

— PA — Environment Digest

*An Update on
Environmental
Issues in
Pennsylvania*

Edited By David E. Hess, Holston & Crisci

May 29, 2006

Environmental Funding Needs Highlighted by Chesapeake Bay Foundation

The [Pennsylvania Office of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation](#) (CBF) urged state legislators to continue vital conservation funding programs in their upcoming 2006-2007 budget deliberations. CBF encourages legislators to continue support for agricultural conservation, conservation district support, and environmental restoration and protection, particularly related to water quality protection.

“As currently proposed, the 2006-2007 state budget reduces funding for agriculture and key environmental programs,” said Matt Ehrhart, PA CBF Executive Director. “The proposal does not meet the needs of the Commonwealth’s water resources, its agricultural sector, Pennsylvania’s commitment to the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement, or to our obligation to repair almost 11,000 miles of impaired waterways.”

CBF asks that decision-makers commit to continued and increased support for a variety of conservation programs. The letter provides a detailed list of CBF’s funding suggestions.

In summary, CBF asks that legislators consider the following:

- Increase funding for the Conservation District funding, restoring the agricultural research funding, and restoring crop insurance support funding.
- Increase funding for agricultural best management practices (BMP)
- Developing a dedicated funding source for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program and restore the Environmental Stewardship Fund
- Stabilize funding for the Keystone Recreation and Parks Fund
- Develop a dedicated funding source for the Nutrient Management Fund

CBF, with its professional staff, over 11,000 members throughout Pennsylvania, and the ability and resources to bring a variety of partners and stakeholders together, is ready to assist the Senate, the House, and the Governor in addressing these challenges.

The text of the CBF letter follows:



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Dear Senate/House Member:

Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is very concerned about proposed 2006-2007 funding levels for agricultural conservation, conservation district support, and environmental restoration and protection, particularly related to water quality protection. The proposed funding, which reduces dollars to agriculture and key environmental programs, does not begin to meet the needs of the Commonwealth's water resources, Pennsylvania's commitment to the Chesapeake 2000 Agreement (C2K), or the obligation to remove existing impairments in over 10,762 miles of Pennsylvania waters. Proposed reductions in federal funding for the upcoming year for Farm Bill programs, the State Revolving Fund, and several EPA grant programs further exacerbate the problem.

Last year, CBF partnered with many other groups to support the \$625 million Growing Greener II bond, which was overwhelmingly approved by 61 percent of voters. Pennsylvanians sent a very clear message of support for increased funding to restore our watersheds, reduce polluted runoff from agricultural lands, preserve farms, and upgrade our wastewater treatment facilities.

Equally important, the insufficient funding in the 2006-07 budget for agriculture and the environment jeopardizes the success of an exciting, constructive, and unprecedented partnership between the agricultural and environmental communities, one that has us working together to expand agricultural conservation practices while improving the economic viability of agriculture.

The following programs are of critical concern to CBF:

Agricultural Funding

County conservation districts are the epicenters for conservation work in the agricultural community. The proposed budget cuts \$900,000 from county conservation districts, perhaps the most cost effective place we spend money on agricultural conservation. The proposed budget also cuts agricultural research and crop insurance support, key components in keeping Pennsylvania agriculture economically viable and environmentally sound. In addition, we must also identify a permanent or long term funding stream for the Nutrient Management Fund, which projections show will be depleted by June, 2007.

CBF recently released the Voices of Agriculture report that summarizes the issues and concerns of over 1,400 members of Pennsylvania's agricultural community. It is clear that Pennsylvania producers are looking for reasonable support to do key conservation work while remaining economically viable.

Given the demands on the State's agricultural industry, and the commitments to conservation voiced by the Administration and echoed by the voters, Pennsylvania should be significantly increasing the funding for county conservation districts. CBF appreciates the General Assembly's stalwart support of these priorities and is committed to working with all parties to restore and increase this critical funding. In order to meet Pennsylvania's obligations to remove local stream impairments and improve the Chesapeake Bay, we must dramatically increase our commitments to agricultural conservation practices and evaluate the programs and implementation framework available to get the work done.

Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program

The proposed budget diverts \$30 million from the Environmental Stewardship Fund for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program, following a \$20 million diversion last

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year. While these temporary shifts were authorized by the Growing Greener II legislation, they do not provide a sustainable solution. We must identify a stable, long-term funding stream for this program and not cut into the base funding for specific programs endorsed by the voters.

Keystone Recreation, Parks and Conservation Fund

A one-time diversion of \$63 million in dedicated Realty Transfer Tax funds from the Keystone Recreation, Parks and Conservation Fund is also proposed in this budget. While we understand that, due to changes in program accounting, there will not be a shortfall in 2006-2007 spending on this program, we are opposed to the diversion of the funding away from critical environmental programs voters support. There is an enormous unmet need for environmental funding that should be the focus of any diversion enabled by accounting changes.

In Summary

As you consider the 2006-2007 budget, we ask that you support the following agricultural and environmental funding priorities.

1. Restore and increase critical agricultural conservation funding, in particular increase Conservation District funding to \$3 million, restore \$3 million in agricultural research funding, and restore \$2 million in crop insurance support funding.
2. Increase funding for agricultural best management practices (BMPs) to a level consistent with Pennsylvania's water quality goals and commitments.
3. Develop a dedicated funding source for the Hazardous Sites Cleanup Program and restore \$30 Million to the Environmental Stewardship Fund for core environmental programs.
4. Take action to prevent diversions of funding from the Keystone Recreation and Parks Fund. (If the proposed one-time diversion will have no adverse impact on the program funding, utilize the diverted funds for other agricultural and environmental programs, rather than to balance the budget.)
5. Develop a dedicated or long term funding source for the Nutrient Management Fund.

We recognize that very real budget challenges face the General Assembly and the Administration on many fronts; however, projections estimate Pennsylvania revenues will increase by \$946 million in the coming fiscal year. With Pennsylvania voters overwhelming support for clean water and a stronger agricultural base, we urge you to not only allocate a reasonable portion of that revenue to agriculture and the environment, but to ensure long-term sustainability of programs designed to achieve clean water and agricultural viability.

Finally, it is clear that in order meet Pennsylvania's obligations to restore our polluted streams and improve the Chesapeake Bay, we must significantly increase the resources focused on that task. In addition, we must insure that we have a delivery program that addresses the needs at the scale they occur on the landscape. We offer our time and skills to work with you to develop the tools, delivery mechanisms, and funding sources necessary to remove impairment to Pennsylvania streams and the Chesapeake Bay.

Chesapeake Bay Foundation, with its professional staff, over 11,000 members throughout Pennsylvania, and the ability and resources to bring a variety of partners and

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stakeholders together, is ready to assist the Senate, the House, and the Governor in addressing these challenges. CBF appreciates all the dedication and hard work that has brought us to this point, and looks forward to meeting these challenges and continuing Pennsylvania's leadership on agricultural and environmental issues.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Ehrhart
Pennsylvania Director
Chesapeake Bay Foundation

For more information, visit the [Pennsylvania Office of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation webpage](#).

Session Schedule

The Senate and House return to session on June 5

On the Hill

- On the Senate, House Agenda
- Bills Introduced
- May Environmental Synopsis Now Available from Joint Conservation Committee

Other News

- Tom Ridge Environmental Center Now Open at Presque Isle in Erie
- Western Pennsylvania Environmental Award Winners Recognized
- John Dawes, Wild Resource Program Receive PAEP 2006 Karl Mason Awards
- Delaware, Greene, York High Schools Take State Envirothon Honors
- Finalists Named for 2006 Commonwealth Design Awards by 10,000 Friends
- TreeVitalize Sweeps Montgomery County Environmental Awards
- Nearly \$17 Million Awarded to Protect PA's Natural Resources, Open Space
- Over 325 Attend Land Conservation Conference, Materials Available Online
- Over 600 Attend 2nd Annual Wild Resource Festival May 20
- \$52 Million in Wastewater, Drinking Water, Brownfields Projects Funded
- Electric Generation Retirements, Environmental Rules Forcing Electric Costs Up
- PPL Joins FutureGen Alliance to Advance Clean Coal Power Plants
- Metal Recovery Firm Uses Pollution Prevention Loan to Reduce Waste/Energy Costs
- Colleges, Universities Can Still Sign Up for June 8 Energy Efficiency Workshop
- Automobile Makers Launch "Discover Alternative Fuel Autos" Campaign in PA
- Property Management for Cleaner Streams Workshops set for June 8, 21
- Volunteers Sought for Annual June 17 Ohio River Sweep
- POWR's Watershed Listservs a Good Source for Information
- Recycling Program Grant Applications Due October 20
- Santorum, Casey to Speak at PA Environmental Council Dinner June 6
- DEP Citizens Advisory Council to Hold Regional Meeting in Indiana

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- Breinich Elected to American Planning Association's Professional Institute
- Michael Pyles Receives National Award for Radon Work
- AASHTO Looking for Transportation/Environmental Experts
- Whole Foods, PA Resources Council, Pittsburgh Partner on Paper Recycling June 9
- Help Wanted: Penn State Opening for PA No-Till Coordinator

See & Hear

- A Day in the Life of Energy – Getting from Generator to Your Home

Feature

- 2010: An Electricity Odyssey, By John Hanger, Former Commissioner, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

Go To the Watershed Awareness Month Events Section

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

On the Hill

On the Senate, House Agenda/Bills Introduced

Calendars

The House will start with these bills of interest on its June 5 Calendar-- [House Bill 1588](#) providing for the fluoridation of public water; and [House Bill 2067](#) setting limits on state spending through a constitutional amendment, and [Senate Bill 868](#) increasing the forest land in-lieu of tax payment.

