehabilitation, examples of energy efficiency measures, learn how to use a spreadsheets tool to analyze the impact of specific greening measures and learn about other resources available to communities.

[Green Communities](#) is a program of the Enterprise Foundation.

To learn more, visit the [Greening Single-Family Home Rehabilitation webpage](#) and see the other online training opportunities by visiting the [Green Communities website](#).

Visit the [Professional Services Directory](#) and [Events Calendar](#)

Seven School Districts Receive Grants to Promote Green Building Construction

School districts in Allegheny, Montgomery, Perry, Philadelphia, Westmoreland, Erie and Delaware counties will be able to plan cost-efficient and environmentally friendly school construction projects with the help of state grants totaling \$200,000.

The grants are funded by the State Public School Building Authority and are jointly administered by the [Governor's Green Government Council](#) and the Department of Education.

High-performance "green" schools provide a significant cost savings to local taxpayers because of their considerably lower annual operating costs and energy consumption. A report by the Wisconsin Green Building Alliance found that building "green" can reduce energy consumption by 20 percent to 30 percent and lower landscape maintenance expenditures by \$3,000 to \$4,500 per acre per year.

Evidence from across the nation also shows that students who attend "green" schools make greater academic gains than their peers in other learning environments because of the focus on proper daylight techniques, acoustics and indoor environmental quality.

The "green" schools planning grants help defray costs that are not typically included in a building's design fee, but are nonetheless critical to the complete design of a high-performance building and are dependent on the schools gaining at least a silver rating under the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) "green" building rating system.

The council is responsible for promoting high-performance, green buildings throughout the Commonwealth. To date, the Clearview Elementary School in Hanover has been awarded a gold LEED rating, and 18 more Pennsylvania schools are registered for certification.

Schools receiving grants include:

- Pittsburgh School District in Allegheny County is receiving \$25,000 for the renovation of the South Construction Technology Center;
- Cheltenham Township School District in Montgomery County is receiving \$25,000 for the renovation of the Benjamin Myers Elementary School;
- Burrell School District in Westmoreland County is receiving \$25,000 to renovate and build an addition to the Charles A. Huston Middle School;
- Millcreek Township School District in Erie County is receiving \$25,000 to renovate and expand the James S. Wilson Middle School;
- Philadelphia City School District in Philadelphia County is receiving \$25,000 to construct the School of the Future and \$25,000 for the creation of the John Barry School;
- Newport School District in Perry County is receiving \$25,000 for the expansion of the Newport Junior/Senior High School; and
- Radnor Township School District in Delaware County is receiving \$25,000 to construct a new building at the Radnor Middle School.

This is the first year in which these grants have been administered. Another round of "green" schools planning grant applications will be accepted starting July 1 for the 2006-07 school year. Grants are not awarded on a competitive basis, but rather on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, visit the [Governor's Green Government Council Schools webpage](#).

Coca-Coke Bottler in Allentown Added to EPA Environmental Performance Track

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this week added 37 facilities to its [National Environmental Performance Track program](#), including the Coca-Cola North American Lehigh Valley Plant in Allentown.

The 37 new Performance Track facilities have made strong commitments to the environment in a wide range of categories. For example, 23 new members have committed to reducing their energy use over the next three years. Other members have plans to reduce water use and hazardous waste generation.

The National Environmental Performance Track program recognizes facilities that work with their communities, set three-year goals for continuous improvements in environmental performance and have internal systems in place to manage their environmental impacts.

Since the program's inception in June 2000, Performance Track membership has grown to more than 400 members in 46 states and Puerto Rico and those members have made more than 1,500 commitments to the environment.

To date, Performance Track members have collectively reduced their water use by 1.9 billion gallons, conserved nearly 9,000 acres of land and increased their use of recycled materials by nearly 120,000 tons.

In 2004, Performance Track members collectively reduced their water use by more than half a billion gallons, reduced their hazardous waste generation by 800 tons, and reduced their use of nonrenewable transportation fuels by more than 43,000 gallons.