Committees

No activity due to Memorial Day holiday.

Bills Introduced

Corn Credit: [House Bill 2691](#) (Harris-R-Juniata) excludes corn or corn pellets to be used as an alternative fuel from Sales and Use Tax.

May Environmental Synopsis Now Available from Joint Conservation Committee

The [May issue of Environmental Synopsis](#) is now available online from the Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee.

This month's edition features articles on open space conservation referenda, biodiversity assessments, Clean Water Act violations, corporate action on climate change, pesticide levels in groundwater and streams and a summary of recent Committee activities.

For more information visit the [Joint Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee website](#).

In Other News

Tom Ridge Environmental Center Now Open at Presque Isle in Erie

Gov. Rendell this week said the public will get a unique look at nature at Presque Isle State Park in Erie now that the [Tom Ridge Environmental Center](#) (TREC) is open.

“This one-of-a-kind center offers a unique blend of education and research facility, tourist destination and one-stop-shop for Presque Isle State Park administration,” Gov. Rendell said. “Presque Isle is one of our most spectacular and visited parks in the state, and this center will serve as its gateway, connecting the public – residents, school children, researchers, visitors – to nature in exciting and different ways.”



TREC was named in December 2002 as a tribute to former Gov. Tom Ridge, who grew up in Erie, worked at the park as a young man and provided funding for the center and numerous Presque Isle projects during his administration.

“This park has been a part of my entire life,” said Gov. Ridge at the ribbon cutting ceremonies. “It’s an honor to have this facility bear my name, knowing the incredible impact it will have on the young children who visit it, the researchers who make new discoveries in its laboratories, and the new people it introduces to Presque Isle and the vibrant Erie region.”

The center was built as a premier “green building” within Pennsylvania’s state park system. It was designed to achieve a silver LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating from the U.S. Green Building Council. Incorporated into its design and function are environmental features such as natural ventilation, an inverted roof to collect rainwater, materials made from recycled content, native landscaping, renewable energy usage and a porous asphalt parking area. Panels throughout the center explain the green features.

Highlights of the 65,000-square-foot center include:

- Interactive and whimsical exhibits that highlight Presque Isle’s natural and cultural history, and unique flora and fauna;
- Five indoor classrooms for educational and interpretive programming and a special hands-on place for pre-school children;
- A research wing hosting a consortium of 31 local colleges, universities and environmental organizations with eight laboratories and three aquariums of the fish of Lake Erie and its tributaries;
- A 75-foot, glass-enclosed tower that resembles a lighthouse with a deck offering a dramatic view of the vastness of Lake Erie;
- A 175-seat, large-format theater featuring environmental and adventure films;

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- A Nature Shop where local artwork, souvenirs and specialty items can be purchased;
- A 60-seat orientation theater that will introduce visitors to Presque Isle; and
- The Sunset Café, where visitors can get a meal or a box lunch to take to the park.

TREC is situated on a 12-acre parcel on the bluff overlooking Lake Erie at the entrance to Presque Isle. Construction began in August 2002.

Presque Isle State Park currently averages four million visitors a year, most of whom come between June and September. The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources manages the park and the new center.

“One of the goals of the center is to increase off-season use of Presque Isle State Park,” DCNR Secretary Michael DiBerardinis said. “Our studies showed longer and repeat visitation to the center could initially be worth an additional \$3 million annually to the region’s economy – a great example of how important our natural resources are to our economic vitality.”

DiBerardinis said repeat visits will be encouraged because there will always be something new at the center, including exhibits, movies, educational programming and special events.

Presque Isle State Park is a 3,200-acre sand peninsula attached to the mainland, four miles west of downtown Erie. It is a favorite spot for bird migration; has more than 3,000 species in its ecosystem, including 130 that are threatened, endangered or rare; and is a major recreational landmark for outdoor activities such as fishing, swimming, birding, biking and kayaking.

General admission to TREC is free. For more information, visit the [Tom Ridge Environmental Center website](#).

NewsClips: [Tom Ridge Center Offers Varied Views of Lake Erie](#)
[Tom Ridge Environmental Center Finalist for Award](#)
[Tom Ridge Center Opens in Erie After Decade of Planning](#)

Western Pennsylvania Environmental Award Winners Recognized

An organization that helped to protect public fishing rights, a group of school children that conducted field-testing and research on local waterways and a business that took steps to minimize pollution were among the 11 finalists in the Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards, co-sponsored by the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) and [Dominion](#).

The Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards recognize and honor outstanding accomplishments in various environmental initiatives throughout western Pennsylvania. The awards include cash prizes of \$1,000 to be donated to local nonprofit environmental organizations designated by each winner.

The winners and finalists in each category are:

The finalists in the category of Community:

- WINNER - [Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy](#)
- [Blackleggs Creek Watershed Association & Trout Nursery](#)
- Valerie Pettigrew Tarkowski, President, [South Sandy Creek Watershed Association](#)

The finalists in the category of Higher Education:

- WINNER - [PENNTAP-ETAC-Penn State McKeesport](#) Partnership Western PA
- [Creek Connections, Allegheny College](#)
- [Mascaro Sustainability Initiative](#) at the University of Pittsburgh

The finalists in the category of Primary or Secondary Education:

- WINNER - [Powdermill Nature Reserve's](#) Currents Connecting Cultures Program
- [Fox Chapel Area School District](#)
- [Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium Windows to Conservation Classroom](#)

The finalists in the category of Business:

- WINNER - [BioMost, Inc.](#)
- Nature's Way Market

Funding for the awards comes from the [Dominion Foundation](#), which is dedicated to the economic, physical and social health of the communities served by Dominion companies.

John Dawes, Wild Resource Program Receive PAEP 2006 Karl Mason Awards

The [Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals](#) presented its prestigious 2006 Karl Mason Award to John Dawes, of the Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program, and the Wild Resource Conservation Program.

PAEP recognized John Dawes as an individual who exemplifies the vision of Karl Mason that environmental protection and enhancement starts with committed environmental professionals who understand the complexities of Mother Nature, who embrace a positive environmental ethic, and who through a life long commitment to get things done.

John fulfills his environmental ethic both in the organizations he supports and leads and in the wise management of his farm in Huntington County. Among his many professional accomplishments are:

- Established and administers the [Western PA Watershed Program](#), which fosters local environmental groups at the grassroots level to organize and carry out site-specific remediation projects. The \$3 million dollars in project funding granted by the program has leveraged over \$26 million dollars in matching funds.
- He has been active in local, state, and national level conservation efforts and served on the Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future, the Governor's 21st Century Environment Commission, the Pennsylvania Angus Association, the Juniata Clean Water



John Dawes, Sara Nicholas and Frank Felbaum, current and past directors of Wild Resource Conservation Program.

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Partnership, the Penn State Center for Watershed Stewardship, and Preservation Pennsylvania.

- He has been active in conservation farming using practices such as rotational grazing, stream bank fencing, riparian buffer enhancement, enhanced cattle crossings, converting pastures back to wetlands, and wind power generation.

PAEP recognized the [DCNR Wild Resource Conservation Program](#) as a statewide program that strongly supports research and protection efforts for the state's natural heritage through its educational and grant programs. In partnership with agencies, organizations and concerned citizens, the program strives to maintain, manage, enhance and restore Pennsylvania's native wild plants and non-game animals and their habitats.

The program's current Executive Director, Sara Nicholas, and former Executive Director, Frank Felbaum, were recognized for the program's valuable contributions.

The grant monies provided by the Wild Resource Conservation Fund enables the Wild Resource Conservation Program to produce a wide variety of environmental education materials, such as posters, activity books, Keystone Wild Notes (a free quarterly newsletter) and videos. The educational materials used by many of the state's conservation agencies, the Department of Education, and private groups were developed to educate the general public about species and habitat issues.

The Wild Resource Conservation Fund and the Environmental Stewardship Fund provide dollars for applied research projects (Pennsylvania native wild plants, mosses, fungi, land snails, grasshoppers, butterflies, non-game fish, amphibians, reptiles, aquatic organisms, non-game birds and mammals). These projects collect valuable information and promote active recovery of the Commonwealth's wild plant and animal resources.

PAEP/PHMC Conservation Heritage Program

The Karl Mason Awards program is administered by the PAEP Conservation Heritage Committee as part of its Conservation Heritage Program.

In collaboration with PAEP, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission is producing an array of projects over the next several years to increase conservation heritage awareness in the Commonwealth.

For example, the PAEP and the Karl Mason Family jointly funded the Karl Mason Conservation Project, which includes research into the life and work of the late Karl Mason, regarded as the Commonwealth's first environmental administrator. This research provides a pilot project for developing a template for including some of the state's many conservation leaders in future exhibits, web sites, and public symposia.

During the Karl Mason Award ceremony dinner, Dr. Vagel Keller of Carnegie Mellon University highlighted his findings from researching Karl Mason's history. The findings will be published in the next issue of the PA Heritage Magazine.