Visit the [National Environmental Performance Track program webpage](#) for more information.

2006 Phoenix Award Applications Now Being Accepted for Brownfield Projects

The [Phoenix Award](#) Executive Committee is seeking redevelopment projects to recognize for excellence in brownfield redevelopment.

Applications are due June 30.

The awards are open to any individual, group, company, organization, government body or agency.

One winner will be selected from each of EPA's ten regions, and one project from outside the United States may be selected as the international winner. Additional special winners also will be selected, including projects that have a significant impact for small communities, or revitalizing sites with abandoned underground storage tanks or mine-scarred lands.

Criteria for The Phoenix Awards focus on the magnitude of the project, innovative techniques, solutions to regulatory issues, and impact upon the community. A panel of environmental professionals and business, academic and government leaders select the winners.

The project participants will be honored at an awards ceremony during Brownfields 2006 in Boston, Massachusetts, November 13-15.

[Applications for The Phoenix Awards are available on-line.](#) Questions should be directed to Denise Chamberlain at 717-761-0554.

Americans Recycling 28.5 Percent of Their Trash, But Still Throw Most Away



BioCycle magazine's 15th Nationwide Survey, the "[State of Garbage In America](#)," reports that Americans recycled 28.5 percent of their waste, or 110.4 million tons.

By comparison, 64 percent — 248.6 million tons — of waste still is thrown away in landfills, with the remainder, 7.4 percent or 28.9 million tons, burned, mostly in waste-to-energy plants.

The 2006 "State of Garbage In America Report," released on Earth Day, is conducted by BioCycle, Journal of Composting & Organics Recycling (The JG Press, Inc., Emmaus, PA), and the Earth Engineering Center of Columbia University in New York City.

The State of Garbage survey team requested data on municipal solid waste management from officials in all 50 states for calendar year 2004. Statistical highlights include:

- The national recycling rate increased from 26.7 percent in the 2004 BioCycle/EEC survey (2002 data) to 28.5 percent in the 2006 survey;
- The nation produced 387.9 million tons of garbage in 2004;
- Americans generate 1.3 tons/person/year of municipal solid waste*;
- States with the highest recycling rates (>40 percent) include: Oregon: 45.8 percent; Minnesota: 43.2 percent; New York: 43.0 percent; Tennessee: 42.2 percent; Washington: 40.5 percent;
- Regionally, the West leads in recycling — 38 percent — followed by the Mid-Atlantic (33 percent), and Great Lakes (31 percent).
- Texas leads the nation in remaining landfill space — 1.1 billion tons of capacity, Massachusetts is running out, with 2.3 million tons of capacity left;
- Thirty-nine states indicated that landfill capacity is being added in their state; nine said it was not; and
- There are close to 3,500 facilities in the U.S. composting leaves, grass clippings, and/or tree trimmings.

*Municipal solid waste includes the residential and commercial waste stream.

Industrial and agricultural wastes are excluded in the BioCycle/EEC definition, as is construction and demolition debris, which many states count in their MSW stream and in reported recycled tonnages.

BioCycle first surveyed states about municipal solid waste management in 1989 (1988 data), as public officials and private industry perceived a landfill disposal shortage.

"At that time, Americans were recycling 8 percent of the waste they generated, and throwing 84 percent away," recalls Nora Goldstein, Executive Editor of BioCycle. "There were almost 8,000 landfills in this country. But it was widely predicted that due to more restrictive landfill regulations, that many of the nation's landfills would be closing in the near future, and that we had no choice but to get recycling and composting into high gear."

Indeed, many landfills did close. The 2006 BioCycle/Earth Engineering Center survey found a total of 1,654 municipal solid waste landfills in the U.S. And indeed, an extensive network of recycling and composting facilities opened across the country. The

number of curbside recycling programs jumped from less than 1,000 in 1988 to over 9,000 by the end of the 1990s.