Karl Mason served as Pennsylvania's first State Environmental Administrator from 1952 to 1966. Karl's holistic vision of environmental management set the pattern for the state that embraces all essential elements of the problems of air, water and land related waste disposal and community environmental protection. The general framework established by Karl serves as the foundation for Pennsylvania's environmental protection programs to this day.

Mason believed and put into practice the notion that environmental protection is primarily the business of professionals who have the skills by virtue of their scientific training to manage the technical and scientific complexities of maintaining a safe, healthy

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and clean environment. He was committed to the belief that continuing education was an essential part of the career of every environmental professional.

As a special treat for the award ceremony participants, Walter Lyon, one of Karl Mason's employees, and Walter's wife Ann were present. Barbara Franco, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, and Beth Hager, PHMC Development Officer, were on hand to welcome the conference attendees to the Karl Mason Award dinner and talk about the PA Conservation Heritage Program.

For more information about PAEP, Conservation Heritage, and Karl Mason visit the PAEP website at www.paep.org.

If you are interested in assisting in promoting research and dissemination of information about the Commonwealth's rich conservation heritage, you can contact, Wayne Kober, Chair of the PAEP Conservation Heritage Committee at wwkpa@earthlink.net.

Delaware, Greene, York High Schools Take State Envirothon Honors

The champions of the 23rd Annual [State Envirothon](#) were crowned this week and first place went to the Penncrest High School in Delaware County, second to students from Carmichaels Area High School in Greene County and third to Northern High School in York County.

Teams finishing out the top five were Blue Mountain High School in Schuylkill County and Bald Eagle Area High School in Centre County.

The 23rd Pennsylvania State Envirothon was held at Penn State Mont Alto, near Chambersburg in Franklin County on May 22 and 23. High school students from 64 Pennsylvania counties participated in this year's event.

The Envirothon is designed to give students an opportunity to acquire and demonstrate their knowledge of environmental resources and their connection to each other and human activities. The students are challenged in the areas of aquatic ecology, forestry, soil / land use, wildlife, and a current environmental issue. The 2006 current environmental issue was water stewardship in a changing climate.

Teams participating represent the best and the brightest of the thousands of high school teens who have competed in local Envirothons sponsored by county conservation districts across the state.

At the state level, the Envirothon is sponsored by Pennsylvania's sixty-six conservation districts, the State Conservation Commission, and the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts.

The program is managed by a board of directors representing those sponsors. Technical expertise is provided by the following agency partners: Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, PA Game Commission, PA Fish & Boat Commission, and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Financial sponsors of the 2006 Envirothon are Air Products and Chemicals, PPL Corporation, PA Outdoor Writers Association, Nestle Water North America, the PA Department of Education, the PA Fish and Boat Commission, PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry, and the PA Growing Greener Program.

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In 2006, The Hershey Company, Dwight Lewis Lumber, Lewis Lumber Products, and Cargill joined the Envirothon as Corporate Station Sponsors.

The 2006 Pennsylvania Envirothon champions will represent the Commonwealth at the 19th Canon Envirothon North American competition planned for mid-July at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

Pennsylvania has won the North American event in 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1994, 1997, 2000, 2001, 2003 and 2005. More than 45 states and seven Canadian provinces have initiated Envirothon contests based on the program that was originally developed by Pennsylvania's conservation districts.

The PA Envirothon awarded scholarships to the first, second, and third place teams. The scholarships were sponsored by the Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the State Conservation Commission.

An oral component event was held on the Monday before the testing event. The oral component consists of a team presentation to a panel of judge staking part in a question/answer session based on the current issue theme. A timed event, the competition tests a team's ability to consider an environmental issue, discuss its likely ramifications and effects, develop possible solutions, and then make a presentation before a group of judges and answer their questions. This year's oral component scenario was based on water stewardship and a changing climate.

Participation was mandatory and was not included in the overall competition score. Listed below are the top five teams in the oral component: First Place –Bedford County; Second Place –Delaware County; Third Place – Beaver County; Fourth Place – Chester County; and Fifth Place – Warren County.

For more information on the [Envirothon program](#), contact your local county conservation district or contact the Pennsylvania Envirothon by phone 814-623-7900 ext. 111 or send email to: paenvirothon@pennswoods.net.

Finalists Named for 2006 Commonwealth Design Awards by 10,000 Friends

Fifteen projects in 10 counties make-up this year's finalists for 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania's annual [Commonwealth Design Awards](#).

The awards showcase the best examples of smart growth design from across Pennsylvania. PNC Bank is title sponsor for the awards program.

"The Design Awards jury members had a difficult task to select from a record number of entries from all corners of the state," said Janet Milkman, 10,000 Friends' president and CEO. "The diverse nature of the projects – meeting residential, commercial, educational, governmental and human services needs – demonstrates that smart growth isn't just a good idea but an everyday fact of life in Pennsylvania.

"In fact, smart growth has become so important to Pennsylvania that we're seeing disparate groups such as the Pennsylvania Builders Association and the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors supporting the Design Awards and actively encouraging their members to participate."

The finalist are:

Bausman Street Independent Living, Allegheny County: Five years in the making and completed in January, the Bausman Street Independent Living project comprises four

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apartments in three buildings that provide affordable housing for low-income, disabled adults. BSIL represents the first new construction in decades in Pittsburgh's Knoxville neighborhood.

The units, which replaced a vacant lot and an adjoining storage building, were designed not to look as though they were for a particular population but rather to integrate into an existing neighborhood. The area is two blocks from a main street district (post office, bank, drug store, restaurants) and across the street from a bus stop, allowing the BSIL residents to live closer to their daily needs. BSIL represents a unique partnership among two Pittsburgh-based nonprofits, three social service providers and Pittsburgh's U.S. Housing and Urban Development office.

Mental Health Consumer Center, Beaver County: In 2002, the Mental Health Association in Beaver County was given the opportunity to tap grant funding and private financial support to construct a building and consolidate its programs and services under one roof.

Construction of the 7,500-square-foot, three-floor Mental Health Consumer Center was completed in 2005, on what had been a vacant lot. It was the first new construction in Rochester, which is the hub of Beaver County, in more than 50 years. By virtue of being in the central business district, the center provides pedestrian access to public transportation, services and residential neighborhoods, and encourages community integration for the center's consumers.

International Place, Dauphin County: A 30,000-square-foot mixed-use project, International Place opened in 2005. Blackberry LLC, an affiliate of Harristown Development Corp., renovated five buildings and reused two vacant lots at Third and Chestnut streets in the historic part of downtown Harrisburg.

Four of the buildings and the lots had been vacant for more than 10 years. International Place comprises a 20,000-square-foot expansion of International House, bringing capacity to 54 residents; Bricco, a 160-seat culinary arts school and restaurant; Ciao!, a bakery that offers outdoor seating and takeout; and Olewine's Meat and Cheese House. The project created more than 50 jobs and will contribute at least \$3 million per year to the local economy.

Syngy World Headquarters, Delaware County: In Chester, an Industrial Age power station gave way to a new world headquarters for a 21st century technology company. Software company Syngy Inc. is the anchor tenant for the former Chester Waterside Station, a coal-fired electric power plant along the Delaware River.

The project transformed a decaying building that was purchased for \$1 into a million-dollar investment. Turbine Hall, with its 100-foot vaulted ceiling, now houses two free-standing structures that incorporate a data center, cafeteria and conference center. Offices replaced a boiler room. An employee fitness center and a residence for visiting executives can be found where coal once was hoisted from barges and dropped into the tops of sifters and boilers.

Tom Ridge Environmental Center at Presque Isle State Park, Erie County: The former site of a drive-in movie theater has found a second act in the form of the Tom Ridge

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Environmental Center, which will serve as a gateway to Presque Isle State Park. The 12-acre site in Millcreek Township was chosen to reinforce the park's connection to Erie, lengthen visitor stays by offering interpretive programs, and develop collaborative relationships with regional research and educational organizations.

The center, comprising 63,000 square feet on two floors, will boast exhibition areas, a 75-foot observation tower affording views of Lake Erie, an orientation theater, gift shop, café and regional offices for the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and laboratories.

Barn at Fallingwater, Fayette County: Consistent with its mission statement – “Saving the places we care about by connecting people to the natural world.” – the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy converted a 12,000-square-foot bank barn into conference and event space on the 5,000-acre Bear Run Nature Reserve.

Completed in 2005, The Barn at Fallingwater is on Route 381 in Steward Township, adjacent to Frank Lloyd Wright's renowned Fallingwater in southwestern Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands region. The upper level of the original barn, which dates to the 19th century, is used for exhibits, lectures and other social functions. The one-story 20th-century addition provides space for exhibits, conferences and distance-learning.

Buckwalter Building, Lancaster County: Located in the northwest quadrant of Lancaster city, the 45,000-square-foot Buckwalter Building was built in 1905 as the A.K. Mann tobacco warehouse. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1989 but was vacant for several years. Prince Street Associates, a subsidiary of the Drogaris Cos., bought the building in 1998. It turned over a new leaf as a mixed-use redevelopment project, which was completed in 2005.

The first floor is home to the Brickyard Restaurant and Sports Pub; technology companies occupy the second and third floors; and eight luxury apartments complete the fourth floor. The project is just two blocks from the new Clipper Magazine Stadium and is served by Red Rose Transit.

Pottstown Town Center, Montgomery County: The parcel at High and Hanover streets in downtown Pottstown had sat vacant since 1973. Adjacent to it, the 19th-century Security Trust Building had been empty for 20 years; the Reading Train Station had been converted to another use. But the borough demonstrated its faith in the community in 2000 by locating its new three-story, 28,000-square-foot municipal building here. Borough Hall is credited with sparking economic development, including renovation of the Security Trust Building.

The Town Center was completed in 2002 with the opening of Smith Family Plaza, which created a place for socializing, festivals and performances. The plaza accommodates current transit use and anticipates the train station's rebirth as a stop on the proposed Schuylkill Valley Metro.

Blau-Thompson residence, Philadelphia: Completed in 2003, this project involved the renovation of a 19th-century row home in the Italian Market area of Philadelphia. The owners converted a former luncheonette with two apartments above it into a single-family

home. They operate a small architectural firm from the property, and their son uses the numerous public playgrounds and parks nearby.

The owners use PhillyCarShare, public transportation (the site is on a SEPTA bus route), bicycles and foot power for transportation. The project introduced high-efficiency renovations, such as hot water solar collectors, to reduce the amount of energy required by a contemporary family.

Martin Luther King Plaza, Philadelphia: The winner of a 2006 award for regional and urban design from the American Institute of Architects, Martin Luther King Plaza has brought affordable housing and families into what had been a blighted, crime-ridden 15-block area near Broad Street, Philadelphia. As of March, 136 units had been completed with another 90 under construction and expected to be completed by the end of the year.

The site design incorporated off-street parking, back yards and a streetscape. The Philadelphia Housing Authority installed high-efficiency mechanical equipment in the buildings, reducing energy consumption, promoting cost savings and a cleaner environment.

School District of Philadelphia Headquarters: Built in 1928 as the Philadelphia Inquirer's printing plant, the five-story building tells a different story today. The 865,000-square-foot concrete structure at 440 N. Broad St. required massive interior and exterior renovations for its rebirth as the school district's headquarters.

Designers added an interior "light well," or atrium, in the middle of the building, creating a large common area off the first-floor lobby that accommodates gatherings, exhibits, presentations and community events. By consolidating four administrative and storage sites into this building, the school district realizes a yearly saving of \$1.2 million in operating expenses – and has enough leftover space to lease some of it.

Spring Arts Point, Philadelphia: The three acres at North 10th and Green streets, in what is known as the West Poplar neighborhood in Philadelphia, had been vacant since a failed urban renewal effort in the 1960s. This spring, construction began for Spring Arts Point, which will result in 53 townhouses and 20 condominiums that are expected to attract a range of income groups and family sizes. All units will have dedicated off-street parking; public subway, bus and trolley are within a 10-minute walk. Privately funded, the project will include seven units that will be available as affordable housing.

Historic Fairmount Neighborhood, York County: The Fairmount neighborhood had been neglected for years when, in 1997, the city of York sponsored a reinvestment effort. Nearly a decade later, Historic Fairmount can point to the rehabilitation of 15 formerly single-family Victorian-era homes into 38 apartment homes serving low- and moderate-income residents.

The homes encompass 37,724 square feet on two blocks of North Beaver Street. Completed in December, the development also includes a community room for a neighborhood association and a laundry facility for the tenants' use. Residents are proximate to parks, public transportation and the central business district.

Martin Memorial Library, York County: October 2005 marked a new chapter in the history of Martin Memorial Library and the culmination of a 2½-year expansion and renovation project. Funded privately, the project encompassed a renovation of the original library (built in 1935) at Market and Queen streets in downtown York, expansion into a next-door brownstone home built in 1866, and “infill” between the two buildings.

The library now boasts a gourmet coffee shop, a Victorian ballroom (restored in the brownstone) that is available for public use, and a new Children’s Library complete with an outdoor courtyard. Since the project’s completion, library visits have increased by 6,000 per month, circulation has increased 25 percent, and the issuing of new-member cards has increased 33 percent.

The Greenway Tech Centre, York County: The 60,000-square-foot building at 540 S. George St., York, used to be home to Eisenlohr & Bros. Cigar Factory, but another crop is more symbolic of the five-story structure’s reincarnation. Construction crews used corn blasting to remove white paint from the building’s interior rather than harsh chemicals that could have harmed hardwood and future workers in what is now The Greenway Tech Centre.

Standing as a southern gateway to the city, the project is part of the nonprofit Crispus Attucks Association’s 10-year Boundary Avenue project to revitalize the neighborhood. The center will accommodate as many as eight loft-style offices equipped with fiber-optic cable and wireless Internet.

This year’s winners will be announced at a public event June 13 at The State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg. Tickets are \$100 and may be purchased by calling 10,000 Friends at 215-985-3201.

[10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania](#) is an alliance of organizations and individuals from across the state committed to land-use policies and actions that will enable Pennsylvania to strengthen its diverse urban, suburban and rural communities and reduce sprawl. 10,000 Friends has offices in Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Pittsburgh.

TreeVitalize Sweeps Montgomery County Environmental Awards

The [Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy](#) has recognized [TreeVitalize](#) and its partners with five of its annual awards to individuals or organizations who have committed their time and energy to help protect the land and water resources of the Perkiomen Watershed.

Municipal Environmental Award to the Montgomery County Conservation District for efforts to reduce soil losses, and as a result protecting the water resources that otherwise would be polluted by construction and agricultural run-off. The district was commended for managing the county’s TreeVitalize effort, making it possible for all of Montgomery County’s environmental organizations to participate.

Land Use Environmental Award to TreeVitalize for stormwater management and pollution control by planting trees. TreeVitalize has provided more than 1,000 trees for use by the PWC in projects at the Collegeville Dam site, around the Green Lane Reservoir and at the East Greenville Water Treatment Plant.

Corporate Environmental Award to Aqua Pennsylvania for assisting PWC in a variety of ways for many, many years. In addition to regular financial contributions, Aqua

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PA is a major supporter of the TreeVitalize program, helping to provide trees throughout the watershed.

Friend of the Watershed Environmental Award to Adam and Gwen Supplee for knowing the meaning of stewardship! They were team leaders at the Collegeville Dam revegetation site, helping to plant more than 600 TreeVitalize trees in record time. They lead teams in the annual Stream Clean-Up, and Gwen serves on the PWC Special Events Committee.

Kids Making a Difference Environmental Award to Boyertown High School Science Class. When there are TreeVitalize trees to be planted, Rick Thomas's science classes is ready to get involved! Over the last year, these Boyertown High School science classes have invested hundreds of hours planting trees and shrubs in riparian buffers along the Perkiomen Creek and its tributaries.

Everyone attending the recent banquet received a 25 percent discount on the purchase of a tree and was encouraged to start a TreeVitalize project in their own back yard.

For more information, visit the [TreeVitalize website](#).

[Courtesy of DCNR's Resource Magazine.](#)

Nearly \$17 Million Awarded to Protect PA's Natural Resources, Open Space

Pennsylvania residents in 23 counties will benefit from a near \$17 million investment in land conservation projects announced this week by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources that are designed to protect open space and the state's natural resources.

Funding for the grants comes from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources' Growing Greener II and Keystone Fund, a DCNR fund generated from a portion of the realty transfer tax.

Projects range from a \$1.8 million grant to acquire a conservation easement on approximately 1,100 acres in Milford Township, Pike County, to a \$12,000 grant for a 2-acre trail and park expansion in Union Township, Berks County.

[A list of all grants awarded is available online.](#)

Over 325 Attend Land Conservation Conference, Materials Available Online

More than 325 people attended the 5th Annual Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference to learn more about how they can permanently protect and manage sensitive areas, farmland and open space around the state.

Many of the presentations made at the conference have been made available online by the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association.

Visit the [PA Land Trust Association website](#) for more information.

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

Over 600 Attend 2nd Annual Wild Resource Festival at French Creek

Blustery weather only inflated the enthusiasm of the more than 600 people that attended the 2nd Annual Wild Resource Festival on May 20 at French Creek State Park.

Awed by 33 scientific presenters and assisted by 31 volunteers, attendees enjoyed educational exhibits, special activities, and 10 different walks—from mushroom forays to swamp explorations.

According to Sara Nicholas, Executive Director of the Wild Resource Conservation Program (WRCP) and the coordinator of the festival, “People really liked the walks. They provided a first hand look at the natural resources guided by leading experts in various fields.”

The festival wasn’t just a treat for the mind, but for the senses as well. Author Mimi Brodeur tempted taste buds with assorted mushroom-based recipes, well suited to the WRCP focus for 2006—the year of the fungi. Auditory stimulation came from the stage where contemporary acoustic rock and folk musicians shared their soothing talents.

A black snake and milk snake, on display from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, were smooth to the touch based on the animated accounts of the many children and adults who handled them.

Colorful songbirds, safely captured in mist nets and quickly released, were a gift to the eyes of the onlookers at the Bird Banding program. The smells of the native plants for sale by several vendors provided olfactory delights.

The festival was more than an opportunity to learn. According to Nicholas, “It’s great to meet the grantees (of the Wild Resource Conservation Fund). They get to show the public what they do and how they do it.” Sally Just, Director of DCNR’s Office of Conservation Science, added “The festival was an excellent celebration of all of our natural resources and it connected people to those resources in direct, meaningful ways.”