There are currently about 7,700 curbside recycling programs in the U.S.

“While the recycling and composting infrastructure grew dramatically throughout the 1990s, so did this country’s disposal capacity,” adds Goldstein. “Many small, local landfills closed, but were replaced with extremely large regional ‘megafills’. In many parts of this country, there is plenty of capacity to continue throwing away materials that can be recycled and composted. For example, waste stream studies have found that close to 60 percent of what is thrown away could be recovered, including paper, beverage containers, food waste and wood.”

To see where Pennsylvania ranks and for more information, visit the [2006 State of Garbage in America report webpage](#).

Steel Recycling in the U.S. Continues its Record Pace in 2005

The [Steel Recycling Institute](#) announced this week that the recycling rate for the world's and America's most recycled material -- steel -- increased to 75.7 percent in the United States in 2005.

This reflects a five percentage point increase in the recycling rate and the highest rate ever recorded in the United States.

Seventy six million tons of domestic steel scrap was charged into furnaces, both in the United States and abroad, to make new steel products to be used by the steel industry's customers in satisfying consumers' needs.

"2005 continues the four-year expansion of steel recycling to new historic levels in the United States and the 75.7 percent rate established a new record for steel recycling," said Bill Heenan, president of the Steel Recycling Institute. "It is important to point out that the number one raw material consumed by the steel industry is steel scrap."

Recyclers across North America continue to experience increased revenue from their programs that collect steel, whether it is steel cans, appliances, construction and demolition ferrous debris, or America's most recycled product, the automobile. Steel, America's most recycled material, is the engine that drives these products out of the waste stream and into the recycling stream, resulting in numerous benefits, both environmental and financial.

Heenan continued, "As more and more industries are striving for sustainable development and consumers read about companies striving for sustainable development, it is important to point out that there is no better way to protect future generations' ability to meet their needs than through recycling today. Sustainable development is achievable by the consumer when he or she becomes actively involved in recycling. Through curbside and drop-off recycling programs, consumers can make a difference by making sure that their steel cans and other recyclables end up in their recycling program rather than in a refuse truck on the way to a landfill."

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

For more recycling information, visit [SRI's website](#).

Lichvar and Anderson Confirmed for Fish & Boat Commission

Len Lichvar of Boswell in Somerset County and Donald Anderson, another resident of Somerset County, were both confirmed as members of the Fish and Boat Commission Board this week.

Help Wanted- Watershed Coordinator

The Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation is looking for a full-time [Watershed Coordinator](#).

Deadline for applications is May 12.

The primary responsibilities of the person filling this position are to work with local, grassroots watershed groups in building organizational and technical capacity, work cooperatively with county conservation districts, provide outreach to schools and civic organizations and some administrative work.

Email a letter of interest and a resume to Bruce Golden at: bruce@wpcamr.org , subject line: Attn: WCP.

See & Hear

Students, Businesses, Homeowners, Learn About Energy Efficiency



Students, businesses, homeowners show you how you can save energy in some very basic and imaginative ways in the [Energy Efficiency episode](#) of GreenWorks for Pennsylvania.

Learn where coal and other energy sources come from in Pennsylvania with “Environmental Ed,” see how methane is taken from landfills and used as a fuel, see examples of how solar energy is helping to power road signs, heat hot water at a Laundromat and power a race car built by students from Messiah College.

Watch this entertaining look at [energy efficiency now online](#).