When asked about her favorite moment from the day, Nicholas recollected a fun-filled half hour on a butterfly walk. “Our energetic leader had us leaping through the meadow netting butterflies and then he showed us where a variety of caterpillars were living, even deep down in mowed lawns. It was very eye opening.”

Eventually the sun did shine on the festival and with the light playing on Hopewell Lake and the air abuzz with wild sights and sounds and human voices bubbling with excitement, one couldn’t help but feel a linkage to the environmental rhythms and mysteries of the planet – especially the little piece called Pennsylvania.

Watch for notices for the May 2007 Wild Resource Festival—promising a world of fun and discovery, naturally.

A special thank you to the sponsors of the 2006 Wild Resource Festival: Woolrich, PSECU, Natural Lands Trust, American Mushroom Institute, Blackberry Farms, Phillips Mushroom Farms, United States Hot Air Balloon Team, Café 110, Friends of the Daniel Boone Homestead, Zou’s Garden.

For more information, visit DCNR’s [Wild Resource Conservation Program webpage](#).
Courtesy of DCNR’s Resource Magazine.



Photo by: Jessica Sprajcar

\$52 Million in Wastewater, Drinking Water, Brownfields Projects Funded

The Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority this week announced the investment of \$52 million in drinking water, wastewater, stormwater and brownfields projects in 17 counties.

The projects approved ranged from a \$125,000 loan to a water authority in Clinton County to drill exploratory wells and design a drinking water line, to an \$11 million loan to a community in Clearfield County that is planning to replace nearly all of its sewage collection system to eliminate wet weather discharges of untreated sewage into the West Branch of the Susquehanna River.

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

Electric Generation Retirements, Environmental Rules Forcing Electric Costs Up

Electric distributors, generators and regional grid managers told members of the Public Utility Commission and staff this week that while they project ample power will be available to meet summer demands, presenters noted the retirement of electric generating capacity is outpacing on new capacity coming online in the region.

At a separate Clean Energy Conference this week, PUC Vice-Chairman James H. Cawley said the basic cost of generating electricity and environmental requirements on generators have raised the wholesale cost of electricity above the price caps imposed in 1996 and that companies cannot continue to buy electricity at high prices and sell it at lower prices.

Last week, [PUC Chairman Wendell F. Holland expressed concern](#) about the cost impact of a proposal by the Department of Environmental Protection to adopt a state-only rule to control mercury from power plants.

The [Energy Association of Pennsylvania](#), the [Electric Power Generation Association](#), [PJM Interconnection](#) and [Midwest Independent System](#) all presented comments at the PUC briefing.

“Demand for electricity continues to grow,” said J. Michael Love, President & CEO of the Energy Association of Pennsylvania. “Retirements of generating stations continues to outpace generation construction. This is a disturbing trend that could be a harbinger of problems in the future.... While the distribution companies can continue their historic efforts to improve reliability, if there is, over time, a shortage of capacity due to overly stringent environmental regulations, it will be this Commission who will face the challenge of consumer outrage over capacity shortfalls.”

Douglas L. Biden, President of the Electric Power Generation Association, noted the retirement of 3,092 megawatts (MW) of generating capacity in the PJM Interconnection in 2005 which directly serves Pennsylvania.

Biden also provided the Commission with statements by PJM which cautioned that the impact of state-specific mercury regulations could hasten the retirement of older generating capacity—

“New limits on mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants now under consideration in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland, among other states, may prove to be an important factor in potential future retirements. PJM has been closely

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monitoring the states' deliberations on these requirements; its analyses indicate that, should the current proposed requirements be adopted, as much as 4,000 MW of older, coal-fired generation capacity potentially could be retired because the investment needed at such units to meet the new emission limits would be deemed uneconomic.” -- From a March 6, 2006 submission from PJM supporting a regional transmission line project.

Studies have also identified 4,135 MW of generating capacity in Pennsylvania that could be retired if state-specific requirements over and above the federal Clean Air Interstate Rule were adopted, Biden said.

PJM, which is the electricity grid operator for 13 states and the District of Columbia, predicts that customers this summer will drive the net peak demand for power to 133,500 megawatts, compared to the all-time PJM peak of 133,761 megawatts on July 26, 2005. PJM expects to have a reserve margin, the extra power on hand to meet unanticipated demand, of 25.5 percent.

Midwest ISO, an organization similar to PJM, predicts an 18 percent reserve margin, however, its projections also show it will have a reserve margin of less than 5 percent due to retirements by 2015. Fifteen percent is considered a safe margin.

Vice-Chairman Cawley told the Clean Energy Conference that Pennsylvania has two choices to deal with the rising price of electricity after the caps imposed in 1996 come off in 2010—1) we can wait until 2009-2010 and see a big increases in prices like Maryland did; or 2) start bumping up prices now incrementally and look for ways to reduce electricity demand.

“Electricity prices have got to reflect the true price of electricity,” said Vice-Chairman Cawley. “Without that customers have no incentive to conserve. People will modify their behavior if they know what the facts are.”

“We are not going to get into the situation Maryland did, where they have a huge run-up in prices” said Vice-Chairman Cawley.

Vice-Chairman Cawley noted the PUC is [meeting on June 22](#) to hear comments on how the PUC should deal with the elimination of the caps in 2010.

Link: [House Committee Told Conservation Most Cost Effective Help on Energy Problems](#)

Applicants for Energy Grants/Loans Invited to June 13 Workshop in Southeast

The Department of Environmental Protection will hold a workshop for applicants for Energy Harvest Grant Program and Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority financing

“This workshop will help potential applicants determine if their project might qualify for either program and it will show them how to navigate the application process,” DEP Southeast Regional Director Joseph Feola said.

The workshop will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on June 13 at DEP’s Southeast Regional Office, 2 E. Main St., Norristown, Montgomery County.

To register for the free workshop, contact: Angela Bailey at 484-250-5804.

Link: [Energy Harvest, PA Energy Development Authority Grant Apps Due July 14](#)

PPL Joins FutureGen Alliance to Advance Clean Coal Power Plants

The [FutureGen Industrial Alliance](#) announced this week that PPL Corp has joined the non-profit consortium of global electric utilities and coal companies working with the U.S. Department of Energy to site and develop FutureGen, an advanced clean coal power plant.

Other Pennsylvania related members include CONSOL Energy and Foundation Coal.

PPL becomes the tenth member of the alliance, which is leading design, construction and operation of the first “zero-emissions” coal-fueled power plant and hydrogen production facility with integrated carbon capture and sequestration.

PPL, headquartered in Allentown, controls about 12,000 megawatts of generating capacity in the United States, sells energy in key U.S. markets and delivers electricity to more than 5 million customers in Pennsylvania, the United Kingdom and Latin America.

The alliance has issued a siting proposal and received 12 project bids from seven states to host FutureGen, a public-private project which will utilize coal gasification technology to reduce emissions.

NewsClip: [Rendell Joins with Ohio and Kentucky in FutureGen Bid](#)

Metal Recovery Firm Uses Pollution Prevention Loan to Reduce Waste/Energy Costs

Royal GreenCorp., a Berks County-based metal recovery company used a state [Small Business Pollution Prevention Assistance Account](#) (PPAA) loan to install equipment that has not only paid for itself in cost savings in two years, but also eliminated tons of waste.

Royal Green used the loan to install a new eddy current separator that helped the company to extract/recover metal from its waste stream. The new system has helped the company save money by eliminating 435 tons of residual waste and the related waste disposal costs during the last two years. This amounted to a savings of approximately \$447,000 since implementation.

The company savings have already paid for the cost of the project. This was the second time that the company has used funding from the loan program to finance a pollution prevention/energy efficiency project.

The PPAA loan program is available to any small business owner whose pollution prevention/energy efficiency project is located within Pennsylvania.

For more information, visit [DEP's Pollution Prevention Assistance Account webpage](#) or contact Gene DeVecchio at 717 772-8951 or send e-mail to: gdelvecchi@state.pa.us .

Colleges, Universities Can Still Sign Up for June 8 Energy Efficiency Workshop

The Department of Environmental Protection is sponsoring a workshop to teach colleges and universities the nuts and bolts of reducing energy costs June 8 in Cranberry, PA.

Workshop participants will hear presentations from Carnegie Mellon University (“Green Isn’t Just a Color Anymore”), California University (“Energy Reduction: Not Just a Best Practice, the Best Performance”), Penn State, DEP and others.

For more information and to RSVP, contact Guy McUmbur, DEP, at 814-332-6352 or send email to: gmcumber@state.pa.us .

Automobile Makers Launch “Discover Alternative Fuel Autos” Campaign in PA

The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, a trade association including BMW Group, DaimlerChrysler, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Mazda, Mitsubishi Motors, Porsche, Toyota and Volkswagen, has launched www.DiscoverAlternatives.org, an initiative to encourage the use of alternative fuel automobiles in Pennsylvania.

“Alternative fuel autos of all kinds are a reality today. Whether it’s achieving greater fuel economy or reducing America’s reliance on oil as a primary fuel source, automakers remain committed to populating America’s roadways with innovative vehicle technologies,” said Fred Webber, President and CEO of the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers.

In the past five years, the number of alternative fuel automobiles on our nation’s roadways has more than doubled. In addition to the more than 40 alternative fuel vehicles on sale in dealer showrooms across America, there are more than 30 more advanced vehicles, including hybrids, clean diesels and ethanol capable vehicles in development.