Quick Clips

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

[Rachel Carson Bridge Dedicated](#)
[Leechburg Students Build Outdoor Classroom](#)
[Students Dig into Environment Study](#)
[DEP Secretary Impressed with St. Mary’s Students](#)
[Churchville Nature Center Planning Green Expansion](#)
[Jobs Program for Kids in Reading Has Environmental Twist](#)
[Spring Cleaning Time for State’s Roadways](#)
[Volunteers Brave Cold, Rain in River Cleanup](#)
[Showers Hamper Local Cleanup](#)
[Making Earth Day Last the Other 364 Days](#)

[Earth Day Celebration a Big Success in Bradford County](#)
[Chester Locals Observe Earth Day by Cleaning Up](#)
[Fourth Earth Day Celebration in Que](#)
[Native American Alliance Calls on People to Walk Softly](#)
[Mineral Rights Give Gas Drillers Free Rein](#)
[Birds, Butterflies, Wildflowers Ready to See](#)
[Editorial: Impact Fees](#)
[Volunteers Join Cleanup Efforts](#)
[Household Hazardous Wastes to be Collected](#)
[Get Rid of Those Nasty Household Chemicals](#)
[Grant Helps Reduce Diesel Emissions from School Busses](#)
[Op-Ed: State's Coal Resources Could Make Ethanol Cheaper](#)
[Saving Two Natural Areas In Northampton County](#)
[Letter: Protection Needed of Kittatinny Ridge](#)
[Celebrating the Environment](#)
[NRC Commends Exelon for Safe Year at Limerick](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Mt. Joy First to Test State's Nutrient-Trading Program](#)
[Tree-Planting Project Will Grow Into So Much More](#)
[Stream Science Up Close- Watershed Checkup](#)
[PPL Donates Six River Islands](#)
[Lifeline for a Lake](#)
[Pennypack Dam Removal Key to Creek Improvements](#)
[Legislators Visit Blue Valley Mine Drainage Treatment/Fish Hatchery](#)
[Rainy Earth Day No Washout for Fish](#)
[Rain, Rain Don't Go Away](#)
[DEP "SWAT" Team for Gnats](#)
[School Certified Stream Watchers](#)
[Tunkhannock Creek Stream Work to Begin](#)
[Cousteau Enjoys Tour of Pittsburgh Voyager](#)

Watershed Awareness Month Activities

This special Calendar section is devoted to activities going on in and around Watershed Awareness Month in May. If you have events to add, send them to:

DHess@HolstonCrisci.com.

Beaver County

- **April 29, May 6, 13, 20, June 3** – [Tire Collection Events](#) at various locations around the county starting at 9:00 a.m. at all locations.

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Blair County

- **May 12** – Water Festival sponsored by the [Blair County Conservation District](#), the Altoona City Authority, the Allegheny Ridge Corp and local watershed groups to educate the public of all ages on the value and necessity of protecting water through fun indoor and outdoor activities. Contact: Becky Albaugh, 814-696-0877 ext. 5 or send email to: americorps@blairconservationdistrict.org.

Centre County

- **May 1- 6** – [ClearWater Conservancy](#) is sponsoring the Beatty Memorial Arbor Day Planting of a 500-foot long riparian buffer at the State College Elks country Club. Volunteers are need to plant 600 native trees and shrubs. RSVP for May 6 by calling 717-237-0400 or emailing katie@clearwaterconservancy.org.

Erie County

- **April 24-28** – Earth Force Storm Drain Stenciling Week – Call 814-835-8069 to participate
- **May 3** – Earth Force Annual Youth Summit, Presque Isle State Park – Call 814-835-8069
- **May 20** – 4th Annual Bike Around the Bay event for Earth Force youth program, 10, 30 and 50 mile routes - all proceeds go to Earth Force youth program – Call 814-835-8069 or bab@lea.earthforce.org
- For more information on Erie County events, send email to: ssmith@lea.earthforce.org.

Fayette County

- **May 8 – Fayette County Children’s Water Festival.** Penn State Fayette-The Eberly Campus. 1,000+ sixth graders will hear presenters, participate in demonstrations and visit exhibitors organized by 150 volunteers and is funded by the Conservation District, Western PA Conservancy, local water suppliers, watershed groups, school districts, DEP, Ohiopyle State Park and local businesses. Contact: heatherdfowler@yahoo.com.
NewsClip: [Fayette Water Festival-GreenTreks Network](#)

Greene & Washington Counties

- **April 30** – [Wheeling Creek Watershed Conservancy](#) holds its annual Spring Wildflower Walk and Enlow fork Spring Extravaganza near Wind Ridge on Gamelands 302. Migratory bird, wild flower, tree and butterfly identification along with other critters with background presentations on watershed conservation topics. Contact: 724-627-7871 or send email to: cnelson@greenepa.net.

Lancaster County

- **May 9- [Lititz Run Watershed Alliance](#) Watershed Day** for 350+ 5th graders in Warwick School District spend a day filled with conservation/wetland/watershed information and activities. Volunteers from numerous businesses and organizations who volunteer every year. Lancaster County Conservation District, Susquehanna River Basin Commission, Game Commission, Johnson & Johnson, Merck, Severn Trent, Lititz Sportsmen’s Assoc. Trout Unlimited, and numerous others sponsor the event. This event is not open to the public limited to the children and their teachers.

Luzerne County (New)

- May 13 – Back to Nature at Nescopeck State Park: 10AM – 3PM at Nescopeck State Park, Drums, PA. Guided Hikes, Canoe Demos, Get to Know Your Local Conservation Groups, Fly Fishing Demos, Children’s Area with Crafts and Activities (Fish Prints, AMD Tie Dye T-shirts and more...). For more information call 570-403-2006.

Monroe County

- **May 20** – [Tobyhanna Creek/Tunkhannock Creek Watershed Association](#) Wetland Trail Ribbon Cutting. Pocono Mountain West High School. 10:00 a.m. Contact: 570-643-2001 or send email to: mlord@ptd.net .
- **May 20** – [Aquashicola Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy](#) Open House. Polk Township Park (Rt. 534 in Kresgeville). 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Contact 610-681-4873 or send email to: info@apwc-pa.org .
- **May 21** – Bank and Stream Life in Our Watershed Program by [North Pocono CARE](#). Learn how you can help to preserve this heritage by visiting the Thornhurst Volunteer Fire & Rescue Company Annual Auto, Truck and Motorcycle Show. 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Contact: 570-472-3274 or send email to: NPCARE@att.net .
- **May 27** – [Broadhead Watershed Association](#) River Ramble III. Pick up your map and directions and set off on this self-guided tour of creeks and other waterbodies in the Broadhead Watershed. An “after-Ramble” gathering is planned at 4:30. Meet at the Barrett Friendly Library in Mountainhome at 1:00 p.m. Contact: 570-839-1120 or send email to: broadheadwater@enter.net .

Montgomery County

- **May 6** – [Green Valleys Association Envirofest Family Fun Festival](#). A 5K run, birds of prey, music, environment-friendly living demonstrations, native plant sale, displays and food will all be part of the fun.

Philadelphia County

- **May 6** – Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed Cleanups, Philadelphia. Meet at Bingham St. & D St and look for cleanup signs at 9:00 a.m. Contact: Sue Snyder, 1-877-772-3673 or send email to: ssnyder@pacleanways.org .
- **May 23** – [Saylor Grove Wetland Dedication](#), Philadelphia Water Department. Lincoln Dr. & Wissahickon Dr. and Rittenhouse Ave, Philadelphia. 6-8:00 p.m. Contact: Tiffany.Ledesma@phila.gov 215-499-3756.

Schuylkill County (New)

- May 21 – Bear Creek Festival: 12PM – 4PM at the Schuylkill County Fairgrounds, Rte 895 Summit Station, PA. The 5th Annual Festival provides live entertainment, hands on activities for children, great food, watershed educational programs and great family fun! Call 570-622-4124x113 or e-mail Porcupine Pat at porcupinepat@yahoo.com

Visit the [Professional Services Directory](#) and [Events Calendar](#)

Venango County

- **May 13** – South Sandy Creek Watershed Association [recycling and reptile program](#) at the Mineral Township Building along Rout 965. Contact: Valerie Tarkowski at 814-425-7308 or send email to: penguin42@earthlink.net.