“Fortunately, we have so many choices of safe, reliable cars and trucks that address concerns for greater fuel efficiency, and less dependence on foreign fuels,” said David N. Taylor, executive director of the Pennsylvania Manufacturers Association. “It is clear that auto manufacturers are responding to the wants and needs of today’s driver.”

Today in Pennsylvania, there are 269,444 alternative fuel vehicles on the road.

For a complete list of alternative fuel technologies and to learn more about alternative fuel automobiles visit www.DiscoverAlternatives.org.

Property Management for Cleaner Streams Workshops set for June 8, 21

The Partnership for the Delaware Estuary, in affiliation with the Philadelphia Water Department, Pennypack Environmental Center and Bucks County Conservation District, are hosting two workshops in June entitled “Property Management for Cleaner Streams.”

One workshop will take place on June 8 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Northampton Township Building, 55 Township Road, Richboro, Pa. The other convenes on June 21 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Pennypack Environmental Center in Philadelphia’s Fairmount Park.

Representatives from schools, corporations, businesses, municipalities and non-profit organizations are welcome to attend to learn about available programs to help them protect drinking water.

These programs are designed to facilitate projects such as creating native meadows, enhancing riparian buffers, educating the public about stormwater, implementing “responsible-housekeeping” practices and more. Funding for projects is available and priority will be given to organizations represented at the workshop.

Those seeking to register should do so by June 2 and June 16 respectively. Meeting this deadline entitles registrants to a free native plant. One attendee will also win a rain barrel for use in reducing stormwater-runoff pollution. Refreshments will be served.

An additional sponsor for Property Management for Cleaner Streams is the Department of Environmental Protection.

For further details and to register, please contact Lisa Wool, program director for the Partnership, at 800-445-4935, extension 105.

For more information, visit the [Delaware Estuary Partnership website](http://DelawareEstuaryPartnership.com).

Volunteers Sought for Annual June 17 Ohio River Sweep

Volunteers are needed for the 17th Annual River Sweep, the largest organized volunteer river cleanup effort in the country, set to take place from 8 a.m. to noon June 17 in Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Butler, Fayette, Greene, Washington and Westmoreland counties.

“We have our work cut out for this year as we clean up along our rivers and their tributaries so our area waterways and riverbanks are sparkling in time for the National Baseball League’s All-Star Competition in July,” Pennsylvania Commissioner to Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO) Chuck Duritsa said. “The River Sweep cleanup has a long history of success in Pennsylvania and over the years, our volunteers have cleaned more than a million pounds of debris and tires from our waterways.”

River Sweep, an annual six-state effort to clean up litter and debris in the Ohio River watershed, is sponsored by Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission and a number of Pennsylvania corporate sponsors. The event winds through Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Indiana, West Virginia and Illinois, covering more than 2,400 miles of shoreline.

“We are looking for 1,000 volunteers to come out on June 17 and help clean up our riverbanks and waterways,” Pennsylvania River Sweep Coordinator Betsy Mallison said. “It is a great opportunity for families and corporate groups alike, to work together to make a difference in their communities.”

Last year, more than 900 volunteers collected trash and debris along the Ohio, Allegheny, Beaver, Monongahela and Youghiogheny rivers and their tributaries. Volunteers who participate receive trash bags and a souvenir T-shirt. Refreshments are provided at River Sweep sites.

Residents who want to participate in the River Sweep can find a site by checking DEP’s Ohio River Sweep webpage. Information also is available by contacting Carol Mensing at 412-442-4189 or send e-mail to: epsriversweep@state.pa.us.

NewsClips: [River Sweep Hopes to Net 1,000 Volunteers](#)

POWR’s Watershed Listservs a Good Source for Information

The PA Organization for Watersheds and Rivers provides a number of different listservs to facilitate networking and discussion amongst watershed groups across the state.

With the use of these listservs groups will be able to be in touch with POWR staff and members of other groups to help answer questions and provide information about the topics covered.

The **orgdevelopment listserv** provides information about organizational development topics, including financial management, volunteers, fundraising, and sustainability of boards of directors. This list includes watershed specialists and managers.

The **volunteermonitoring listserv** provides information about watershed monitoring and the PA Watersheds Data System. Groups can obtain information about monitoring practices and gain information to best utilize the PA Watersheds Data System.

To subscribe, visit the [POWR Listserv signup webpage](#).

Recycling Program Grant Applications Due October 20

The Department of Environmental Protection [announced this week](#) applications for grants to set up Section 902 recycling and composting programs were due October 20.

DEP has set aside half of the funding available for this next round of grants to support the establishment of “Pay-As-You-Throw” programs that give residents economic incentives to recycle more or dispose of less waste and other innovative recycling programs designed to increase household and business participation.

DEP also laid out these other priorities for funding—

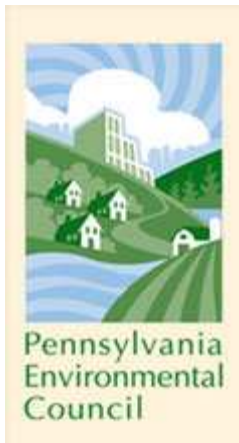
1. Economic evaluations of municipal recycling programs resulting in recommendations to improve sustainability – limit \$10,000 per municipality;
2. Multi-municipal collection, processing and materials marketing programs; and
3. Equipment and education necessary to collect materials not mandated by Act 101.

Each applicant is also required to submit a plan that includes definitive actions and strategies for optimizing program self-sufficiency. (*Information on this requirement can be found in the DEP report “[Building Financially Sustainable Recycling Programs.](#)”*)

Potential grant applicants must contact one of DEP’s Regional Recycling Coordinators before making application.

For more information, visit [DEP’s Recycling Grant webpage](#).

Santorum, Casey to Speak at PA Environmental Council Dinner June 6



Pennsylvania U.S. Senator Rick Santorum and his Democratic challenger State Treasurer Bob Casey, Jr. will be keynote speakers at the 36th annual dinner of the [Pennsylvania Environmental Council](#) in Philadelphia on June 6.

Michael DiBerardinis, Secretary of the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, is a special guest for the evening and will provide comments before dinner on elevating the value of natural resource conservation in Pennsylvania.

The dinner chairman is John Westrum of the Westrum Development Company.

“From reauthorization of the federal abandoned mine reclamation program, conservation issues in the 2007 Farm Bill, to restoring proposed cuts to federal environmental programs, Pennsylvania has a huge stake in the decisions made by the U.S. Congress,” said Brian J. Hill, President and CEO of the Council. “This is a great opportunity to speak to over 450 individuals, companies, local and state officials interested in environmental issues.”

“Dinner attendees will also have the opportunity to ask their own questions of the candidates during the dinner by submitting written questions,” said Hill.

Rick Santorum, 46, has served as one of Pennsylvania’s two U.S. Senators since 1994. He is prime sponsor of legislation to reauthorize the federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund, helped create the Farmland Preservation Program in the 1996 Farm Bill and secured federal funding for the first coal-to-liquid fuel plant in the U.S. in Schuylkill County.

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Bob Casey, Jr., 46, has been Pennsylvania's State Treasurer since 2005 and previously served two terms as State Auditor General and his efforts have led to over \$1 billion in savings to state taxpayers. He has identified increased funding for brownfields cleanup, reinstating the "polluter-pays" principle in the federal Superfund Program and reducing dependence on foreign oil as major environmental issues. He opposes drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Here are just a few of the federal environmental issues faced by Pennsylvania in the coming years:

Abandoned Mines. Pennsylvania has over 184,000 acres of abandoned mines and 4,000 miles of mine polluted streams, the most of any state. The fee supporting the federal Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund, now the single largest source of reclamation funding in the state, is due to expire on June 30 unless Congress acts.

2007 Farm Bill. Listening sessions held by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Bay Commission found that Pennsylvania farmers said more financial support from the federal Farm Bill to install conservation practices on their farms was a priority. Pennsylvania farmers now receive less than one-third of the national average of support under the federal Farm Bill.

Funding Cuts. States stand to lose over \$416 million in support from the federal government for clean air, clean water and other environmental programs states administer on behalf of the federal government and funding for wastewater and drinking water projects is also proposed to be cut by over \$900 million.

The dinner will be held at the Hyatt Penn's Landing, 201 S. Columbus Blvd, Philadelphia from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m.. For information, contact Carol Meyers, PEC's Philadelphia office at 215-592-7020 ext. 100 or send email to: cmeyers@pecpa.org .

DEP Citizens Advisory Council to Hold Regional Meeting in Indiana

The [Citizens Advisory Council to DEP](#) will travel to Indiana, Pennsylvania, for this year's regional trip on June 26 – 28.

CAC members will tour areas of environmental concern and also conduct two public meetings at which local residents can comment on environmental issues in their area and on the work of DEP.

"These regional meetings give us an opportunity to learn firsthand what environmental issues are affecting Pennsylvanians in their own backyards," said CAC Chairperson Walter Heine.

Individuals and groups from Armstrong, Cambria, Indiana, Somerset and Westmoreland counties are invited to present testimony at either of the meetings: Tuesday evening, June 27 or Wednesday morning, June 28. The meetings will be held at the Best Western University Inn, 1545 Wayne Avenue, Indiana.