York County

- **April 30 to May 7** – [National Soil & Water Stewardship Week](#)
- **May 2-3** – York County Envirothon grades 7 & 8 and 5 & 6
- **May 5** – Greater Hanover Alliance hosting Regional Watershed Protection Workshop for Municipal Officials, 8 am to 4 pm, location TBA
- **May 9**- York County Envirothon grades 3 & 4
- **May 9**- York County Envirothon grades 3 & 4
- **May 13**– Restoration Monitoring Workshop, 8 am to 4 pm, at Penn State York
- **May 18**– CCWA's 9th Annual Meeting, 7 pm, at York Water Company's Lake Redman facility
- **May 22**– What's the Big Deal about Invasives? Workshop, 7-9 pm at ANNEX, sponsored by MAEscapes

For more information on York activities is available from Gary Peacock, York Watershed Specialist, by sending email to: GPeacock@Yorkccd.org .

Regulations

The Department of Environmental Protection published a [proposed Nonattainment New Source Review regulation](#) for comments. Comments are due: June 28.

DEP also published a [notice making a minor correction](#) to the notice inviting comments on proposed changes to the Storage Tank regulations.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – April 29, 2006](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

The Department of Environmental Protection published its [final Water Quality Toxics Management Strategy](#). The Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency [published a statement of policy](#) governing the distribution of grants under the Volunteer Fire Company and Ambulance Service Grant Program.

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

- [Notice of Regional State Water Plan Advisory Committee meetings.](#)
- **May 1** – Senate Rules & Executive Nominations Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 723](#) (Wenger-R-Lancaster) providing for definitions and legislative report under the Agricultural Area Security law. Off the Floor. Rules Committee Meeting Room.
- **May 2** – Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee holds a hearing on reducing mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants. Room 8E-B East Wing. 9:00.
- **May 2** – House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee meets to consider [House Bill 243](#) (Sammel-R-Berks) to provide premium assistance for property owners eligible for federal flood insurance. Hearing Room 2, North Office Building. 9:30.
- **May 2** – Joint Senate/House Agriculture Committees informational meeting to discuss conservation issues and the 2007 Federal Farm Bill. Room 156. 9:30.
- **May 2** – House Environmental Resources & Energy Committee informational meeting on State Water Resources Planning. Hearing Room 1, North Office Building. 9:00.
- **May 5** – Forestry Task Force meeting ([Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#)). Penn Stater Conference Center. State College. 10:00.
- **May 10** – [Delaware River Basin Commission meeting](#). 25 State Police Dr., West Trenton, NJ. 10:15.
- **May 18-19** – [2006 Pennsylvania Heritage Partnerships Conference](#). Preservation PA. Franklin, Venango County.
- **May 20** – Dauphin County Community Recycling Event. HACC Parking Lot. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.
- **May 22** – Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee Environmental Issues Forum to hear presentation on LaFarge Alternative Energy Initiative. Room 205 Ryan Building. 12:00.
- **May 26** - DEP [Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategy Steering Committee](#) meeting. Room 105 Rachel Carson Building. 10:00 to 1:00.
- **June 12** – [Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee](#) Environmental Issues Forum – Jim MacKenzie, [Octoraro Native Plant Nursery](#) “Going Native – Opportunities for Using Native Plants in Pennsylvania.” Room 205 Ryan Building. 12:00.

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- **July 19** – Governor’s Invasive Species Council meeting. Agriculture Building, 2301 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg.
- **October 31-November 5** – [National Historic Preservation Conference](#). National Trust for Historic Preservation. Pittsburgh.

[DEP Calendar of Events](#)

[Watershed Events](#)

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

[Environmental Education Workshop/Training Calendar](#)

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

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

Helpful Web Links

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

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

[DCNR Resource Magazine](#) [DCNR Press Releases](#)

[Fish & Boat Commission Press Releases](#) [Game Commission Press Releases](#)

Stories Invited

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

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

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Visit the [Professional Services Directory](#) and [Events Calendar](#)