If interested in presenting testimony, please contact CAC by phone (717-787-4527) or send email to RA-epcontactcac@state.pa.us. Requests to present testimony must be received by June 2 to ensure that we can accommodate you.

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CAC is a nonpartisan group of 18 citizen volunteers appointed by the Governor, Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. The DEP Secretary also serves as a member. The Council is legislatively charged with reviewing all environmental legislation, regulations and policies affecting Pennsylvania, and also reviewing DEP's work and making recommendations.

For more information on [CAC website](#).

Whole Foods, PA Resources Council, Pittsburgh Partner on Paper Recycling June 9

Whole Foods Markets, the [PA Resources Council](#) and the City of Pittsburgh are sponsoring a special paper recycling event on June 9, 10, and 11.

The event will be held at the Whole Foods Market, 5880 Centre Ave, Pittsburgh from 3:00 p.m. to 10 p.m.

The public is welcome to drop off office paper, junk mail, school papers, newspaper, magazines, and shopping catalogs during the event.

For more information, call Kim from Whole Foods Market at 412-441-7960 or Ginette from PRC at 412-488-7490.

Breinich Elected to American Planning Association's Professional Institute

Anna M. Breinch, AICP, was elected to serve as Region I Commissioner for the American Planning Association's Professional Institute. Breinch now serves as a community planner for the Pennsylvania Environmental Council.

Breinich has more than 27 years of county, municipal and private sector planning experience and also serves as an adjunct associate professor and Harrisburg Program Coordinator at Temple University Ambler for its Master's Degree in Community and Regional Planning Program.

As Region I Commissioner, Breinich will serve four years on the eight-member commission guiding certification, ethics, professional development and accreditation policies.

Michael Pyles Receives National Award for Radon Work

Michael A. Pyles, who heads up the Department of Environmental Protection's Radon Program recently received the Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors Award for Meritorious Service

In giving Pyles this award, the CRCPD Board of Directors noted Mike's "outstanding efforts in providing the States an excellent technical and programmatic agenda for the National Radon Meeting; providing review of the Radon Mini-grant Program, which has provided States with radon initiatives that otherwise would not have been accomplished; providing input to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding publications and public awareness activities; and providing liaison for CRCPD with the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists."

The award also says Pyles' efforts "have resulted in improved technical and programmatic capacity within the States and improved information to the general public."

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Here in Pennsylvania, Pyles has led successful public outreach efforts, including producing television, radio, and print public service announcements urging people to test their homes for radon, the Radon Newborn Program, which partners with hospitals to provide free radon test kits to parents of newborn babies, and working to educate real estate agents on the issue of radon.

Radon is an odorless, colorless, radioactive gas that occurs naturally in soil and rocks through the breakdown of uranium. It seeps into homes through tiny cracks in basements and foundations. Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer deaths in the United States. Homes throughout Pennsylvania have been found with high levels of radon, but the only way to know your homes level is to test.

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

AASHTO Looking for Transportation/Environmental Experts

The [AASHTO Center for Environmental Excellence Technical Assistance Program](#) is currently recruiting to expand its team of highly qualified and experienced experts to assist transportation and environmental agency officials in improving environmental performance and program delivery.

Applications are due June 16.

The team members individually or as a team supply on-call technical assistance to transportation and environmental agencies through short and long term assignments. Also, the team members assist the Center for Environmental Excellence in developing and implementing other technical assistance, information-sharing and training programs.

The experts serve on an on-call basis under a letter agreement with the AASHTO Center for Environmental Excellence. The expert contracts are typically for a one-year time period and are renewable. The experts work at an hourly labor rate and are reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with government per diem rates.

Each technical assistance assignment is made through a problem statement, scope of work, technical proposal, cost proposal, and notice to proceed. The scope of work, technical proposal, and cost proposal are collaboratively developed in close coordination with AASHTO and the transportation and environmental agencies.

AASHTO has sole-source contracts with all State Departments of Transportation, thereby allowing contracts with AASHTO for technical assistance to be completed in a relatively short time period. In addition, AASHTO is able to develop agreements for technical assistance with non-member agencies.

The expert application must be completed and submitted using the on-line application form located on the [AASHTO Center for Environmental Excellence Technical Assistance Program website](#). Completed applications should be submitted by email to Kate Kurgan at kkurgan@aaashto.org. No applications will be accepted by other means of communication.

Help Wanted: Penn State Opening for PA No-Till Coordinator

The Penn State University College of Agricultural Sciences announced it is seeking candidates to fill a statewide position to promote no-till agricultural systems.

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This Senior Extension Associate position will be a member of the crop and soil sciences team in the College of Agricultural Sciences, and will be responsible for planning, education and evaluation of no-till educational programs for farmers and related groups.

Major areas of responsibility include technical assistance and training to facilitate increased adoption of no-till production systems. The individual will be expected to conduct programs appropriate to farmers, including members of the plain sect.

Coordination and advisory committee work will take place with the PA No-Till Alliance and its partners, county conservation districts, USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the Department of Environmental Protection.

The full job announcement is found on the [Penn State University Human Resources webpage](#) (job number 22425). The job position will be open until June 2nd or later.

For questions or more information, please contact Sjoerd Duiker at: swd10@psu.edu or 814-863-7637.

See & Hear

A Day in the Life of Energy – Getting from Generator to Your Home

Ever wonder where your electricity comes from and how it gets to your home, office, school or farm? Watch “[Wired – A Day in the Life of Energy](#)” online.

Follow energy as it travels from a variety of generation points, through the grid and finally into our everyday use through this GreenTreks Network production.

The “[Wired](#)” [webpage](#) also contains links to other related energy programs online.

Opinion

2010: An Electricity Odyssey

By John Hanger

Former Commissioner

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

Exploding fossil fuel prices are causing electricity prices in many parts of America to begin a sharp rise.

Utilities are burning ever more expensive coal, gas, and oil to make about 70 percent of the nation's power. Since 2000, gasoline and oil prices have increased by approximately 200 percent, natural gas prices by 300 percent and coal prices by 150 percent, and these fuel increases are beginning to show up in electricity bills in Wisconsin, Florida, Illinois, Tennessee Valley Authority, and soon Maryland and elsewhere.

As observers in Harrisburg watch prices spiral in other parts of the county, the following questions spring to mind:

- How long can Pennsylvania keep its electricity prices from jumping?
- Since the price caps - approved by the Public Utility Commission (PUC) as part of the restructuring settlements - expire no later than December 31, 2010, what will electricity prices be then?
- What should policymakers and consumers do now to keep electricity affordable?

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To answer these questions, we must have a clear and accurate understanding of where we were, where we are now, and what likely lies ahead.

Following passage of the Federal Energy Policy Act of 1992 that moved wholesale power generation to competition, Pennsylvania passed the Energy Competition and Customer Choice Act in 1996. This law ended the monopoly on building and operating power plants but continued transmission and distribution (the delivery of electricity) as a fully regulated public utility.

As part of the transition to competitive power generation markets, consumers and utilities reached an agreement by which consumers promised during a long transition period to pay billions of dollars to utilities for their uneconomic investments (mainly hugely expensive nuclear plants) and for the costs of purchasing power from non-utility generators.

In return for consumers promising to pay for these "stranded costs," utilities promised to cap rates for both generation and combined transmission and distribution. Each utility had its own agreement and the amount of the stranded cost payments and the length of the rate caps varied by utility.

While rate caps ended a couple years ago in the Duquesne Light Service Territory (Pittsburgh) and some other smaller electricity service territories, rate caps continue in many parts of Pennsylvania until December 31, 2010.

The utilities that agreed to the rate caps did so, because they either had power plants that produced electricity at costs that were less than the rate caps or they could enter into long-term power purchase agreements for power at less than the rate cap.

From 1999 until 2004, power in the PJM Interconnection (PJM) competitive wholesale market typically traded in the 3.0 to 4.5 cent per kilowatt-hour range. Those power prices were absolute bargains by almost any measure.

For example, under monopoly regulation in 1996, a typical residential customer or small business customer was paying more than 8 cents per kilowatt-hour to Exelon or Duquesne just for generation (or 10 to 11 cents per kilowatt-hour in inflation adjusted numbers). In other service territories, most small customers were paying about 5 to 6 cents per kilowatt-hour just for generation (or 6.5 to 7.5 cents in inflation adjusted dollars).

With the option of meeting the rate caps by purchasing long-term power contracts or operating power plants that they owned, PPL, Exelon and Duquesne Light all have fully complied with their rate cap agreements, delivering electricity at an ever more reasonable price. In the cases of PPL and Exelon, doing well for their consumers has also meant doing well for their investors - both companies' stock prices increased dramatically since 1996, even though PPL's generation rates are capped until December 31, 2009 and Exelon's rates are capped until December 31, 2010.

Only FirstEnergy seems to be unable to keep its promises to its Pennsylvania consumers. The company has filed a petition with the PUC to break its generation rate cap four years earlier than it had promised and is seeking an approximately 50% rate increase by 2010. Not too surprisingly, FirstEnergy is not proposing to let consumers break their promise to pay stranded costs - through September 30, 2005, consumers have paid FirstEnergy \$1 billion.

Like PPL and Exelon, FirstEnergy had the opportunity to buy power when wholesale prices were low, and the company still owns and operates nuclear and coal

power plants that produce electricity at a cost of between 1.5 to 3.5 cents per kilowatt-hour, well below the rate caps in Pennsylvania.

FirstEnergy is not losing money when it supplies power to Pennsylvania customers, but it could be making more if it sold power into the current marketplace, where spot market prices have reached their highest point since the market's opening. The desire to maximize profits, as opposed to cutting real losses, is hardly an acceptable reason to break a rate cap promise.

Pennsylvania's successful mix of regulation and market forces has meant that electricity in the Commonwealth is the only energy bargain left in the marketplace, despite exploding fossil fuel prices. Total electricity consumer savings since 1996 exceed \$6 billion dollars, and the last 10 years have been the best decade for power consumers in the last 40 years or more. The biggest winners have been the residential consumers of Duquesne Light, who saved between \$200 and \$400 per year from 2002 through 2004 and saw electricity prices drop to levels not seen since 1981.

But all consumers won. With the exception of 4,500 customers of a small utility in Pike County, Pennsylvania's electricity rates are less in inflation-adjusted dollars than they were in 1996, the year the state began to restructure its electricity industry.

While the price of electricity has been stable or declined, in the same time period white bread is up 31 percent, medical bills are up 42 percent, cable television rates are up 56 percent, college tuition costs are up 70 percent and some Pennsylvania utility water rates are up approximately 100 percent.

Pennsylvania's business climate and economy have also benefited from electricity restructuring. In 1996, electricity rates put Pennsylvania at a competitive disadvantage, with its average rate for electricity about 15 percent above the national average. As of December 2005, that competitive disadvantage had ended, since the price of electricity in Pennsylvania was just two percent above the national average and likely to be below the national average in 2006.

So while the last decade has been golden for consumers and investors of PPL and Exelon, what will be the price for electricity on January 1, 2011, the date by when rate caps end across Pennsylvania? Nobody knows the answer to that question, and the size of any rate increases will vary in different parts of the Commonwealth as a result of two factors: the level of current rates and the amount of stranded cost charges that will also be removed from rates when the rate caps expire.

For example, in the Exelon service territory rates are now comparatively high, and stranded cost charges are between 2 and 4 cents per kilowatt-hour for most of its consumers. The removal of stranded cost charges will help limit or even eliminate there any rate increase.

The price of electricity in 2010 will be a result of supply and demand and regulatory decisions that impact them. It will also be a function of the rates set for the delivery of electricity by the PUC. Right now, steps can be taken or not taken that will influence electricity's prices.

There are a number of specific policies to implement to help consumers prepare for losing the rate caps. Modern meters that record the usage at particular times of day must be installed in all businesses and homes. Using these meters, consumers could be paid market rates to voluntarily reduce electricity use during peak times.

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Electricity conservation to reduce demand during all hours must be sharply increased. Renewable energy should be increased to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and to increase the supply of electricity. And funding for low-income customers who are unable to pay electricity bills must be increased.

To put downward pressure on prices, the key goals of policy should be to decrease peak demands and to increase the supply of renewable energy.

The Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards (AEPS) Act passed in 2004 by Pennsylvania and similar laws in New Jersey and Maryland will help increase the supply of alternative energy. But more needs to be done.

Pennsylvania must increase investment by another \$50 million per year in alternative energy projects through the sustainable development funds, the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority and the Energy Harvest Program. These funds can come from an appropriation in the state budget and/or small charges on transmission service.

Small changes in peak demand lead to large changes in prices - a one percent reduction in peak demand will cut peak prices by 10 percent within the PJM power pool. Reducing peak prices is vital to controlling electricity prices in 2010, since the 100 hours of the year when peak demand are the highest amount to a full 20 percent of the annual cost of serving a residential customer. Peak demand drives the price of serving customers.

Lastly, Pennsylvania has absolutely no energy conservation policy. An energy conservation policy at least would raise the energy standards for new construction, increase funding for existing programs like the Low Income Usage Reduction Program and provide tax and other financial incentives for buying energy efficient products. Time is running out to adopt and implement an aggressive energy conservation policy.

In four short years 2010 will be upon us, when we will begin our uncharted electricity odyssey, with no rate caps. State government can make our travels easier by enacting policies that will protect consumers, or our leaders can sit on their hands and see the price of electricity go the way of oil and gasoline.

John Hanger is a former Commissioner of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and was instrumental in the passage of Pennsylvania's Energy Competition and Customer Choice Act in 1996 and the Alternative Energy Portfolio Standards Act in 2004. He now serves as President & CEO of [Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future](#).

Quick Clips

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

[Franklin County Students Participate in Envirothon](#)
[New Steward Will Manage Trail and People](#)
[First Green School Building in Westmoreland](#)
[PA Receives "B" for Reducing School Bus Pollution](#)
[Op-Ed: Wind Turbines, Hydrogen Can Satisfy Energy Needs](#)
[300 Attend Clean Energy Conference](#)
[Tom Ridge Center Offers Varied Views of Lake Erie](#)
[Tom Ridge Environmental Center Finalist for Award](#)
[Tom Ridge Center Opens in Erie After Decade of Planning](#)

[DCNR Warns of Danger of Transporting Firewood in State](#)
[Prospects for Ethanol are Mixed](#)
[Fish Farm May Close at PPL's Brunner Island](#)
[PUC Aims to Head Off Electricity Rate Surges](#)
[Temple University Receives Grant to Help Kids Manage Asthma](#)
[Centria Wins Governor's Environmental Award](#)
[They're With the Band - Falcons](#)
[Game Commission Bands Steel City Falcons](#)

Watershed NewsClips

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

[Sixth-Graders Take in Watershed Expo](#)
[Buffalo Creek Watershed Helpers Needed](#)
[Nature Lovers Explore Wetlands at Pocono Mt. West](#)
[One Man's Magical River Journey on the Monongahela River](#)
[River Sweep Hopes to Net 1,000 Volunteers](#)
[Hatchery Uses Treated Mine Water to Raise Fish](#)
[Op-Ed: Explore, Learn About Wetlands](#)
[Hazard Mitigation Grant Awarded in Lycoming County](#)
[Cooperation Bolsters Environmental Recovery at Strip Mine Site](#)
[A Wild Home for Conowingo Creek Trout](#)
[Festival Hopes to Spotlight River's Potential](#)
[Watershed Specialists Meet in Ridgway](#)
[\\$400,000 Grant to Replace Water Supplies Affected by Abandoned Mines](#)
[\\$1.5 Million Grant to Help Develop Mine Acid Drainage Cleanup Technology](#)
[Will Water Be Next Oil?](#)

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

- **June 3** – [Tire Collection Events](#) at various locations around the county starting at 9:00 a.m. at all locations.

Monroe County

- **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 .

Regulations

The Environmental Quality Board published a notice that it had [accepted a petition](#) on the proposed redesignation of Gallows Run Watershed, Bucks County and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission [published its comments](#) on DEP's proposed California Car regulations.

[Pennsylvania Bulletin – May 27, 2006](#)

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

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

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

Technical Guidance & Permits

No new guidance documents were published this week.

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

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Upcoming conferences, meetings, workshops, plus links to other online calendars. Meetings are in Harrisburg unless otherwise noted. [Go To: PA Environment Digest Calendar Page](#)

- [Notice of Regional State Water Plan Advisory Committee meetings.](#)
- **June 1** – Independent Regulatory Review Commission meets to consider Department of Agriculture regulation changes to CHEMSWEEP Pesticide Disposal Program. 14th Floor Conference Room, 333 Market St., Harrisburg. 10:30.
- **June 6** – Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee hearing on reducing mercury emissions from power plants. Room 8E-A East Wing. 9:15.
- **June 6** – **CANCELLED**. DEP [Storage Tank Advisory Committee](#) meeting. The next scheduled meeting is September 19.
- **June 6** – Senate Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee meets to consider [Senate Bill 1209](#) (Waugh-R-York) establishing the Healthy Farms & Healthy Schools Program. Room 156 Main Capitol. 10:30.
- **June 8** – House Game & Fisheries Committee public hearing on legislation to increase Game Commission license fees -- [House Bill 2600](#) -- the basic adult resident hunting license would be raised from \$19 to \$29; [House Bill 2601](#) would increase the fee to \$34 and both bills would also establish a \$10 pheasant stamp and a \$5 turkey stamp

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with the proceeds to be used solely for the maintenance and operating of programs for preserving and encouraging the hunting of these species in Pennsylvania; and [House Bill 2602](#) would create a \$20 conservation stamp for individuals who use state game lands for any purpose. The proceeds from the stamp would be deposited into state Game Fund. Room 140. 9:30.

- **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.
- **June 13** – **CANCELLED**. DEP [Sewage Advisory Committee Regulations Subcommittee](#) meeting.
- **June 14** – **CANCELLED**. DEP [Sewage Advisory Committee](#) meeting.
- **June 19** – USDA – U.S. Senator Rick Santorum Renewable Energy Conference. Farm Show Complex, 2nd Floor VIP Room 9:00-3:00. Contact Vince Murphy, 717-237-2181 or send email to: Vincent.Murphy@pa.usda.gov .
- **June 20** – **CANCELLED** – Environmental Quality Board meeting. Next scheduled meeting is July 18.
- **June 26** – Governor’s Renewable Agriculture Energy Council meeting. Room 309 Agriculture Building. 10:00.
- **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](#)